



Season's Greetings from Sedgwick

Photograph by Steve Tanham



SEDGWICK PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH NEWSLETTER CHRISTMAS 2020



At the time of writing, we are just emerging from the second national lockdown and entering tier 2 restrictions; times are very hard for so many people. Even with the 5-day relaxation measures from 23-27th December, many wonder what sort of Christmas will be possible or even appropriate, given the present situation. We hope all residents stay safe and well.

Inevitably, the work of the Council has been profoundly affected by the pandemic over the last 9 months. As the virus hit, we were able to set up our neighbourhood resilience group to coordinate the wonderful people who volunteered to support residents who were shielding or unable to shop etc. Our profound thanks go to all those who supported this initiative and are still doing so. We have continued to meet monthly but remotely by Zoom, offering public access either online or by telephone. Liaison with the local authorities has been ongoing as the situation has changed so often and we have continued to engage with processes such as planning and highways matters. The Millennium Field had to close in March but was reopened in July as soon as restrictions eased. The Canal Wildlife Area has been busier than ever as outdoor exercise and natural tranquillity have been invaluable to residents and visitors alike. Our website and facebook pages have been more important than ever to keep in touch with residents and have been updated to maintain compliance with ever-changing accessibility and data protection regulations. In addition to co-opting Bernie Tanham as our new councillor in the summer, we are delighted to have co-opted Andrea Holmes in September, completing a full complement of councillors. Welcome Andrea.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all residents a Merry a Christmas as is possible in these unprecedented times and we look forward to a better and happier New Year.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC Please look at our website and Facebook Neighbourhood Resilience Group for regular updates. We have a team of volunteers that are here to help. The Cumbria COVID-19 helpline is **0800 783 1966**

MILLENNIUM FIELD We have endeavoured to keep the playground open by putting in place government guidance. All users are asked to follow the guidelines which are displayed at the entrance and to use the hand sanitiser provided. Please make sure all young children are supervised and that social distancing is observed. Thank you to all users who have followed the rules and made it possible to keep the facilities open and to Gerry Stoke, for his incredible work on behalf of the Council.

CANAL WILDLIFE AREA Unfortunately, the dry spring and wet summer created ideal conditions for Ash Die Back Disease, which has accelerated, wreaking havoc on ash trees all over the country. Most of the ash trees along the Canal have the disease which is incurable and unstoppable. Our Woodland Management Consultant continues to inspect the area regularly, to carry out safety assessments. Some organisations have decided to fell all their ash trees, but we are following his advice and only felling those in the later stages of the disease that will become a hazard if left. Others, which have the disease in the early stages, will continue to benefit the habitat and as time passes, might produce more resistant seeds which may help to safeguard the future of the species, so they will be left for now and removal will take place in several phases according to advice. Only a small amount of wood will be removed so that branches and brushwood are left to benefit the natural habitat. This is not the cheapest option but

one that we feel is the best for the environment and long-term wellbeing of the woodland. We are currently seeking grant funding to help us afford the cost of the works which will be considerable in the longer term. Trees requiring felling in the first phase have been marked and we have applied for a felling license. We have also appointed a contractor who will commence work as soon as possible. Please observe safety notices when this is taking place. Residents should be aware that removing wood from the canal bed is not advised and may be dangerous - please refer to the public liability notices displayed on the canal. On a positive note, our management of the woodland over the past decade has ensured that there is a range of healthy trees from different species, that will be able to take the growth advantage afforded by the removal of their "rival" ashes and they will flourish and fill gaps produced by felling, so we are not anticipating having to replant the area.

CUMBRIA DARKER SKIES PROJECT In Sedgwick we are lucky enough to still be able to see the Milky Way and enjoy the night sky, but this is not the case everywhere. We were delighted to welcome Jack Ellerby, to our October meeting to present information about the Friends of the Lake District's Cumbria Darker Skies Initiative. Light pollution is increasing every year and not only obscures our view of the sky at night, but also adversely affects animals by blinding and confusing them making it difficult to find food and a mate and disturbing their migration patterns. 60% of insects are nocturnal and globally one third are threatened by light pollution. Excess and inefficient lighting also contributes unnecessarily to our carbon footprint as well as wasting money. The project aims for Cumbria to join places like Exmoor and Snowdonia and achieve "Dark Sky Reserve Status" by 2022. Concerns over security and safety issues were allayed using data and case studies from all over the country and it is hoped that through improved lighting design and a reduction in excess lighting that Cumbria can achieve the standards required. The approach is not to discourage or ban lighting but to mitigate the effects of light pollution through manageable and practical measures such as choosing the correct colour and power lights, including dimmers, sensors and timers and installing lights which avoid and/or shield against upward glare. We understand that our only parish light (near the aqueduct) installed by SLDC, does meet with recommended standards, but we urge residents to think about their outdoor lighting and consider whether they can contribute to maintaining the low levels of light pollution in the village. For more information see

- www.friendsofthelakedistrict.org.uk/pages/site/dark-skies-subsite/category/dark-skies-cumbria-homepage
- www.darksky.org/our-work/lighting/lighting-for-citizens/lighting-basics/

HIGHWAYS We have carried out an audit of the highways in the Parish and all problems are logged on the CCC Highways fault reporting system. In addition to reporting potholes, we continue to campaign for better signage to protect pedestrians at the aqueduct, cyclists on Back Lane and drivers at Carex Farm crossroads. The audit is published on our website so residents can track any progress being made. Please help us by adding any repairs needed by using the **CCC Hotline 0300 303 2992**. We continue to be part of a group of parishes that operate extra road gritting to supplement the County Council's gritting routes and we also provide grit boxes at locations throughout the village - we do check them regularly but please notify us if you notice they need refilling.

IMPORTANT SAFETY ADVICE With dark nights and winter weather, it is a good time to review your security and emergency arrangements. Burglaries are increasing, especially of out buildings, so residents are advised to check all locks.

REMEMBER if you have to call the Emergency Services, make sure they know which side of the aqueduct a vehicle is needed, because many appliances cannot pass under the aqueduct and the detour required is long.

SEDGWICK PARISH COUNCIL CONTACT INFORMATION

Clerk; Sylvia Roberts
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Councillors:

Chair: Boyan Holmes;
The Oaks, 61644

Andrea.Holmes
5, Wakefield Meadow, 61364

Richard Gill;
Old School House, 60116

Robert Smith:
Stable Cottage, 60314

Gerry Stoker;
4, Wakefield Meadow, 60939

Bernie Tanham
The Wharf, 61211

Future Council Meetings 2021

2nd Wednesday of every Month@ 7.30pm
13th January, 10th February, 10th March, 14th April 12th
May, 9th June, 14th July, 8th September, 13th October
10th November

Each meeting includes a Public Forum as part of the agenda for residents to ask questions, raise items of concern or simply comment on issues

Currently, meetings are held remotely due to COVID-19
Residents are always welcome at meetings

Submission of questions in advance of the meeting is welcomed, so that they can be answered more fully. Matters raised that are not included on that agenda will be considered for subsequent agendas.

Notice of the Annual Parish Meeting

Wednesday 17th March 2021

Sedgwick
NO COLD CALLING ZONE

To report a Cold Caller; Call
Cumbria Police on 101 immediately
and if possible, report them to
Cumbria Trading Standards
via the Citizens Advice Helpline on
03454 04 05 06

County Councillor Brenda Gray,
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District Councillors

Cllr. Tom Harvey 07769705307
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Cllr Brian Cooper 015395 84991
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Cllr. Roger Bingham 015395 63694
roger.bingham@cumbria.gov.uk

Cumbria County Council
HIGHWAYS HOTLINE 0300
303 2992



The Silver Line is a free, confidential, 24-hour helpline offering information, friendship and advice for lonely or isolated older people, available at any time day and night, every day of the year.

website; www.parish-council.com/sedgwickparishcouncil

email; sedgwick.parish@gmail.com