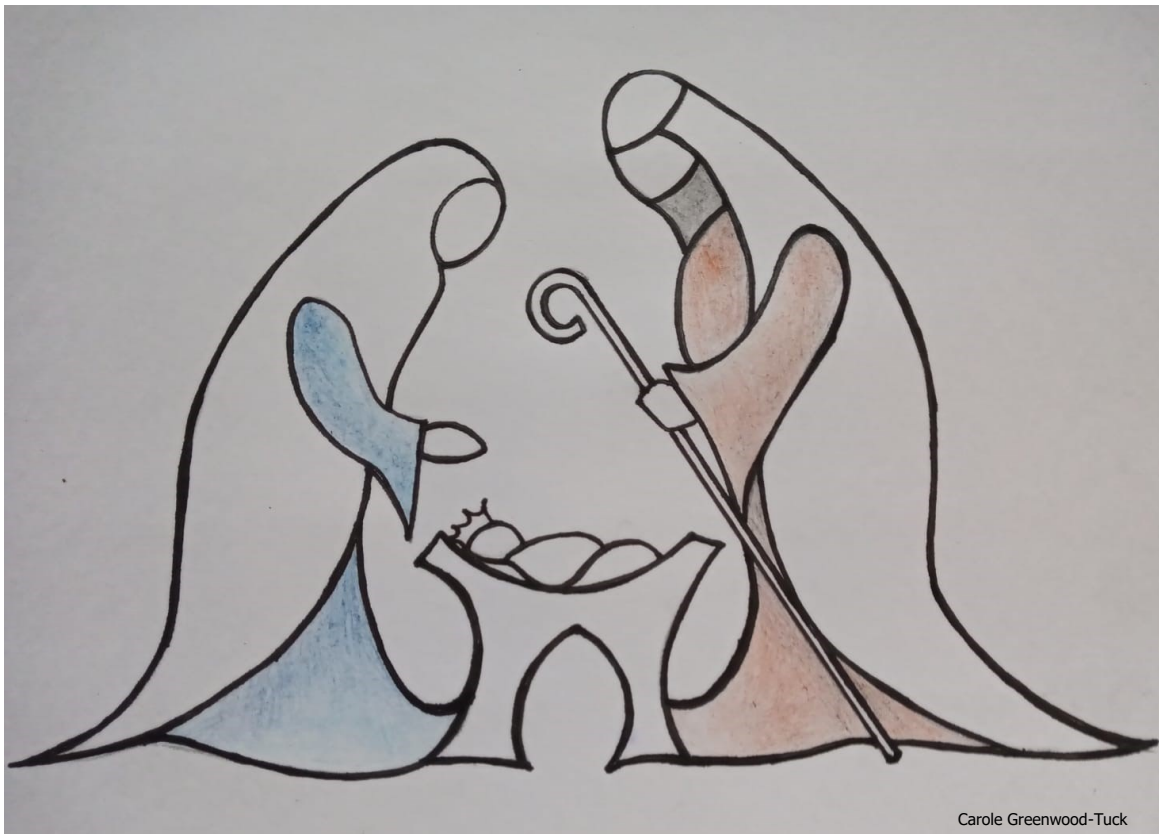


farlamvillagenews@gmail.com

Winter Edition December 2022 to February 2023

Farlam Parish Village News

Away in a manger.....



Welcome to the December 2022 edition of the Farlam Parish Village News. The Editor would like to thank all our contributors and advertisers for helping to create and support our community newsletter.

Inside there are articles on the Brampton Community Food project, the results of the Hallbankgate flower show, exciting news from our local school, details of Church services, and an opportunity to meet some of the community Police team. Also included are happenings at the Hub, the lucky winners of the 100 Club draws, and lots of other items of interest.

All that remains is to wish all of our readers and our volunteer distributors a merry Christmas and a very happy New Year.



You have to admire the generosity of spirit shown by the small group of volunteers running the Brampton Community Food operation located in the rear of the Methodist Church in Main Street Brampton.

The team collect surplus bread and fruit and vegetables from Sainsbury's in Haltwhistle and M & S in Kingstown and sometimes from Lidl too. The CO-OP in Brampton also supports the project with an in-store grocery donation box. Cavaghan & Gray had also sent a batch of pasta.

This is not a food bank as such. It is open to all including people from our Parish. There is no need to be referred by agencies. All that is asked of customers is that they make a donation that they feel comfortable with and they are then able to shop for food and other items including sanitary products.

There is clearly a need for this facility which is a sad reflection of the difficult, almost Dickensian times we appear to live in. The shop was very busy when the Newsletter's Roving Reporter visited and I'm told about 45/60 people call in each Friday morning.



The produce is neatly laid out in boxes on tables. The donations are used by the group to purchase other staples. At the time of my visit there were tea bags, milk, breakfast cereals, pasta, rice, tins of beans, tomatoes, tuna, jars of spaghetti sauce, rice pudding, some baby food and believe it or not frozen mussels.

The project operates under the umbrella of Affordable Food which is based in Carlisle. Users can choose to pay a regular weekly sum e.g. £5.00, £7.00, or even £9.00 a week to Affordable Food and order groceries online. Each weekly payment results in the customer's bag of groceries being delivered to Brampton for collection each Friday.

While I was there a delivery arrived from Affordable Food and the team quickly began to sort who each bag was for and get it ready for collection. Minimising food waste is a key objective. Any unused vegetables are sent to the community gardens to be composted and a local chap who donates fresh eggs also takes away unused bread to feed his chickens. Two fell ponies also benefit occasionally from surplus fruit, bread and vegetables.

You can pop in for a cup of coffee and help the team support our fellow citizens by giving a donation of cash or a food parcel. You will receive a warm welcome from Lesley, Anne and (pictured) Brenda, Linda and Norma.

The shop is open from 9:00am to 12 noon each Friday.

Snippets of Interest

Hallbankgate Village Hall

The Village Hall Management Committee is looking for new members. If you are interested please contact Steve Bray by email stevecb96@gmail.com or contact the Caretaker at the Hall on 01697746574 or by email at

HBGvillagehall@outlook.com

Lea-Anne Potter, the Caretaker reports that the Hall has been very busy over the last few months and thanks to the continuing support of the regular users, the Hall has bookings most weekday evenings.

There have been some additional events, including the annual Flower show (separate article), a Ceilidh, a music afternoon, and Hallbankgate School used the hall for their torch light procession.

The annual Halloween party has to have been our best yet! The kids all looked amazing, played lots of games and of course ate lots of sweets! I have to also thank the adults who made a huge effort this year and dressed up too! Thank you all who came and supported this, and to those who helped out on the night. It really does mean a lot and I couldn't do it without you!

Community Seed Bank at the HUB

Many thanks to everyone who has deposited envelopes of seed. It is heartening to see the little packets of vegetable and flower seeds now filling the drawers in the Seed Bank, each one full of hope and promise for next spring.

Want to grow tasty, prolific, easy-to-grow tomatoes? There is a packet of Red Alert seeds waiting for you.

Want to see who can grow the tallest sunflower? Then try out the Giant Sunflower seeds.

Want to delight bees, butterflies, hoverflies and other beneficial insects? Choose from lots of flower seeds that will do just that.

Want to grow a beautiful flowering shrub to train on a North-facing wall? Try Japanese Quince that has the added bonus of edible fruits for jelly-making in late autumn.

Everyone is very welcome to pop into the Hub, Hallbankgate, and withdraw seeds from the bank – all for free. The Deposits Book lists all that are currently available. And, of course, deposits to the bank will continue to be much appreciated, be it now or anytime in the future. Keep growing!

A Tale of a Life from the Past

Richard Macdonald has provided another fascinating window into the life of John Frederick Armstrong who was born in 1929 and educated at Midgeholme. It takes the form of an autobiography with much detail about growing up nearby, being schooled at Midgeholme and how people coped in the run up to World War 2 with the arrival of evacuees and rationing. There is considerable detail about becoming a miner at Lambley pit and his subsequent life underground before being promoted to overman at Wylam and therefore moving out of the area.

John died in 2009 but often returned to the area to visit family and friends. His story is unfortunately too large to include in the newsletter. It runs to 6 pages with photos of John as a schoolchild and also of the old Cumberland County school at Midgeholme. The Editor has however arranged for it to be put onto the Farlam Church website and you can read it there.

www.farlamparishchurch.co.uk It is listed in the Village News section as a download.

Farlam Parish Trust

The Trust meets in the Village Hall at 6:45pm on the second Wednesday in March and September, prior to the Parish Council meetings. If you are pulling together a project which you think the Trust could support with funding then please download and complete the Trust's PDF grant form and send it to the Administrator. Our website is

<https://www.farlamparishcouncil.com/grantsparishtrust>

The Trust's Administrator is Mr. C. Raine, Farlam Farm, Farlam, Brampton CA8 1LA

Email enquiries to charles.raine@youngsrps.com

Farlam 100 Club Prize-winners

	September	October	November
1st Prize £25.00	Kathleen Smith	Stephen Layden	Kate Apperley
2nd Prize £15.00	Brian Stobbart	Paul Skeetes	Christine Smith
3rd Prize £10.00	Sandy Shaw	Alan Shaw	Darcy Biddle (lucky dog)
	December		
1st Prize £25.00	Tim Cheetham		
2nd Prize £15.00	Richard MacDonald		
3rd Prize £10.00	Mathew Taylor		

CHRISTMAS BONUS DRAW



1st Prize	£50.00	Jacqui Clifford
2nd Prize	£25.00	Paul Nairn
3rd Prize	£15.00	Woki Skeetes (miaow)
4th Prize	£10.00	each to Alan Barron, Peter Arndt, Kathleen Beesley and Jenny Watson



Advertising in the Village News

If you would like to advertise or sponsor an issue, please email farlamvillagenews@gmail.com.

We will be pleased to discuss a package for individual issues or for all of our quarterly issues during 2023.

The money raised from advertising and sponsorship is used to help pay for the printing of the newsletter. The print costs of this Winter edition have been reduced by a small grant from the Cumberland Building Society branch in Brampton. Other donations will also be gratefully received.

Copies of the newsletter are delivered to just over 350 households in the parish and extra copies are available at the Hallbankgate Hub and Farlam Hall. We also publish the newsletter online at issuu.com and on farlamparishchurch.co.uk.



News from the Hub

Our latest gallery exhibition is "Within a Mile" and as the name suggests the two artists are very local to Hallbankgate. They are Donna Corbett a photographer who over time has developed her techniques to encompass both abstract and representative images. Donna has lived in France for many years but returned to Cumbria 4 years ago and is exploring the county's landscape through her camera lens.

Rachel Greenbank is a contemporary portrait and figure artist and works in a variety of mediums from drawings to painting on canvas, wood, and slate. She will also be exhibiting some of her stunning animal images which are portrayed in creative and imaginative ways.

Both artists will be bringing a range of their greetings cards to the exhibition in addition to prints of their work. The exhibition runs until the 31st of December.

Our multi use space is now up and running and is used weekly by the children of Hallbankgate School for story telling sessions. We've had our first "workshop" where participants learnt leather making skills and came away with beautifully decorated leather purses. We are planning for a variety of future workshops so please keep an eye on our Facebook page for updates.

Our volunteer bakers are busy preparing a festive feast for the 12 days of Christmas. Pop in and sample our creative festive delights or come for lunch. There is something for everyone to enjoy: a selection to tempt even Scrooge's heart!

Enjoy the 12 Days of Christmas at the Hub Café

Our festive fayre menu runs from

13th to 24th December

Mulled Wine and Mince Pies - Chocolate Yule Log

Christmas Shortbread

Christmas Soup with a Scone

Christmas Traybake

Sausage Stuffing with Cranberry sauce



The Hub is largely volunteer run and if you would like to join our friendly team please call in for a chat or email volunteer@hallbankgatehub.org

Open: 9:00am-4:00pm Mondays to Saturdays, 9:00 am-12 on Sundays.

Post Office: Thursdays 9:30am-11:30am. Gallery and Library: open during shop hours

Hallbankgate Flower Show Results

The show held on 3rd September was judged a success by all who attended. The show organisers are particularly grateful to all who entered for creating a marvellous display and making the day so special.



Prize Winners

Flowers

1st Colin Taylor

2nd Roger Foster

Vegetables

1st Roger Foster

2nd Thomas Halliway

Baking & Preserves

1st Sandra Foster

2nd Karen Kindred

Industrial & Crafts

1st Helen Graham

2nd Sharon Robson

Open Classes

Tied 1st

Helen Graham & Roger Foster

Children's' prizes were also awarded to Fern, Beth and Alexa.

Ideas to improve the show are welcome. Contact the Village Hall on 016977 46574 or drop a note through their letter box. They are looking to work up some ideas already and make the children's categories more inclusive next year.

Raffle Winners

Paul Barron, Carole Christie,
Henry Hague, Anne Queen,
Kathleen Beesley, Abbie Barron,
Gary Thompson, Tony Wilmot,
Joyce Foster, Emily Potter,
Karen Queen and Lynn Menzies.



Church Matters

Eden, Gelt & Irthing Ministry



Team Rector: Revd Stephen Robertson

Tel: 016977 41304

Team Vicar: Revd Edward Johnsen

Tel: 01228 670248

The Team Rector has pastoral responsibility for the parishes of Brampton, Irthington, Crosby-on-Eden and Scaleby. The Team Vicar has pastoral responsibility for the parishes of Farlam, Talkin, Hayton, Castle Carrock, Cumrew and Cumwhitton.

Please contact Edward for christenings and wedding enquiries.

Revd Janice Murray (016977 46400) is a retired priest who remains part of the ministry team. Mr Timothy Arndt (016977 46942) is Churchwarden of St. Thomas a Becket Church, better known as Farlam Church, which is actually located in Kirkhouse.

Forthcoming Services

Forthcoming services at Farlam Church will be held at 11:00am on Sunday 4th December, Sunday 18th December, Sunday 8th January 2023, Sunday 22nd January, Sunday 5th February and Sunday 19th February 2023.

For more information please see our website: farlamparishchurch.co.uk

All are very welcome to attend. When there is no service at Farlam, everyone is welcome to worship at Talkin Church. There is usually a service at Talking Church each Sunday at 9:15am except on the second Sunday each month when it is held at 11:00 am.

Daily Prayer in the Week

All are welcome to these simple services of readings, prayer and silence lasting about 20 minutes:

Morning prayers on Monday 9:00am at Farlam; Tuesday 9:00am at Cumrew; Thursday 9:00am at Hayton and Friday 9:00am at Castle Carrock.

In addition evening prayers are held at 5:00pm on Tuesdays at Cumwhitton and on Wednesdays at Talkin.

Baptism

We welcome into the family of the Church **Cora Leigh**, baptised at Hayton on 23rd October 2022.

Funeral

We remember with thanksgiving those whom we love but see no longer:

Mona Elizabeth Ashburn, of Midgeholme, aged 89, whose funeral took place at Carlisle Crematorium on 10th October 2022.

Parish Journal

As I write it's over six weeks since I returned from my sabbatical. Already it seems a long time ago! It was wonderful. People keep asking me about the 30-day silent retreat – especially about the silence. And yes – no screens! Even reading books was discouraged. The whole point was to create space for the Spirit.

I will write more about it all in a future issue. In the meantime, I'm more than happy to talk about it with anyone who's interested. For now, though, I just want to express my huge gratitude to all those whose support made it possible for me to take this time out. And especially to Janice Murray for all the services she covered at Farlam, and to Tim Arndt (churchwarden) and Lynne McKenzie (church treasurer) for all their work behind the scenes.

Much as I loved my sabbatical, it has been so good to come back to re-connect with people in these communities.

The sabbatical coincided with the death of the Queen. Farlam Church opened for quiet reflection on the morning of Friday 9th September. A simple service of commemoration was held on the Sunday. Our Queen's death marks the end of an era. I will always look back on her as someone who embodied a quiet but deep and strong Christian faith. She showed it in her actions as much as her words.

By the time you read this, we'll have held our **Farlam Festive Craft Fair** again, the first time since 2019. We'll report on it in the next issue. It's good to feel we are moving forward again after so much was curtailed during the pandemic. We had a very well-attended and joyful **Harvest Festival** on 14th October with Hallbankgate School. Thank you to all who contributed. Brampton Food Hub were really appreciative of the donations. We're planning to hold an **outdoor Carol Service – outside the Belted Will 6pm on Thursday 22nd December**. It was such a lovely occasion last year that we thought we'd repeat it – though if the weather is too challenging Alyson has said we can move into the pub!

Can I also take this opportunity to thank Claire and Paul Skeates for producing the magazine over the last few years, and Alex McKenzie for picking up the reins!

Blessings for Christmas and New Year,

Edward Johnsen

NETWORK YOUTH CHURCH

Groups for young people in Brampton and district:

YOUTH DROP-IN

Wednesdays 6.30pm – 8.00pm every week in term time.
For 12 – 18-year-olds at the Green Door Centre, Brampton.

AFTER SCHOOL DROP-IN Door

Thursdays 3.20pm – 5.00pm every week in term time at the Green Centre, Brampton. For those in secondary school: arts & crafts, board games, play pool, space to do homework.

NIGHT LIGHT

Friday nights 7.30 – 9.00pm in term time at the Green Door Centre, Brampton. For those in secondary school: games & activities. Includes some spiritual food for thought.

For further details and dates contact Ruth Hutchinson, Green Door Centre, Main Street, Brampton CR8 1RS. 016977 742123 or Edward Johnsen 01228 670 248 edwardajohnsen@gmail.com

Like a candle flame

Rembrandt's paintings are often full of shadows and darkness, but there is always a source of light somewhere in the painting, that casts shadows and begins to reveal what lies around it. Often the source of the light is a candle, a lamp or a fire.

There's a painting of the nativity in which Mary and Joseph and other onlookers are gathered round a glow that lights and colours their faces just as if they were huddled round a warm fire. When you look more closely you see that the source of the light is in fact the Christ child in the manger. I suppose it's Rembrandt's way of communicating the same spiritual truth that a halo symbolises in other religious art.

At Christmas we turn our attention to the mystery of the incarnation (God embodied in a human life – the life of Christ). Perhaps the light of God's love, embodied in this baby, can also help us learn to approach every child, and every human being, with a deeper sense of the mystery, the sanctity of what it is to be a human being made in the image of God.

The holiness of this child becomes a light by which we see everything else, everyone else... and ourselves.

Let's be honest, the image of God in all of us is defaced. The fallenness both of our own perception, and also of those we look at, can make for a pretty cynical take on humanity. The messages we pick up in our world often tell us life is cheap.

Love tells us something very different, and profoundly challenging. We are loved from eternity, but so is everyone else. The Christ Child – as a baby - could heal no one, teach no one, call no one, bless no one, perform no miracles or signs. Yet his presence was no less the presence of God, the presence of love.

Let's gather round him. Love is here to stay.

Happy Christmas.

Edward Johnsen

Farlam Christmas Craft Fair

The Christmas Craft Fair was held at Hallbankgate Village Hall from 18th to 20th November and successfully raised £2193.15 for Farlam church funds.

A variety of stallholders set up shop and did a roaring trade. Visitors were spoiled for choice with a range of gifts not available on the high street. There was plenty of opportunity to bump into old friends and sit down for coffee and cake and catch up with each other.

Many thanks to the small group of volunteers who unselfishly give up their time to help raise funds to support Farlam church and to the local community for their continued support.



Carlisle and Eden Citizen's Advice

Citizen's Advice in Cumbria has been in existence for 80 years. It was established at the outbreak of the Second World War and is as relevant to people's needs today as ever!

The local Citizen's Advice has two offices, one in Penrith and one in Carlisle. It is staffed by a mixture of employed officers and trained volunteer advisors. There are specialist Money Advice caseworkers, an Energy Advice team and a Macmillan benefits advisor as well as the Generalist Team. There are Help To Claim and Employment law specialists too.

There are a range of ways in which you can access advice, you can telephone the local reception desk or email, after which you will be contacted by an advisor to see how you may best be assisted. Some people may need to have a follow up face to face appointment with an advisor either at one of the offices or at the outreach sessions at Brampton Community Centre.

People come to Citizen's Advice asking about a range of issues. Top five areas where people ask for advice are:

- Benefits,
- Debt,
- Utilities
- Employment
- Housing

Citizens Advice also help people with consumer problems, particularly if something has gone wrong with a purchase or you have simply changed your mind about something you have bought.

Andy Auld, the Director, says "Citizen's Advice is here for everybody who needs free, impartial and independent advice". Last year in Carlisle and Eden we helped 4,981 people about 15,046 issues as some people have more than one problem they need help with - one issue can often impact on another area of their lives.

For instance:

Nina [not her real name] was struggling - she was behind with her rent, she was really anxious she might be evicted. The strain was aggravating an existing health condition. Sam, a volunteer advisor helped Nina with her problem. He found out she has recently had a change in her employment, this was putting the pressure on her finances which has led to her getting behind with her rent. Sam's advice helped stabilise her financial situation, her physical health improved so she no longer needed additional health services. She also felt much more confident and knowledgeable about handling similar problems should they arise in the future.

Citizen's Advice has a very comprehensive public website with up to date information and advice on a wide range of issues and links to other relevant websites or information that people might need. This website can often provide the answers to queries people have.

Public website <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/>

Email: businesssupport@ca-ce.org.uk

Local reception desk: 03300 563037.

4th Floor, Broadacre House, 16-20 Lowther Street, Carlisle CA3 8DA

Meet Your Local Police Team

Your reporter met Constable Nick Leigh and Sergeant Andrew Leather at Brampton Police Station to learn about the incidence of crime in our area, and to find out how the team are tackling this and also responding to the community's priorities.

It may not be common knowledge but Brampton Police station is open daily (except Sundays) from 9.00am until 1.00 pm and members of the public are encouraged to call in and report any issues of concern that may need investigation. They are also able to get advice on dealing with these.

Community policing relies on a good working relationship with local people that encourages citizens to speak freely to officers about local concerns. While a particular issue in itself might not trigger a response there and then, the information provided often adds to a wider pattern of activity that then merits investigation. Some of team are pictured below.



Sergeant Andrew Leather, Police Community Support Officers Nicola Bell-Prescott and Rochelle Jackson and Constable Nick Leigh.

Completing the team but not pictured are Special Constable Susan Holliday and Linda Murphy who runs the office and reception point.

The good news for Farlam Parish residents is that our area is a fairly low crime area with only 6 crimes recorded up to the end of September 2022. There were two public order offences, three violence/sexual offences and one criminal damage and arson. This contrasts markedly with around 30/40 crimes recorded each month in the Brampton area.

The team work closely with the City Council's local focus hub reporting issues that need referring to other agencies as well as picking up matters from the other partners involved in the hub.

Constable Leigh and Special Constable Susan Holliday support the local Farm Watch Scheme. Prevention is the key aim here and most farms are signed up to the scheme. Livestock and farm machinery theft do not appear to be common occurrences. This may be due to under-reporting but more likely as a result of farmers being alert and keeping themselves and other farmers safe, by reporting suspicious activity when it happens. At the time of going to press it was reported that Special Constable Susan Holliday, who has served for 35 years as a Special Constable, received a national award in recognition of her work on Farm Watch schemes, her commitment to rural communities and for reducing rural crime. Peter McCall, Cumbria's Police and Crime Commissioner praised her work and said "this national award is richly deserved."

The team are very willing to help set up neighbourhood watch schemes in villages if requested but these schemes need local volunteer co-ordinators to act as a link.

The key message from the team is that if you are a victim of crime or have any concerns then report it. You can do this by calling into the station. You will be given every assistance and advice. In these times of economic uncertainty it is becoming rare to have a police presence in the community. There is always a danger that the station could close if the level of public usage drops, suggesting that the community does not see a need for it.

If time is pressing and the crime being reported is not too serious or has already taken place, then dial 101 and speak to a call handler. You may have to wait online for a couple of minutes but your call will be answered. The line is open from 9.00am until 9.00pm each day. It can be quicker to report an issue using the online form on the **cumbria.police.uk** website. Just click on **Report it** and several options are available from dialling 101, to live chat and the online form.

Anyone who is reluctant to give their details but still wants to report a crime can phone Crimestoppers. It is an independent charity that will forward what you have seen or heard about a crime to the Police in a way that protects your identity. Nationally around 10 people are arrested and charged everyday from information given to Crimestoppers. It is a straightforward way to report suspected drug dealing in your neighbourhood and remain anonymous.

You can phone them on 0800 555 111 or submit the anonymous online form on their website **crimestoppers-uk.org**.

Drug dealing is not considered to be an issue in the parish. There is evidence of some recreational use of cannabis but the area does not have a sufficiently large population to provide a profitable market for drugs.

The team recently carried out a crime survey and are examining the results to learn what the community's main concerns are. Early indications are that these include speeding, parking issues and anti-social behaviour. This feedback from local people helps the police team prioritise their approach to crime in the community.

Excuse the repetition but if you are the victim of a crime or have concerns, then report it so that action can be taken. Dialling 999 should however only be done for a serious crime in progress, when there is immediate threat to human life or in the event of a serious road accident with people injured. It is OK to dial 999 if your home is being broken into. Patrol cars respond to 999 calls.

Clearly the nature and style of policing is changing. A lot of advice is now online. Cumbria Constabulary's Facebook pages are a useful source of breaking news and also offer advice on a range of issues. Equally methods of reporting crime have also moved online.

People should be re-assured that although they may not see coppers walking the beat, there are dedicated officers serving the community and there is an operational police station in Brampton that people are encouraged to visit for help or to report incidents. The local team are open to opportunities for community engagement and are prepared to give talks to schoolchildren for example on staying safe during Halloween and on Bonfire night. They are also happy to pop into community centres to say 'hello' and talk to local groups like the WIs about staying safe, preventing crime, dealing with anti-social behaviour or domestic abuse.

Other Useful Help Lines

Victim Support - including information and advice for those affected by domestic violence -

Call **0300 3033 797** and/or **0300 3033 979**

Or email **cumbriaidsva@victimsupport.org.uk**

Childline Counselling call **0800 1111**

Samaritans call free on **116 123**

Farm Community Network call **07002 32632**

Hallbankgate Village School News



Clare Hutton, Headteacher at Hallbankgate Village School, reports that they have had an excellent start to the new school year with lots of exciting news to share. She says that it really feels like we are not just 'back to normal' but that we are thriving and looking ahead to a magical festive season.

In our last update, we hinted at some exciting developments that would be taking place in our school and outdoor learning environment over the summer. These works are nearing completion with just an outdoor canopy left to be installed. After the intense heat of the summer and the often-torrential rainy days, this new canopy will mean that we will be a little less exposed to the elements! Over the summer, we were lucky enough to have a brand new floor installed under the climbing frames and slide outside, as well as new playground markings and equipment. We also had two out of our three classrooms remodelled and it was lovely to see how excited all the children were to see their newly-revamped learning environment!

Following the summer holidays, pupils have settled into their new year groups exceptionally well and have been enjoying lots of exciting learning opportunities right across the school. It has been wonderful to see how eager and enthusiastic everyone has been towards their learning, and that this was recognised in our Ofsted inspection in October which stated that our school continues to be a **good** school. Here is a small extract from the inspection report highlights:

'Pupils are happy and confident learners. They are proud to attend this small, nurturing school. Pupils told inspectors that this is a great school to belong to if you want to make friends. Staff have high expectations of all pupils' learning and behaviour. Pupils are hardworking. They achieve well and listen attentively in lessons. Pupils know that adults will help them to improve their learning and succeed in everything that they do. There are lots of activities to develop pupils' talents and interests. Pupils spoke with enthusiasm about the after-school sports clubs and gardening club.'

Older pupils enjoy taking on roles of responsibility such as a learning councillor, or as a buddy for children in the early years. Pupils appreciate the spacious school grounds. They also value the beautiful countryside that surrounds them. Pupils know the importance of looking after their environment. They make regular use of the village amenities like the church and the library. Pupils are enthusiastic learners. They are respectful to their teachers and to each other.'

These positive relationships underpin the calm and productive classroom environments in which pupils learn without disruption. Leaders ensure that opportunities for pupils' wider development are built into the curriculum. Leaders and governors have developed an ambitious and exciting curriculum.'

Another highlight of the term so far has been our Cumbria in Bloom awards. Following all of our planning and dedication in our after school gardening club (alongside science lessons and weekly wellbeing lessons), we were thrilled to receive a **gold** award for our whole school grounds, as well as a **silver-gilt** award for bio-diversity!

This was the first year that we have entered this competition and we were ecstatic that the judges recognised just how much our school grounds enhance our learning, and how much ownership the children have over these learning spaces - from our pond and wildlife area, to vegetable garden and planting for pollinators. We all enjoyed eating lots of produce from the vegetable garden in September and made chutney from our apple tree for the Harvest Festival too. It was all delicious!

Finally, we've had lots of community events so far this year and we are looking ahead to welcoming parents into school for Christmas performances, carol services and performances from our three music clubs. In October, we joined Reverend Johnsen in church for the first Harvest Festival following the pandemic and welcomed parents into school to view our amazing home-learning projects.

On Friday 11th November, we also held our first Torchlight Procession since 2019: it was a truly wonderful evening with nearly our whole school community coming together to remember the mining history of the village.

I think you will agree that we have had a brilliant start to our school year and that we offer something very special in our school. We'd all like to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2023.

Hallbankgate Village School Nursery

Our nursery is open from 9:00 am until 3:30 pm, Monday to Friday, during term time. Our nursery is run by a full-time Early Years Teacher, supported by Early Years Teaching Assistants, and we welcome children to our nursery the term following their third birthday. Please get in touch if you would like to arrange a visit for you and your child to see the many learning opportunities on offer in our school.

Fellfoot Forward Landscape Partnership Scheme Update

The scheme has had a very busy few months with an archeological dig at Long Meg, events for the North Pennines Stargazing Festival in October, and closer to home an exhibition of artwork at Hallbankgate in November. The artwork was the result of a community arts project that involved an artist working with local groups to explore the Tindale Tarn and Geltsdale landscape, contemplating the nature of change and people's perception of it before capturing interactions with the landscape using visual and audio methods.

Also in November, the scheme ran a training day with The Farmer Network at Farlam Hill Farm on farm hedge maintenance for the benefit of livestock, wildlife, water and carbon storage.

The scheme has grants which are open for applications from the local community. The Community Fund can offer grants from £500 up to £10,000 are available for projects that could help your community to be more wildlife friendly; better connected to the natural environment; or celebrate its cultural heritage. For more information or to discuss your project contact David Coverdale, Community Engagement Officer for the North Pennines AONB Partnership by email: davidc@northpenninesaonb.org.uk or call: 07976 523 804 (please note David's normal working days are Wednesday and Thursday). The Environment Grant can offer communities, farmers, and landowners up to £15,000 for hedgerow creation and maintenance, woodland creation and management, in-field tree planting, pond and wetland creation, rush control for breeding waders, and other habitat creation/improvement works with clear benefits for native wildlife.

Contact Tim Jacobs, Conservation Officer for the North Pennines AONB Partnership by email: tjacobs@northpenninesaonb.org.uk or call 07920 028975.

There will be opportunities to get involved with hedge planting around the scheme area in winter 2022/23 and a new arts project for 2023 will commence in the new year. Information regarding the scheme can be found at https://www.northpennines.co.uk/what_we_do/fellfoot-forward/ Sign up to the Fellfoot Forward LPS newsletters here: <https://www.northpennines.org.uk/news/subscribe-to-our-newsletters/> and join the scheme's Facebook group here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/fellfoot/>

Brampton Woodworks Ltd

Unit 12, Townfoot Industrial Estate,
Brampton, CA8 1SW
(opposite Recycling Centre)



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