



Mrs Lindsey Slater, Headteacher of Houghton CoE Primary School, is to leave at the end of Autumn Term.

The well known and very popular Mrs Slater, who has taught at the school for 24 years, will be taking up a new post with the Local Authority as a General Adviser to schools.

"Leaving a school and community which I love will be a huge wrench for me and I shall greatly miss this wonderful school and all our fantastic children, staff, Governors and families." said Mrs Slater.

"I have felt such a part of the village and I have made so many friends over the years. Thank you to all of you who have made teaching at Houghton CE School such a privilege - and I know I leave our school and children in the hands of the most amazing, talented team of staff and Governors."

The Editors join with the rest of the community, staff, and pupils past and present (some of whom will now be in their thirties), in wishing Lindsey all the very best and every success in her new role.



Lindsey Slater,
leaving Houghton School after 24
years

In other staff changes this term; staff and pupils are delighted to welcome Miss Lowther and Mr Shepherd, who are teaching Years 3 and Year 4 and wish to thank everyone who has given them such a warm welcome. Miss Lowther is covering for Mrs Page whilst she is away on her Headteacher secondment. Both teachers have settled in quickly and very much feel part of the team.



Linda Kieley's Home Page

PAPRIKA PORK

Recently a friend of mine gave me this recipe to try. She said I might like it for The Echo as she knows I am always on the lookout for new ideas. Well I made it and I thought it was absolutely delicious so I am sharing it with you. The quantities shown will comfortably feed four people with hearty appetites but I have to confess my husband and I loved it so much we polished the lot off in one sitting.

INGREDIENTS

1 pork fillet approximately 550-600g sliced in to thin strips
 2 medium sized onions sliced
 100g button mushrooms sliced or left whole if very small
 2 tablespoons of olive oil for frying
 2 tablespoons smoked paprika
 1 chicken stock cube dissolved in 300ml of boiling water
 100ml crème fraiche
 100g frozen peas
 Salt and pepper

METHOD

- Heat 1 tablespoon of the oil in a large frying pan or wok and fry the onions and mushrooms over a medium heat for 10 to 15 minutes until they soften and brown a little.
- Turn up the heat and add the rest of the oil and the strips of pork and stir fry for a few minutes.
- Add the paprika and give the contents of the pan a good stir until the paprika coats everything and cook for a further minute or two.
- Add the stock and the peas, lower the heat and simmer for about 15 minutes until the meat and peas have cooked and the stock has reduced by half.
- Add in the crème fraiche and remove from the heat.
- Season to taste with salt and pepper.
- Serve immediately on a bed of boiled rice.



Linda

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Vicar: Rev. Andrew Towner

CHRISTMAS MEMORIES

Christmas memories – we all have them: memories of family members doing brilliant or foolish things; recollections of snow; favourite presents or surprises in the past. And perhaps most of all, stories.

With most of our families and memories there are two very different types of story: history and myth. The history is one that happened to you, or even happened a long way away to a Great Uncle – but you know exactly where and when. The myth is more like “didn’t one of my great great grandparents meet the King one Christmas?” and you don’t know quite who it was, or where it happened, or when.

There’s a difference between King Canute and King Arthur – one lived from about 995AD to 12 Nov 1035, and we know his parents’ names, how he won the throne in 1016 and so on. But with Arthur we don’t know where he lived or when, even though there are so many stories about him. Canute is history, Arthur myth. But what about the Christmas story?

Saint Luke is very careful to locate Jesus’ birth in history, giving huge amounts of detail as to who was ruling where and when at the time. You may not know all these names, but Luke is proving his credentials as a historian, to make it clear that Jesus isn’t myth:

“In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while[a] Quirinius was governor of Syria.)”

Of course, you might not care whether it’s true or not. The legends of King Arthur can be great fun (I still love Disney’s Sword in the Stone) and even fiction, though untrue, can inspire (as heroes from all sorts of books and films do today). But Christians claim to know true, accurate history, and if we’re wrong, we’re liars. More than that, if it isn’t true, then none of Jesus’ promises are true either – such as forgiveness and eternal life. So I think it matters.

So, this Christmas, why not pick up one of the short eyewitness accounts in Matthew, Mark, Luke or John, and see what you think of the real Jesus – the man who isn’t a myth. Here’s what Albert Einstein, himself a Jew, thought:

“I am enthralled by the luminous figure of the Nazarene [meaning Jesus]. No one can read the gospels without feeling the actual presence of Jesus. His personality pulsates in every word. No myth is filled with such life.”

Why not see what you think. Come along to any of our services, and be assured of why not make up your own mind this Christmas. If Jesus is a myth, let him sit alongside other fiction; if he’s history, then he is the true Lord of History – and that changes now and forever.

Andrew Towner
Vicar - Houghton & Kingmoor

Robin Redbreast

There are several stories of how robins came to have red breasts. This is one of them.

On the first wintry Christmas night, the small fire in the stable was nearly out. Mary and her baby began to get very cold. Joseph and the animals were fast asleep and she couldn’t wake them without waking her sleeping baby.

Suddenly, Mary heard the fluttering of little wings and, looking up, saw a plain, brown, dull little robin fly into the stall.

It went over to the fire and flapped its wings as fast as it could, fanning the embers with the draught, until they glowed bright red again.



Quickly, with its beak, the robin picked up some fresh dry kindling and threw it onto the little fire. At that moment a flame suddenly flashed out and scorched the little bird’s breast, making it red. But the brave robin just continued to fan the fire until it crackled back into life to warm the entire stable, while Mary’s new baby slept on.

Mary thanked the robin for all it had done and looking at its little scorched breast, she said, “From now on, your red breast will be a blessed reminder of your noble deed.”



And that, it is said, is how robins came to have their red breasts; and why we always think of them at Christmas. The Editors.



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from Houghton Village Hall Management Committee

www.houghtonvillagehall.co.uk

Sincere thanks to all the contractors involved in this year’s projects. You have all done fantastic jobs! As they say at the Oscars in no particular order!

- Bob Lancaster & Son Electrical Contractors: New ventilation system
- Richardson & Starling: Damp proofing
- SH Electrical Contractors: New boiler & heating
- Murrays Painters & Decorators: Redecoration
- Kierweb: Building new Village Hall Website
- Finesse: Replacement D/G windows

Many thanks to all funders for these projects:

- The Cumbria Waste Environmental Trust (CWMET),
- Stanwix Rural Parish Council
- Cumbria County Council Community Grants
- Carlisle Parish Councils Association (CPCA)
- Cumbria Community Foundation – Ullswater Grassroots Fund 18/19
- Cumbria Community Foundation – Evening Hill Grassroots Fund

NUMBERS CLUB WINNERS

June	64
July	85
August	106
September	19
October	46
November	67

The Hall is cosier and more welcoming than ever after all the upgrades and continues to be used by a multitude of groups.

Please remember that the HVH Committee is on the lookout for new members to help run this amazing venue! We are very friendly- it only requires a small commitment of time. Interested?

Then call our chairman Steven Hewitt on 01228 658625.

Wishing you all the best for the Festive season – it’s on its way!!

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Clarkey's Quiz



- Who wrote the novel Black Beauty, first published in 1877?
- Which metallic element has the chemical symbol Pb and atomic number 82?
- The Gobi desert covers territory in which two countries?
- Which American city is known as 'The City of Brotherly Love'?
- Who preceded Margaret Thatcher as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom?
- Odin, a one-eyed bearded old man was the most powerful god in which mythology?
- What is the name of the galaxy our Solar System is in?
- What country did ex-Liverpool goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar represent?
- What flag does a ship traditionally fly to indicate it is about to set sail?
- What is the capital city of Iran?
- If diamond is for the 60th and gold for the 50th, what is used to celebrate the 20th wedding anniversary?
- Which English scientist discovered Sodium, Potassium, Barium, Calcium and Magnesium?
- What term is used for the male voice higher than bass and lower than tenor?
- Which Welsh city is called Abertawe in Welsh?
- What is the longest river in Asia?
- With which instrument is American B B King chiefly associated?
- Who won the 1992 FA Cup Final?
- In Greek mythology, who killed Achilles?
- Who played Mike Baldwin in the soap opera Coronation Street?
- Which racecourse in the Republic of Ireland is also a palindrome?
- What town was the birthplace of William Shakespeare?
- What fruit is also known as the 'Love Apple'?
- What is the name of the Israeli Secret Service?
- Adam West was most famous for playing which comic book character on television?
- What sport is contested between the United States and Great Britain for the Walker Cup?
- How many squares are on a chessboard?
- How was Eric Hugh Blair, born in 1903, better known?
- Who was American president when Neil Armstrong first walked on the moon?
- Which cast member of the TV comedy show Friends also starred in the movie Scream?
- In North America, what sport is played by the New Jersey Devils and the Florida Panthers?
- What was the former name of the country Myanmar?
- Which author wrote the "Foundation" series of science fiction novels?
- What was the name of the time machine Doctor Who travelled in?
- How many players in total are on the field at the start of a regular game of Gaelic Football?
- What is Britain's largest freshwater fish?
- What is the chemical symbol for Sodium?
- How many stars are on the flag of the United States?
- Which actor has played Ken Barlow on Coronation Street for over 40 years?
- What country is completely landlocked within the Republic of South Africa?
- What is the first part of JRR Tolkien's "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy called?
- What European capital city stands on the River Tiber?
- Who was disqualified and stripped of his gold medal for the 100 metres at the 1988 Olympic Games?
- What American author wrote the classics "East of Eden", "Of Mice and Men" and "The Grapes of Wrath"?
- In which US State is Kilauea, the world's most active volcano?
- In distance, which planet is sixth furthest from the Sun?
- What is the well known Japanese word for "empty orchestra"?
- What is the official name of the bottom 9 miles (15 KM) of the Earth's atmosphere?
- Anubis is the god of funerals who transports the souls of the dead to the other world in which ancient civilization?
- What is the chemical symbol for Potassium?
- Which renaissance artist painted Primavera and The Birth of Venus?

ANSWERS ON PAGE 23

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The history of the nation is often reflected in the activities of local groups. Houghton Women's Institute has been a part of village life for 82 years and the group's Record Books show fascinating examples of our national and regional events.

These rather formal journals show a genteel approach to the monthly meetings. At the September 1939 meeting, a few days after war on Germany was declared, the ladies were urged to "carry on as usual in the present crisis".

Wartime activities included a 'Whist Drive' to raise money for our troops and requirements for local hospitals". Gloves and scarves were knitted for soldiers at Hadrian's Camp and in October 1941 the ladies were asked if any members "would help to garnish camouflage nets at Carr's Biscuits Works". Fortunately, today's Houghton WI does not have to help deal in national crises.

We do, though, have some really interesting speakers often talking of topics unknown to most of us. Ron East's talk on the tradition of bell ringing, the restoration of bells and his duties as Tower Captain of Carlisle Cathedral was fascinating.

Local volunteer Jim Dykes gave talk on the charity Mary's Meals which helps to provide daily meals and education for some of the world's poorest children. It has no religious or political connections but is run by people united in their belief that no child should endure a day without food.

Our regular competition "a stem from the garden" confirms that we have some beautiful gardens in the village. We very much enjoyed the talk of the Cumbrian Garden on show this summer as a part of the National Gardens Scheme. There doesn't seem to be any reference in the records of the ladies being asked to "Dig for Victory" so we are free to "carry on as usual" enjoying our gardens.

We celebrated our 82nd birthday in May in fine style. After a delicious buffet we were entertained by the Choir Zing who sang an eclectic range of tunes from traditional aires to Paloma Faith. The records show the members were entertained "by piano and violin....the grand old Duke of York and the Spanish Waltz".

The WI movement in the UK tackles issues that affect our village and beyond. The NFWI is campaigning to help identify and support people who are lonely; spoken out against the decline in local bus services and is helping programmes tackling micro plastic fibre pollution. These reflect an awareness of local and global issues that affect us all.

Come and join us and enjoy our programme of interesting speakers, parties and group meetings whilst making new friends. We meet at Houghton Village Hall on the first Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm.



As we reach the end of another great year for the club, I am pleased that the initial plans we had for the club way back in 2015 have really born fruit and the club has grown way beyond our initial expectations.

With our club AGM fast approaching, it is great to see so many boys and girls enjoying playing for the club, and many more showing interest in playing football. Centurions are delighted to be playing their part in introducing them to the game and helping them start their football journey.



Houghton Primary School After School Club Players
Receiving Their Medals - sponsored by MoynanSmith
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The Houghton School after school football club has 12 players training weekly and we have 6 teams playing in the Longhorn leagues and 1 in the Penrith league.

We must not forget our long standing relationship with Houghton School, who were our initial partner in starting the club and continue to mainly provide our first tier of players and their training facility in the school hall. They have again this season provided 11 players at u6 level to start their football careers.

Our sponsors provide vital support to our teams and the club. This support is very much appreciated and all sponsor's details can be found on our club website: carlislefc.com

I would personally like to thank all our club officers, coaches, parents and, of course, our great group of players for all their support and hard work which has made the growth and success of the club possible.

Carlisle Centurions wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Hamish Phillips
Chairman



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WE DISCOVER, WE GROW

Girlguiding

1st Houghton Guides

60th Anniversary of 1st Houghton Guides

1st Houghton Guides are celebrating its 60th anniversary and are asking past and present Guides and Leaders to provide old photographs for an exhibition and celebration to be held in the spring (if you have any photographs etc. you can drop them off at the church).

The anniversary coincides with the launch in September of the new Guiding programme. The new programme is packed full of fun, adventure and variety with a huge range of activities to try, plenty of badges to earn and loads of ways for girls to develop new skills. It supports girls to broaden their horizons, challenge themselves and be the best they can be.

Houghton is fortunate to also have a longstanding Rainbows and Brownie units, providing a fantastic opportunity (sadly not available in all areas, as Guiding is run by volunteers) for girls in the village and surrounding areas to follow the Guiding programme from age 5 to 14 and even beyond.



Katie, aged 14 who finished Houghton Guides in July says:
"Guides has been so much fun! As well as learning new skills and making new friends, over the years we've been to pop concerts in London and Liverpool, theatre trips to Newcastle, camps and Isthmus Cottage at Keswick not to mention nights rock climbing and visits to Pizza Express and Nandos. All this was coupled with learning a bit of community spirit from delivering leaflets about local events, doing our best to help Houghton in Bloom (without making a mess!) and helping at the farm on bonfire night. So many happy memories! I would recommend Guides to all girls."

Houghton Guides currently have rare vacancies. Any girls aged 10 and above wishing to join are welcome to visit for the night before signing up. We meet on a Thursday evening. Please contact the unit leader, Jackie Dodd, on 07467947001 or visit <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter/> for more information. New volunteers are always welcome too.



1st Houghton Rainbows

The 1st Houghton Rainbows have been as busy as ever as the girls work towards their special interest badges. We are fortunate to have a dedicated team of volunteers which include our fabulous Young Leaders, Lauren, Katie, Victoria and Abbie, some of whom are former Rainbows.

It is lovely to see them contributing to their local community through volunteering and their efforts are greatly appreciated.

Our summer trip was a huge success and took us on a bushcraft adventure at Hawse End near Portinscale. The Rainbows (and Leaders) had an amazing day learning new skills and making special memories.



We have a fun packed timetable planned for the coming year which will incorporate craft activities, games and trips.

Rainbows meet in Houghton Village Hall from 5.30pm to 6.30pm each Thursday during term time. Our Unit always runs at capacity and has a healthy waiting list. It is never too early to register your details with the Unit Leader, Sue Doyle (Foxglove) who can be contacted on 07747 568607.





It has been lovely to welcome our new starters in September and their families, and our Year 6 buddies have certainly been helping our reception children settle in. At the end of summer term we said a fond goodbye to Mrs Smithson and Miss Pollard. The children gave them a lovely send off with a special assembly. After 14 years of supporting our children, Mrs Smithson has retired and is looking forward to spending more time with her Grandson - as well as travelling the world!

Last term we said a fond farewell to our wonderful Year 6 children and the last few weeks of school was certainly a time in which we were able to give them a great send off! This is always a time for reflection and we try and ensure that our children leave us as confident, young people equipped the learning skills to hold them in good stead for the future.



Y5 & Y6 Residential

Lockerbie Manor's pod village was this year's residential venue and we were again fortunate with the weather - and the midges! As ever; we returned home tired, but with a head full of memories. Kayaking, stand-up paddle boarding, fell-walking and abseiling are just a few of the activities we did. Thanks to Mrs Peck and Mr Johnston who gave up their weekend to give our children a wonderful outdoor experience.



Thomas Mutter presenting work to Mrs Smithson and Miss Pollard at their Farewell Assembly

Mary Poppins Production

Our summer production this year was the brilliant Mary Poppins - superbly directed by Mrs Woodruff and our KS2 staff.

The Year 6 children gave a wonderful performance, along with the rest of the juniors. From singing to acting to dancing - the stage directions showcased the wide range of talent. We were delighted Mr Potts (previous Headteacher 1959 - 1985) and Mrs Greenup (previous Deputy Headteacher) were able to join us for one of the shows. They were both totally blown away by the performance! Well done to everyone involved and huge thanks go to the staff who worked so hard to make this a fantastic production. Thank you!



Houghton CE School Website and Facebook

Hopefully, many of you will have had chance to look at our new website. We had great fun with the website photographer who photographed our children 'in action'; from Susan's Farm, to St John's Church and from gymnastics to collective worship and playtime. Huge thanks go to Jon Stewart and Glen Wiedman who spent many hours, over the summer, designing the layout and populating the content. Please do take a look:

<https://www.houghtonschool.co.uk>

12 We also have a new Facebook page so please do send us your friend requests - we want to reach as many people in our community as possible.



Houghton School Parent and Teacher Association (PTA)

Our very supportive and active PTA is always busy organising fundraising events and activities, to create lasting memories. Last year movie nights, a ceilidh and even a sleep over in the school for our juniors - that was a real success! The funds raised pay for coaches to theatres at Christmas and curriculum opportunities such as Zoolab and Science days which benefit the children directly.

Thank you very much, everyone. To become involved, please contact the school office - you don't have to be connected to the school to help and we would love to see you.

Houghton in Bloom

In July our Gardening Club was involved when Houghton again took part in the Cumbria In Bloom competition.

The judges were given a tour of the village by the HiB committee. The village was awarded 'Gold' which is an outstanding achievement; the village green and village hall looked amazing and we loved the scarecrow! Our Gardening Club children helped plant the herb garden at the village hall.

The Gardening club is run by two volunteers, Eileen and Gordon and without them our school would not look as beautiful as it does. On behalf of the Gardening club, we would like to thank the PTA and B&Q who funded our new greenhouse - it has been well used over the summer! If you can spare an hour on a Thursday afternoon, we would very much welcome extra adult help as we said a fond farewell to Henny Horvarth. After 5 years of Henny's support, her youngest child, Marko, has now moved on to secondary school. Thank you Henny for everything you have done! Eileen and Gordon would very much welcome any extra help - if this is something you would like to be involved with, please do just contact the school office.





The Cumberland Show

Well done to our Cumberland Show club who worked very hard on the 'How Green Is Your Garden' school entry scrapbook and display. After winning First and Second place prizes the children celebrated by ordering pizzas into school - as a special treat!

Thank you Mrs Morton for organising it all.



Houghton Village Fair

The annual Houghton Village Fair was another very successful event with the choir officially opening the event with their beautiful singing. The school ran the traditional sports events (many thanks to Hall Committee Chairman, Steve Hewitt, who stepped in at short notice to help with the races!) whilst PTA members created wonderful face painting designs. It was great to see so many families from the village and beyond enjoying the fair.



County Swimming Squad

Congratulations Harri Birtwhistle-Hughes, who left Houghton School in July, on gaining one of a few places on the Swim England County Development Swimming Programme. Harri's achievement could lead him to, perhaps, one day representing his country! Well done Harri! Harri follows the examples of Eleanor Dickinson, who made her Commonwealth Games cycling debut last year, in Australia and Mike Newstead who trains with Newcastle Falcons. For a small school we have very talented sportsmen and sportswomen!



Harri Birtwhistle-Hughes, left and in action, above.



North England Children's Cancer Run

September saw over 30 of our children and their families take part in the first North England Children's Cancer Run (NECCR).



Rebecca Sawyers and her family (Isla, Finn and Xavier) have been participating in this charity run for the past 5 years, along with Sarah and Harry Thompson, Ben and Sam Turney and Connor, Lewis and Aaron Morris. Despite appalling weather conditions, the children ran 1, 3 and 5 mile routes through mud and water. From Isla and Matthew in Reception to our regular runners in the juniors and past pupils - we are so proud of you all. Thank you for raising money for such a worthy cause.



Harvest Festival

Once again we had a packed church as we celebrated our Harvest Festival in St John's Church. From poetry to singing to prayers of thankfulness - it was a real celebration of thanks. Children very generously donated their gifts of produce which we have donated to Carlisle Key, a charity which supports the young, homeless people of Carlisle. Thank you to everyone who joined us for such a special service.



Houghton Evergreens

After all the excitement of Dolly's 100th birthday in May, (well covered in your last issue), the Evergreens got back to our more usual social events. During the spring and summer we like to have a few outings, weather, holidays etc allowing. We had been to Penrith in March, (on a fine day as I remember ... (what a pity that weather-wise, things went downhill during the "summer"!)). In June we had lunch at the Wellington Farm cafe near Cockermouth but as it was raining we went on to the Lakes Home Centre on the outskirts of the town. There of course there is plenty to see all under cover and ample tea etc in their large cafe.

Later towards the end of August we ventured to Garden wise which is on the outskirts of Dumfries for lunch and it was showery. Early in October we went to Dobbies Garden Centre to have a look around before calling at the Country Kitchen at Dalston for Afternoon Tea, a magnificent spread at a very reasonable price. Unusually it didn't rain!! If we manage another trip before winter maybe it will be a fair day. Whilst we all enjoy these outings, they are especially welcome to those members who don't have cars and have to rely on public transport or friends to get them about.

For five weeks in the summer we couldn't use the Village Hall as it was being partially refurbished. We were very kindly offered a room at the Cumbria Wildlife Trust's new premises in Houghton and we spent Thursdays there, for which our grateful thanks to the Trust. During that period we had the pleasure of a visit by Paula Sherriff, M.P., daughter of our popular member, Barbara. Paula avoids party politicking" and kept us up; to date with the events at Parliament.

Upon our return to the Village Hall, we thought it appropriate to have a Welcome Back party. I like to think that it is not our parties, but our happy atmosphere at our normal meetings that has attracted four new members to join us, and continue to come along each Thursday afternoon. Alas, sadly, we lost our well beloved Joan who passed away recently and whose funeral we attended.

With the approach of winter and the clocks going back, we may need to meet a little earlier to avoid going home in the dark. However between now and Christmas there are various birthdays to look forward to and our Christmas Party before we take a seasonal break until early January.

Finally, the Evergreens thank everyone who has helped us this year, with special thanks to the Village Hall Committee and staff.

We wish everyone a Very Happy Christmas and Good Health and Happiness in 2020.

B.W.

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Book Club



Official Shadowing Book Group for the Booker Prize.



It has been an exciting Autumn as we were selected to be an official shadowing book group for the Booker Prize.

To support the award process we were each given a copy of Quichotte by Salman Rushdie, beautiful bright red hard back editions. We took on the challenge of reading them, tweeting and sharing our experiences as we went along, then met to discuss our thoughts.

It was an intriguing contemporary story of a medical salesman journeying through the US staying in motels and dreaming of meeting a glamorous chat show host he was besotted with. It had some really funny parts, but on the whole was difficult to read and was even quite odd in some parts - we still don't know what was going on with the mastodons. We didn't think it was the winner, but you never know with book prizes - often the real gems are on the shortlist.

The week before the prize was announced, Jenny from the group took part in a Q&A with Salman Rushdie himself as part of Radio 4's Front Row programme. She did really well and even made him laugh, representing Houghton Book Group and Carlisle beautifully.

Now we are all looking forward to Christmas - cold dark evenings being perfect for curling up with a good book.

Happy reading.
Becky.

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Houghton in Bloom

A fantastic year in the Cumbria in Bloom Competitions
GOLD – in the village section

OUTSTANDING – in the It's Your Neighbourhood section

Well done to Brian, Gordon, Peter, Amanda, Susan, Keith, John, olin, Lindsey, Diane, Kathleen and Deborah and to The After School Gardening Club's work on the herb boxes, with Eileen and Gordon.

The boxes were funded after Peter's efforts in winning £500 in the Skipton Grass Roots Giving campaign. Thanks to Stanwix Rural Parish Council for their support; also to Houghton Guides for helping with painting and Houghton Hall Garden Centre for the Village Hall' hanging baskets. The flower displays of the Lounge on the Green, Debonair and Village Shop have all contributed to our success.



After 10 years Brian Hill has stepped down as chairman of Houghton in Bloom, so we are looking for someone to fill his wellies!

We would also love more volunteers to keep up the good work that Brian started – as a small group all help is appreciated and you don't need green fingers!

Contact Deborah on 07460 489 021, or e-mail deborahpark36@yahoo.co.uk or see our Facebook page.



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**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
from Vikki, Craig and all the staff**

Love Your Garden Awards 2019



At the beginning of October we held the award presentation evening at the Cumbria Wildlife Trust Centre.

Congratulations to this year's winner:

20 Jackson Road,
a beautiful garden full of interest and colour.

This was closely followed by: **23 South Croft;**
1 Beech Grove; 89 Tribune Drive and
12 Houghton Road North.

Another nine finalists from around the village also attended.



Colin Duncan had been unable to judge this year due to ill health, so the Houghton in Bloom group "took care" for this year helping with nominations for a shortlist which was then open to everyone to have a vote for their favourite.

Stanwix Rural Parish Council and Interserve kindly made donations which enabled the prizes to be provided to all.

Left: Mr & Mrs Harrison, winners of the trophy in 2019



Stanwix Rural Parish Council

HOUGHTON | LINSTOCK | CROSBY | BRUNSTOCK | RICKERBY | WHITECLOSEGATE | TARRABY

COUNCIL MEETINGS

These are held on the second Wednesday of each month, except in August and January, commencing at 19:30.

For up to date information on venues, please see the notices and agendas etc. on Parish Council notice boards and now also on the web site - see below.

The council meeting may be adjourned at the discretion of the chairman, in order to allow members of the public to address the meeting regarding business to be transacted at the meeting.

Electors wishing to bring matters of concern to the councils attention are asked to contact the Parish Clerk or a councillor.

PARISH CLERK

Sarah Kyle
Clerk to Stanwix Rural Parish
Council Hill House
Walton
Brampton
CA8 2DY

Tel: 01228 231 124
Email: clerk@stanwixrural.co.uk
Website: www.stanwixrural.co.uk

PARISH COUNCILLORS:

CLLR. CRAIG NICHOLSON (Chairman)
7, Whiteclosegate, CA3 0JA
Tel: 01228 536 895

CLLR. HAMISH PLILLIPS (Vice-Chairman)
59, Tribune Drive, Houghton, CA3 0LA
07837 659999

CLLR. TONY COLES
3, Drawdykes Lane, Houghton, Carlisle CA3 0LT
Tel: 01228 598 540

CLLR. DAVID MILBURN
55, Antonine Way, Houghton, Carlisle, CA3 0LG
Tel: 01228 231 124

CLLR. MARTIN ELLMORE
62 Tribune drive Houghton, CA3 0LE
07824 445 484

CLLR. ALAN LIGHTFOOT
8, Orchard Lane, Houghton, CA6 0LY
Tel: 01228 528 645

CLLR. CHRIS SAVORY
Allendale, Houghton Road, Houghton, Carlisle
Tel: 01228 231 124

FOR EMAIL ADDRESSES SEE PARISH COUNCIL
WEBSITE - ABOVE

PARISH COUNCILLORS Cntd:

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1, Beech Grove Gardens, Houghton, Carlisle, CA3 0LR
Tel: 01228 513 998

CLLR. STEVE SPLINTER
75, Tribune Drive, Houghton, CA3 0LE T
el: 07985 919 464

CLLR. NEIL WATSON
Greenfields, Brunstock, CA6 4QG
Tel: 01228 531 709

CARLISLE CITY COUNCILLORS:

CLLR. ELIZABETH MALLINSON
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CLLR. FIONA ROBSON
Civic Centre, Carlisle, CA3 8QG
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CUMBRIA COUNTY COUNILLOR:

CLLR. JOHN MALLINSON
2 Wordsworth Court, Carlisle, CA3 9DA Tel: 07968 251 365
John.Mallinson@cumbria.gov.uk

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Clerk receives copies of the applications within the parish area and they are available to view using the link on the Parish Council's website. Comments and opinions should be put into writing (a copy being sent to the Parish Clerk) to: Planning Services,

Carlisle City Council,
Civic Centre,
Carlisle
CA3 8QG

HIGHWAYS ISSUES:

Electors are reminded that complaints and other concerns in respect of highways matters should, in the first instance, be reported via:

**Cumbria Highways Hotline on:
0300 303 2992**

Answer phone service evenings, weekends and public holidays; cost of calls may vary depending on mobile provider.



Stanwix Rural Parish Council HEADLINES

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH (CSW)

Vehicles speeding on Houghton Road continue to be a problem. In 2019 the CSW group carried out 39 observations over 10-12 weeks and recorded over 400 speeding vehicles. Our presence does result in vehicles slowing down.

Currently the CSW group consists of three people. We urgently need more volunteers to make our work more effective. Training is brief (ca.1h) and the commitment to carry out observations is both minimal and flexible (agreed with the local CSW coordinator). Can you spare a few hours over a two week period about 5/6 times a year as a worthwhile contribution to the local community?

If you are able to volunteer or would like further information please contact PCSO Graham Kirkpatrick (email: Graham.Kirkpatrick2@cumbria.police.uk)

HOUGHTON PARKING PROBLEMS

Parish Council minutes for 14 November 1968 record complaints about the lay-by being used for all day parking.

Over the intervening 51 years the village has been considerably expanded meaning the number of locally owned vehicles has increased far beyond the wildest imaginings of those living here over half a century ago.

Nowhere is this more apparent than in and around the lay-by and the centre of the village, especially during peak times.

Parking in the lay-by for extended periods is often a cause of significant inconvenience to others, perhaps including some of limited mobility; while parking on the pavement outside the shop, or on the highway anywhere between the traffic calming build outs can, and often does, bring the village to a gridlocked standstill.



Above: The New Sign at Houghton Lay-By

Drivers are also reminded that it is an offence to leave your vehicle in a dangerous position, or where it causes any unnecessary obstruction of the highway.

While the majority of drivers use the lay-by for an appropriately brief time, there are others who do not. The lay-by is and always has been just that – a lay-by. It is intended for short stay use only; it is not, and never has, been a car park in the accepted sense.

The Parish Council asks drivers, when parking in the village, to consider the potential impact their decisions may have and to respect the needs of others.



Cumbria Wildlife Trust - Gosling Sike Farm

Busy Bees at Gosling Sike

The wildlife garden at Gosling Sike was buzzing with life this summer as pollinating insects including bumblebees and butterflies made themselves at home. It was also busy with people as our volunteers got stuck in helping with planting and weeding to create amazing habitat for wildlife. One of the highlights for many visitors was the stunning wildflower border that added lots of colour.

We also installed The Lost Words garden trail for children, inspired by the wonderful book by Robert McFarlane and Jackie Morris. Call in to the centre during office hours to collect your free leaflet and discover which lost words are found at Gosling Sike.

We've also done plenty of autumn planting to add more shrubs and trees to keep the birds happy, and spring bulbs will provide an early nectar source for pollinating insects in the new year.



Wildflower Nursery

The new wildflower nursery at Gosling Sike is part of the brilliant Get Cumbria Buzzing project, supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. We'll be growing on wildflowers from seed to use in habitat restoration projects across north and west Cumbria.

If you'd like to help in the garden or wildflower nursery there are plenty of opportunities to get involved. For more information please contact:
goslingsike@cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk

Events

We'll be running lots of events at Gosling Sike over the next few months and will be continuing with the popular pop up cafes! Look out for an events leaflet through your door or call into the centre to pick up the latest free what's on guide. You can also sign up to receive news by email at:
www.cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk

POP UP CAFE

Our Pop up Café day will be changing to the second Tuesday of the month in 2020. The first café of the new year will take place on Tuesday 11th February.

Contact:

HOUGHTON ORGANISATIONS, CONTACTS & TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Argentine Tango	Phil Edgar	07887 790 694
Evergreens	Dorothea Sowerby	528734
Bowls	Ken Norman	523518
Brownies	Catherine Adam	548467
Church	The Vicarage	515972
Art Venturers	Pam Weightman	07867 555 153
Music Makers	Helen Teasdale	595111
Flower Guild	Lynda Fraser	670641
Guides	Jackie Dodd	07467 947 001
Mums & Toddlers	Rebecca Sawyers	07703 000 838
Houghton Nursery	Christine Birrell	558888
Magic Circle	Stuart Bowie	01697 472 734
Rainbows	Sue Doyle	511258
Bee Keepers	Emma Keir	01697 352114
W I	Pat Dodd	527711
MooMusic	Caroline Maxwell	07947 833 444
Yoga:	Bonnie Kirkman	07728 338 550
Solway Radio Club	Colin Wolf	07711 161 889

HOUGHTON VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Vice Chairman: Alan Lightfoot
Treasurer: Anne Nicholson
Acting Minute Secretary: Audrey Riordan
Booking Secretary: Gill Hewitt

Committee:
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Doreen Martin, Joyce Irving
Pat Dodd

Hall Caretaker:
Audrey Riordan Tel: 07493 039 596

Booking Enquiries Please Contact:
Booking Secretary - Gill Hewitt
Tel: 01228 658 625

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| 7. MILKY WAY | 32. ISAAC ASIMOV |
| 8. ZIMBABWE | 33. TARDIS 34. 30 (15x2) |
| 9. THE BLUE PETER | 35. PIKE |
| 10. TEHRAN | 36. Na 37. 50 |
| 11. CHINA | 38. WILLIAM ROACH |
| 12. SIR HUMPHREY DAVY | 39. LESOTHO |
| 13. BARITONE | 40. THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING |
| 14. SWANSEA | 41. ROME |
| 15. YANGTSE OR CHANG JIANG | 42. BEN JOHNSON |
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| 21. STRATFORD ON AVON | 48. EGYPTIAN |
| 22. TOMATO | 49. K |
| 23. MOSSAD | 50. BOTICELLI |
| 24. BATMAN | |
| 25. GOLF | |

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