

WELCOME BACK TO CUMBERLAND!

On April 1st 2023, the existing county and borough councils will be replaced by two new 'unitary' councils, Cumberland and Westmorland & Furness. The new Cumberland will replace Allerdale, Copeland and Carlisle; its leader will be Councillor Mark Fryer. In a plan outlined for the first four years, Cumberland Council will aim to 'join up and improve its services, to address the income gap and to engage with and empower residents to improve life for all'. You can read more by going to their website www.cumberland.gov.uk



YET MORE RUBBISH!

A dedicated band of litter pickers turned out on a Sunday morning in early March to collect litter and rubbish from the roads around the village. A good number of bags were filled, and a plentiful supply of coffee and cake was consumed in the village hall afterwards! Thanks to everyone who supported the event.



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Parish Council Elections will be taking place across the country in May. Little Clifton Parish Council would welcome applications; if you would like to stand please contact the Parish Clerk, the Rev'd Judith Morgan on 01900 601146 or at LittleCliftonPC@outlook.Com.

The Parish Council has been busy getting quotes for solar panels to go on the roof of the village hall. Quotes will include the provision of batteries, so that electricity made during the day can be stored for use by groups in the evening. Work has also started to revamp the PC website. It's still work in progress but you can take a look at www.littlecliftonparishcouncil.org.uk

VILLAGE HALL

The village hall is run by a small committee, who organize bookings, regular and one-off events etc. If you are able to help out please contact Ian Elliot on 01900 67301 or the Parish Clerk, the Rev'd Judith Morgan at LittleCliftonPC@outlook.com

Hire the Hall -

The Village Hall is available to hire, for any event large or small, regular or one-off. There is a good kitchen, a stage, tables and seating that can be moved to suit and there's plenty of parking. To hire the hall for your family occasion, group meeting or regular class, contact Rev'd Judith Morgan, Parish Clerk on 01900 601146

Bingo!

Lynn Philipson is stepping down as Bingo caller at the Village Hall, if you'd like to give the job a try, contact Ian Elliot on 01900 67301

Village News

PLANNING NEWS

As reported in the last newsletter, Cumbria County Council have withdrawn the planning application for the field adjacent to Scots Croft. A meeting has now been held with the Leader of the new Cumberland Council about the site. He confirmed the new Council has no plans for the field at this time and expressed a willingness to talk to us further. While he can see some limited development potential for social rented housing within the allocated village boundary, he was also open to the idea of transferring the remainder of the field to the Parish Council for uses such as energy generation, wildlife improvements and recreational space, suggestions made by parishioners in the public meeting last year.

Our thanks to **BellCare Domiciliary Care Services** at www.bellcare.co.uk for sponsoring the printing of this Newsletter.

NEWS FROM CLIFTON CHURCHES

Easter Sunday Holy Communion will be held at St Luke's at 9.30am Sunday April 9th, everyone is very welcome.

Open Church – at St Luke's every other Tuesday at 10am – a chance to enjoy our beautiful church, have a cuppa and a chat, take some quiet time out - children welcome, toys provided.

St Luke's Church presents the Flying Duck Race



Saturday 8th April 2023
To be held at Bridgefoot Village Hall during the Choccocoffee morning!
11am approximately

Ducks can be bought on the day, or contact anyone from St Luke's, or through our Facebook page
www.facebook.com/StLukesClifton

£1 per duck
1st Prize - £50; 2nd Prize - £30;
3rd Prize - £20



St Luke's, Clifton presents Choccocoffee Morning!

Saturday 8th
April
10am
Bridgefoot
Village Hall



Bacon butties,
chocolate
tombola, hot
drinks, cake,
Flying Duck Race
and more!

Village News

HISTORY CORNER



John 'Iron Mad' Wilkinson was born at Furness House in Little Clifton in 1728. His father, Isaac, worked at Little Clifton Blast Furnace, one of the first in the country to use coke instead of charcoal. You can read more about John's extensive career on Wikipedia, he was a prolific inventor of new products and processes, especially anything connected with novel uses of cast and wrought iron. He developed a machine tool for boring cast iron cannons, improved the air supply for the blast furnace using a new design of bellows, and was the first to use wrought iron in canal barges. He supported the construction of the first important cast iron bridge at Coalbrookdale. Wilkinson was also amongst the first to issue trade tokens to alleviate a shortage of small coins; these can still be found today – our thanks to Ben Taylor at Home Farm for this one!

Wilkinson died in 1808, his corpse, in a distinctive iron coffin, was moved several times after he died, but is now apparently lost!



BLC ENERGY HUB NEWS

The Energy Hub now has its own WhatsApp group, for discussing energy saving ideas, sharing experiences or asking for advice on anything concerning energy. To join, text Fliss Watts on 07900 471205

SURVEY RESULTS

Thanks to everyone who completed the Energy Survey attached to the last Newsletter – it's still not too late to contribute by using the online form at <https://forms.gle/b3AQmNh57Xq2vcWG7> Only one in three of those who completed the survey reported their homes as warm or cosy, with more than half heated by a boiler more than 10 years old. Over 75% indicated that they would like more or better insulation, so this will be an area for investigation over the coming months. Six households had solar panels, four had electric

vehicles and one has a heat pump – their experiences may be helpful to others thinking of renewable energy in the future.

SOLAR MADE EASY

Cumbria Action for Sustainability (CAfS) is hosting a meeting of villagers from Little Clifton, Bridgefoot, Eaglesfield and Greysouthen at Little Clifton Village Hall on April 19th from 7pm - 9pm. Local vetted solar installers will be present to answer questions whilst CAfS will provide support with preliminary surveys and getting quotes from installers. For more information see enclosed flyer or visit www.cafs.org.uk/solar-made-easy In addition to sharing information about solar PV, CAfS will also have information about grants for home insulation and how their energy services can help. CAfS will be buying some thermal imaging cameras for use by local groups ... watch this space for how you can benefit from this.

Village News

LOGO COMPETITION

Kids looking for something to do this Easter? The Bridgefoot and Little Clifton (BLC) Energy Hub needs a logo – post your ideas to the Editor at Masons Farm, there will be a prize for the best logo design!

VOTER ID

From 4 May 2023, voters in England will need to show photo ID to vote at polling stations in local elections, Police and Crime Commissioner elections, UK parliamentary by-elections and Recall petitions

From October 2023 it will also apply to UK General elections.

Accepted forms of ID include passport, driving licence, blue badge or bus pass. It doesn't matter if they're out-of-date, as long as the photo still looks like you. If you don't have accepted photo ID, you can apply for a free voter ID document, or Voter Authority Certificate. Contact Allerdale House Workington 01900 702550 Or apply online at <https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate>

BIN COLLECTIONS



Need to know which bins are being collected this week? Check online at <https://www.allerdale.gov.uk/en/bincollections>*

Green bin collections restarted week beginning 13th March 2023; if you don't have a home compost bin this is the best way to get rid of garden waste.

*this link may change when we move from Allerdale to Cumberland Council.

BUS FARES

The £2 cap on bus fares has been extended until June 2023. This includes the X5 service that runs through Bridgefoot on its way between Workington and Penrith via Cockermouth.

WAR MEMORIAL

It has been suggested that, since our villages have no outdoor memorial to recognize parishioners who have died in various conflicts, we might like to mark their sacrifices in some way. A plaque? A tree? A silhouette soldier? Something else?

Ideas and suggestions to the Editor please, at stkp@sky.com

CONTRIBUTE...

If you have news, views, opinions or comments that you'd like to add, or things you'd like to learn more about, you can contribute to the next issue of this Newsletter by emailing the Editor at stkp@sky.com