

The Thornton-in-Lonsdale

Spring!

Community Newsletter

2011

www.thorntoninlonsdale.co.uk

Spring is Nature's way of saying 'Let's party!'

Robin Williams

North Craven Heritage Trust

There are Lots of good things to look forward to in 2011's programme of events. We begin on Tuesday 8 March in Austwick Village Hall with a talk 'A Sign of the Times' by Alan Hemsworth. It will begin, as all our talks do, at 7.30pm and visitors are always welcome. On Thursday 14 April Mr and Mrs Bargh have invited us to walk round Nappa Manor Farm (SD 855 534.) Starting at 6pm the tour looks to be an interesting stroll of 1-2 miles. (In doubtful weather ring 01729 850288.)

Tuesday 10 May should be of interest to lovers of paintings. Phillipa Troutman gives a talk 'Artist's Impressions of Ribbleshead in Long Preston Hall. Refreshments to follow.

Next day Wednesday 11 May we join with Craven Conservation Trust for a Flower Heritage Walk from Keasden Church at 6pm led by DrJudith Allinson. You'll find out more about the flora of this area.

Two forward notices: On Thursday 16 June David Johnson will lead a day's guided tour 'Around Appleby'. And the evening of 1 July is special: Mrs Ethne Bannister has invited us to hold a 'Summer Music' evening at her home, Coniston Hall. More details next issue and on our website:

www.NorthCravenHeritage.org.uk

Heather Jemson 41480

Local Wildlife

The extremely low temperatures and frozen snow cover in December will have been detrimental to wildlife in different ways so we wait with baited breath to see how the fauna and flora have fared. We were delighted to see resourceful Long-tailed Tits one day in December, drinking water drops from melting icicles! Even the Snowdrops are late this year so they are such a welcome sight in the hedge banks and cheer us to realise that spring is not too far away. Many plants look dead but under the soil things are stirring and new leaves are appearing.

Bare trees allow us to have a better view of the birds. Have you seen any of this winter's visiting Waxwings? We have been lucky enough to see them around the Silverdale area but not nearer home. We have however had regular Bramblings feeding with the Chaffinches in the garden. They can be told from the latter by their orange chests as distinct from the pink of the Chaffinches. They

like nyger and black sunflower seeds.

We have seen no Wrens since the cold snap. Small birds like these, Tree-creepers and Goldcrests feed on insects and will suffer mortalities in severe weather. However we have seen Tree-creepers recently.

Song Thrushes seem to leave us from November to February but just this week we have again heard their welcome song of repeated phrases. Also we have had the thrill of hearing a Mistle Thrush which has a bright song like a blackbird but not with the repeats of the Song Thrush, in short phrases with gaps between. All these members of the thrush family are now singing to set up breeding territories.

On the first warm days of spring look out for the hibernating butterflies such as Small Tortoiseshell and Peacock waking up to feed on early flowers. Also in some years we see the early migratory butterflies from the continent such as the Painted Lady.

The welcome colours of spring are not too far away. In March the wild daffodils of woodlands are always reliable. Those in Brigsteer Wood near Sizergh are a glorious sight along with early Brimstone Butterflies. Nearer at hand is a patch in a field corner by the A65 before the M6 junction.



We always say spring has arrived when we hear the Curlews calling as they pass over our house at night, returning to their nesting grounds.

Please report any nature sightings to us so they can be included in the next newsletter (tel.41155.) Thank you.

Liz and Roger Neale

The Website

www.thorntoninlonsdale.co.uk

for pictures, colour, news, details
and *much, much More.*

Keep in touch!

Westhouse Methodist Chapel

In the last news letter we advertised the visit of 'Live Issue' a christian country and western band from Northern Ireland. It was a very worth- while effort with a full church on Sat. evening and Sun. morning.

From now till Easter we just have our normal programme of Sunday services at 11 am and 6.30 pm. and a Tuesday evening meeting at 7.30. On Tues. 22nd Feb. at 7.30 we had a visit of Mr Duncan Hamlett who is a representative of "Mission Aviation Fellowship." They provide air lifts for medical emergencies in many countries. It will be a very informative evening. We at church are collecting post cards (any age) in support of this work. M.A.F. raised £10,000 last year through the sale of post cards, if you have any surplus post cards then please get in touch with a member of our congregation.

Easter day services will be at the usual times. On Sunday 1st of May at 11 am we are having a celebration supporting "Sports Reach." A number of our congregation organise and support a christian league of football and netball under this heading. If you would like to be part of this exciting activity then see a member of our church or come on Sun. morning 1st of May or any other Sunday. You will find a very warm welcome.

Thomas Fawcett 41222

In the Garden

The severe winter will have killed off some bad bugs in the garden but it will also have killed some of our softer shrubs and perennials such as fuchsias and delphiniums. We shall see in April what has survived. The snowdrops are late but healthy as will be daffodils – but very welcome too.

Choose a dry March day for tidying up: there will be much dead growth to prune. Sharpen that hoe as weeds need starting on early. Even buttercups will give up eventually and you don't want to poison the butterflies with that spray. Roses and hardy shrubs can go in now and get a better start than those planted in December and it's better to split large perennials now too.

You can start your seeds off now on the windowsill or quicker still the airing cupboard, not the cold green house yet, though.

April for potatoes. Begin chitting them now for a flying start.

May will be the start of a very good summer this year.

Alan Collier 41868

The Village Hall

The Dominoes and Pie & Pea Supper was a very good night and Malcolm Culshaw's 'Slides of Old Ingleton' full of historical interest and especially nostalgia for those who have lived here all their lives.

There is no 'Friday Evening' in March due to lambing.

Judith 41193. To book the Hall: **Doreen** 41448

Parish Council

Members have been keen to proceed with the War Memorial steps. As the Diocese has almost agreed the plans, they should be installed before this November's Remembrance!

The Christmas tree which adorned the Green cheered everyone up during the snowy season. It proved a perfect venue for carol singing. The council would like to thank Tommy and Sheila Cross for giving the tree, Nick Townley for transporting it, John and David Thompson for their strength and Colin Dryden for helping and enabling electricity for the glow of coloured lights. Roll on next Christmas-with perhaps some mulled wine?! Coucillors were concerned to protect an ancient road sign and repair damage to another, both part of our heritage: the one at the parish boundary by the bridge over the Twiss, listed and inscribed '...Thornton /Wapentake S,' (for Staincliffe), an old English administrative term, cannot be protected; the other which lay broken along the Old Coach Road, a cylinder of solid stone with directions in paint on metal, will be repaired.

The Feb. Film Night showed 'Australia,' an exciting and scenic romance/adventure much enjoyed by the audience. Suggestions for the next film welcome.

The next meeting of the council is 4 April at 7.30 in the Village Hall. All welcome.

Full details of the work of the council are available at

www.thorntoninlonsdale.co.uk

Christine Jenkinson 41336

Young Farmers

An organisation for young people 10-26 years.

Rachael Easterby 07817918234 or Gemma

For some lovely Music:

Kirkby Lonsdale Choral Society

Te Deum - Andrew Carter
with the Queen Elizabeth Children's Choir

Spring o' Thyme - John Rutter
with Soloist Tracy Penwarden
and Orchestra

St Mary's Church Kirkby Lonsdale
Saturday 15 May 2011, 7.30pm

St Oswald's Parish Church

On the morning of 27 November 2010, £410 was raised at the Christmas Fayre and a further £328 at the Kirkby Lonsdale Brass Band Concert. These successful events enhanced the funds for a new kitchen and toilet. Services over the Christmas period were well attended and enjoyed by candle light and the church beautifully decorated with winter greenery.

Ash Wednesday is 9 March and there will be a Benefice service of Holy Communion at 7.30pm at All Saints, Burton in Lonsdale.

Lent Group will meet each Tuesday at 7.30pm – JUST COME ALONG, ALL WELCOME:–

15 March Burton Village Hall The Hospitality that listens -Abraham and Sarah

22nd Westhouse V.H . Pause for Thought- Revd Max Wigley. 29th Westhouse V.H Hospitality that Reconciles; the Prodigal son.

April 5th Burton V.H - Hospitality that transforms - the Emmaus Road 12th Westhouse V.H What does that mean for us? – discussion.

19th Westhouse V.H Meditation: Hospitality on the Way

Dates - special services – ALL WELCOME:

Sunday, 3 April, 9.30am. Mothering Sunday Morning Prayer

Sunday, 17 April, 9.30am. Palm Sunday – United with Westhouse at St Oswald's

Maundy Thursday, 21 April 7.30pm Holy Communion – venue to be announced.

Good Friday, 22 April 11.00am Benefice service at All Saints, followed by taking the cross up Castle Hill

Easter Day, 24 April 9.30am Holy Communion at St Oswald's.

Jean Bell 41137

Poultry Club

The January show was very well attended with 150 entries in all the classes of Bantams, Large Fowl and Eggs.

The 25 Feb. meeting is expected to be as popular.

Yvonne Metcalfe 63114



The programme for the next three months is as follows: Tues 1 March Anne Burrow will talk on the NW's Air Ambulance;

Tues 2 April our multi-talented President Anne Hunter will do hands-on Watercolours with the Group; and on Tues 3 May will be the Resolutions Meeting to discuss the National Campaign motions for the year.

Visitors and new members of all ages welcome.

Contact **Anne Hunter** 74379

The Masongill Phonebox

...Is now our own. Suggestions for its use include: a book exchange, an information point, a mini art gallery, maybe, walking routes from Masongill and for growing seeds! The area will be tended by the children and a patch of native wild flowers added.

Baa Baa Black Sheep, it's a wee black Tup!



'My only black ewe that is half Jacob, half Scottish Blackface had a nice ram lamb this afternoon. The ewes seem to be in good rig. No one looks thin.'

When The Vikings Came to Thornton

Most people living in Thornton will have heard it said that the name 'Kingsdale' is a corruption of 'Vikingsdale,' but many may know what variety of Viking came here in ancient times. The pagan Viking raids on Britain in the eighth century were terrifying but they were primarily from Denmark. Their fierce warriors struck fear into our Anglo-Saxon civilisation. With their swift longboats crammed with armour and weaponry, they sacked monasteries and conquered much of the east coast including London, Lincoln and York.

The Thornton Vikings, however, were not from Denmark but from Norway. Their longboats originally had skirted round the north of Scotland and they colonised western Scotland and Ireland where they founded the city of Dublin. Here they met a Celtic missionary church drawing its inspiration from Constantinople and Eastern Christianity. These Celts converted the Vikings and then in the tenth century many of these now christian Vikings began to look across the water to England for new lands to settle and farm. So they came to Cumbria in peace and left a memory in their place names: Aspatria (St Patrick's place,) Maryport (St Mary's Harbour,) Patterdale (St Patrick's valley) and eventually to Kirkby Lonsdale where they found a church. In the Norse language 'by' meant place and kirk' meant church. So Kirk-by meant the place of the church on the Lune. Similarly when they came further west they found Ireby, the place of the Irish, and Masongill, the valley of the Titmice and Gale Green, the Green Valley

John Hunter

(Continued)

Ingleborough Archaeology Group

The group has the investigation of local history as one of its aims. In a well known national attempt to work out the population of England and Wales in Tudor times the parish registers of both Ingleton and Thornton were deemed to be of sufficiently high quality to be included in the study. I have worked backwards from the known census totals for 1811 using the births and deaths recorded in the parishes to work out that Ingleton's population grew from about 150 in Elizabethan times to roughly 1200 whilst Thornton grew from about 200 to roughly 1200 as well. BUT according to the figures Thornton's population was less than zero between 1710 and 1740. Assuming that Thornton was not populated entirely by ghosts the explanations may be that not all births are recorded or that there were more immigrants dying in Thornton than in Ingleton or that Thornton residents were being baptised or buried outside the parish. For the lack of baptisms being recorded perhaps the growth of non-conformists in the area is an explanation. For the dying immigrants there is indeed evidence that dying paupers might have been pushed over the borders from Lancashire and Westmorland by unscrupulous parish officers who did not want to bear the cost of the deaths. Perhaps there was an extremely unpopular priest at Thornton? There is evidence of quite an unseemly squabble in 1668 which is recorded in the parish register. Any further light on this curious problem would be very welcome.

Forthcoming events are:-**Talks 21 March:** Recent surveying on Ingleborough Summit. Dr D Johnson, Y Luke, S Richardson. **18 April:** Reclaiming the lowland mosses in Lancashire 1500-1650. Dr B Shannon

Walks: 16 May Thorns - the rise and fall of a rural settlement. Meet at layby at Gauber 6:30 pm

Jeff Price 41303



Turner sketched **Thornton Force** in 1816, a very wet Summer when the Twiss fell spectacularly over its 14 metres of slate and stone. He visited twice, interested also in its geology. The Force is, of course, in the parish of Thornton-in-Lonsdale, though the postal district is Ingleton as is much of our community.

Verge Project:-

Road verges have long been recognised as valuable refuges for wildlife. With pressure from changing agricultural practices and increasing levels of traffic they have become ever more important for wildlife – both as habitat refuges and as access corridors for animals. Our **last working party** on Thornton Lane, postponed from January, will be on **Tuesday 8 March** (10ish) to cut excess wood before nesting begins. *Phone 41336*

Library Closures

Our Parish Council has written to NYCC's chief Executive to protest about the closure of our local library in Ingleton (and Bentham) and to ask what alternatives are on offer. At the wide-ranging Libraries Meeting in Ingleton, Councillors Ireton and Lis supported worried users in their complaint that as usual rural services should be cut to enable town libraries to continue as normal. The proposal that the library might be run by volunteers was not considered viable by the audience as the village is 'volunteered out' – everything is already run by volunteers. If the school is also closed, there will be no computers for any children when they get off the bus. The Public Libraries and Museums Act of 1964 decreed accessibility for all. Julie Blaisdale, Assistant Director Adult and Community Services, said that the Consultation had not yet closed and all comments would be taken into account

Toby's Fold



The red sandstone arch created by international sculptor Andy Goldsworthy reached its home in a small stone barn on Higher Westgate Lane in March 2003. It was part of Cumbria's Millennium 'Sheepfolds Project' which linked points on the Old Drove Road through Cumbria from Scotland. Robert Lawson of Masongill provided the site and the hut was rebuilt by local drystone wallers. The arch is always visible through a glassless window. The hut and fold has been named for Toby Grimwood, who died aged 21. His friends and family contributed the cost.