

Craic

The Magazine
for
Great Salkeld
& area

Issue 13
Spring 2014

IN GRATEFUL
MEMORY OF
THE MEN WHO
GAVE THEIR
LIVES FOR KING
AND COUNTRY

1914-1918

THOMAS GEORGE SEWELL |
THOMAS BEEBY |
WATSON BEEBY |
WILLIAM BETHERINGTON |
HENRY HOLDER |
JOHN STAREBY LITTLE |
ALBERT HILTON |

Commemorating the start of World War I

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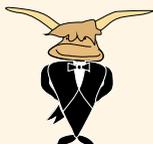


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This year marks the centenary of the 1914-1918 war, also known as the Great War. It was never expected to be witnessed again. Sadly this was not to be, for as little as 21 years passed before another world war occurred, with other conflicts going on to this day.

My purpose in using Craic as a platform is to illustrate the particular hardships this war brought upon the people who were indirectly involved in the Great War. Stories of villages which were left to carry on with their lives as the war drew on. We have researched stories from letters which were sent to and from the front giving a true account of what was being endured.

After the euphoria at the start of this conflict when whole villages enlisted, and the reality and magnitude of deaths became known, general mobilisation was enforced, leaving a home gap in Farming and Industry which had to be filled, mostly by women.

Though history remembers the war as an Army battlefield of trenches, the other services were involved, both at sea with Britain's formidable Navy, and in the air, with the Royal Flying Corp, the forerunner of the Royal Air Force, both of which we will cover in the forthcoming issues. We hope you enjoy our WW1 features and find some interest and poignancy in them.

~~~~~

We were sad to learn that Les Carrick had passed away recently. Les was a fascinating man with many wonderful tales to relate of life in the village over many decades. We were lucky to have enjoyed some of his stories in Craic.

*Frank Hope, Editor*

### CONTRIBUTIONS:

Please send your news to [copy@great-salkeld.net](mailto:copy@great-salkeld.net). We welcome Readers' Views on articles which are published and invite our readers to suggest topics for inclusion in future issues. News and Events are also included on the Village Website: [www.great-salkeld.net](http://www.great-salkeld.net) The website contains the Diary of Village Events, which is frequently updated. Email Linda Jervis on [diary@great-salkeld.net](mailto:diary@great-salkeld.net) for diary inclusion. We won't always have space to include every article or item in the current Craic; some items will be held over to subsequent issues, while some items will go onto the village website.

### ADVERTISE in CRAIC

Advert rates per issue are: ¼ page £15, ½ page £25, Full page £50. Single A5 flier inserts £20. Discounts for a full year. Contact us: [copy@great-salkeld.net](mailto:copy@great-salkeld.net) ■



PHOTOS

Cover: Village Memorial Cross This page: Spring over the Eden at Nunwick by Fiona Exon

### What was World War I?

Also known as: The Great War: 1914-1918  
World War I was an extremely bloody war that engulfed Europe from 1914 to 1919, with huge losses of life and little ground lost or won. Fought mostly by soldiers in trenches, World War I saw an estimated 10 million military deaths and another 20 million wounded. While many hoped that World War I would be “the war to end all wars,” in actuality, the concluding peace treaty set the stage for World War II.

### The Start of World War I

The spark that started World War I was the assassination of Austria’s Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife Sophie. The assassination occurred on June 28, 1914 while Ferdinand was visiting the city of Sarajevo in the Austro-Hungarian province of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Although Archduke Franz Ferdinand, the nephew of Austria’s emperor and heir-apparent to the throne, was not very well liked by most, his assassination by a Serb nationalist was viewed as a great excuse to attack Austria-Hungary’s troublesome neighbour, Serbia.

However, instead of reacting quickly to the incident, Austria-Hungary made sure they had the backing of Germany, with whom they had a treaty, before they proceeded. This gave Serbia time to get the backing of Russia, with whom they had 3 treaties.

The calls for back-up didn’t end there. Russia also had a treaty with France and Britain.

This meant that by the time Austria-Hungary officially declared war on Serbia on July 28, 1914, an entire month after the assassination, much of Europe had already become entangled in the dispute.

At the start of the war, these were the major players (more countries joined the war later):

- Allied Forces :- France, the United Kingdom, Russia
- Central Powers :- Germany and Austria-Hungary

### Schlieffen Plan vs. Plan XVII

Germany didn’t want to fight both Russia in the east and France in the west, so they enacted their

long-standing Schlieffen Plan. The Schlieffen Plan was created by Alfred Graf von Schlieffen, who was the chief of the German general staff from 1891 to 1905.

Schlieffen believed that it would take about six weeks for Russia to mobilize their troops and supplies. So, if Germany placed a nominal number of soldiers in the east, the majority of Germany’s soldiers and supplies could be used for a quick attack in the west.

While Germany was enacting its Schlieffen Plan, the French enacted their prepared plan, called Plan XVII. This was created in 1913 and called for quick mobilization in response to a German attack through Belgium.

As German troops moved south into France and the French and British troops moved north to meet them, the massive armies met each other in a stalemate. By September 1914, neither side could force the other to move, so each side began to dig trenches. For the next four years, the troops would fight from these trenches.

### A War of Attrition

From 1914 to 1917, soldiers on each side of the line fought from their trenches. They fired artillery onto the enemy’s position and lobbed grenades. However, each time military leaders ordered a full-fledged attack, the soldiers were forced to leave the “safety” of their trenches. The only way to overtake the other side’s trench was for the soldiers to cross “No Man’s Land”, the area between the trenches, on foot. Out in the open, thousands of soldiers raced across this barren land in the hopes of reaching the other side. Often, most were mown down by machine-gun fire and artillery, before they even got close. Because of the nature of trench warfare, millions of young men were slaughtered in the battles of World War I. The war quickly became one of attrition, which meant that, with so many soldiers being killed daily, eventually the side with the most men would win the war.

This became a reality when the Americans entered the war on the side of the Allies, and through their vast resources, eventually caused Germany to realize that it couldn’t win, and therefore sued for peace. ■

## High Speed BROADBAND in the village UPDATE

As many villagers will now be aware, BT have now installed a Broadband cabinet in the village that has brought in high speed connection through fibre optic cables. To find out if you can receive this service visit the BT website and use your postcode to check availability. The cabinet is situated near the Highland Drove and will connect up to 1km away. See: [www.bt.com](http://www.bt.com)

LonsdaleNET is still a good provider for the area and offers a high speed Broadband via wireless connectivity from masts. This signal can reach up to 15km from its source providing 60Mbps to those within 5km, 40Mbps at 10km and 20Mbps at 15km. They have good coverage of the entire of the Great Salkeld parish now. Customers of LonsdaleNET are helping them to serve the outliers from the village who would not see an improved service from BT as a result of the cabinet. See: [www.lonsdalenet.co.uk](http://www.lonsdalenet.co.uk) ■

## Are you involved in a local group, society or sports club?

We are keen to have regular 'reporters' from local organisations who will send current information and news to be included on the Great Salkeld web site.

The plan is that the site be a central hub for news and information that anyone from the village, or further afield, can visit to keep updated with what's going on.

Email to: [copy@great-salkeld.net](mailto:copy@great-salkeld.net) to get started. ■

## Would you like a display advertisement in Craic?

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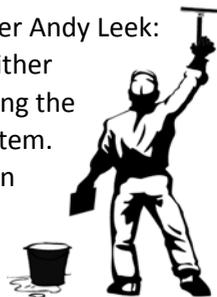
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### THEY MIGHT HAVE BEEN LOCAL LADS (a short story)

A few days after war was declared, Eric and his mates were having a kick about with a homemade football in the meadow by the river after work. Some of them worked on the lands at their family farms, others were apprentices for local butchers or builders. They each promised to volunteer to enlist as soon as they could. At 18 or so years old they were eligible. It'd be exciting, an adventure. Just imagine; they told one another, they'd have a chance to travel further than they ever had and stand up for their King and Country. After all, Eric thought, it'd all be over with soon. His Dad had said so just the night before, as he tapped spent tobacco from his pipe into the soot blackened hearth. "Aye Lad" he'd said. "It'll all be o'er wi' by Christmas".

Eric and his friends weren't afraid as they all went together to the recruiting office to

enlist. Dozens of other men were queuing, jostling and joking together; eager and excited. They stood tall as their height was measured and proudly put their signature on the paper. Before they got uniforms, they wore their own clothes, with arm-bands to tell the world they were now soldiers. During training, they learned the basic rudimentary army skills of marching and shooting.

After 12 weeks training, Eric and his friends walked to the nearest railway station to board a train, not knowing where they were going. They felt a few pangs of nerves, so they sang and kept a banter going to keep themselves cheerful and lift the spirits of their mothers and sweethearts as they waved them off.

They didn't know what they were going to. We do. We know the history and the horror of the War. We know it was likely that many of these young, vibrant, good-hearted and teenage boys would not live to see peace declared. ■

### THE REALITY OF ENLISTING

When World War One was declared in August 1914, a huge number of men wanted to enlist. Their enthusiasm was shared by many aged 15 to 18. The war was sold to the general public as a war that would be over by Christmas 1914. Therefore recruitment offices had to handle tens of thousands of men and youths who wanted to show their patriotic fervour. Few, if any, of the recruitment officers had time and probably the inclination to check the age of the volunteers. The rule of thumb seemed to be perfectly simple: if the volunteer wanted to fight for his country and was physically fit enough to do so,



why stop him? In this way it is thought that as many of 250,000 'Boy Soldiers' were recruited and fought in World War One.

Recruitment rules were simple. To enlist and fight abroad, you had to be nineteen or over. If you were eighteen, you could enlist but you had to remain in the UK until you were nineteen before being posted abroad. No one could join the

army under the age of eighteen.

For new recruits enlisted as privates all they taught was how to march and a few basic army skills. They would train for 12 weeks after enlisting but many were ill-prepared for the reality of war. ■

## Farmhouse Carrot Cake



### INGREDIENTS

- ✓ 1 lb caster sugar
- ✓ 8 fluid oz vegetable oil
- ✓ 4 eggs
- ✓ 8 oz finely grated carrots
- ✓ 8 oz plain flour
- ✓ 1 ½ teaspoons bicarbonate soda
- ✓ 1 ½ teaspoons baking powder
- ✓ 1 teaspoon ground allspice
- ✓ 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

### For the icing

- ✓ 8 oz icing sugar
- ✓ 8 oz cream cheese softened
- ✓ 2 teaspoons vanilla essence
- ✓ 2 oz butter softened
- ✓ 6 oz chopped walnuts or pecan nuts to decorate - optional

### METHOD

- Grease and flour 2 9 inch round cake tins.
- Preheat oven to 190C/375 F.
- In a mixing bowl combine the caster sugar, oil , eggs and carrots. Beat for 2 minutes.
- Sift the dry ingredients into another bowl. Add in batches to the carrot mixture, mixing well after each addition.
- Divide the cake mixture evenly between the 2 prepared tins and bake for 35-45 minutes, or until a skewer comes out clean from the centre.
- Cool for 10 minutes in the tins then turn out onto a wire rack to cool completely.
- Beat all the icing ingredients together ( except the nuts ) in a bowl until smooth.
- Sandwich the layers together with one third of the icing then spread the remaining icing over the top and sides of the cake.
- Sprinkle the nuts around the rim to decorate. ■

## Cozy Village Hall with a new heating system

In February, the Village Hall Committee commissioned Heatwave Scotland to supply and fit three state of the art heat pumps to replace the ceiling heaters that have been in place for over twenty five years. The heat pumps are extremely efficient and much more economic than the ceiling heaters they replace. They can also be programmed to specific temperatures. The units in total cost nearly £6000. The Committee are grateful to Eden District Council Community Fund who contributed just over half of the cost (£3280). The remainder has been funded through the Burns Night Quiz in January which raised nearly £900 and '100 Club' funds. ■

## Burns Night Fun & Games, Neeps & Tatties

What better way to spend a windy, dank, late January evening than at the Burns Night supper and quiz at the Village Hall. Several ladies wore tartan and some men and boys were resplendent in kilts. The organisers had done a wonderful job of planning a delicious Burns Supper - complete with a tot of whiskey for the toast after a splendidly delivered address to the Haggis. A Scottish themed quiz posed some pretty challenging questions. Prizes of Fortnum & Mason hampers were for the winning teams and even those that came last were presented with some fluffy Haggis toys - which very quickly were given names by the young people who 'won' them. Funds from ticket sales went towards the new heating system at the Village Hall. ■



(Apologies for the blurry photo, but we felt it had to be included!!)

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## Garden interest .... Did you know?



*That the name Digitalis purpurea (Foxglove) originates from the Latin digitus, named by Leonard Fuchs in his Herbal published in 1542. Abraham Cowly penned the poem "The Foxglove on fair Flora's hand is worn, Lest while she gathers flowers she meet a thorn."*

The flower is deeply associated with folklore and fairies. Names such as *fairy caps*, *fairy bells* and *fairy thimbles* confirm this.

Other fanciful names were *folks glove*, *dog's lugs*, *dead man's bells*, *King Edward*, *butcher's fingers* and *threadworm*. The earliest version of the name Foxglove is found in a plant list compiled in the reign of Edward 111 in the fourteenth century - *Foxes glofa*. The plant resembles a favourite instrument of earlier times, a ring of bells on an arched support called a **tintinnabulum** (try saying that after a couple of sherries)

A Shropshire witch was supposed to have discovered the properties of digitalis, which to this day is used as a heart stimulant, but in a synthetic form.

In ancient times, the plant had to be picked with the left hand, from the north side of a hedge. Modern experiments have proved that some plants are more potent when grown in different sites. *Digitalis* is a very dangerous drug in unskilled hands. So called "witches" were obviously very skilful and imaginative people; they were the forerunners in the science of medicine.■

Ron D." Happy gardening"

Photo by Fiona Exon

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The Lonnin Head Dub must have a history written somewhere as it may not be a natural feature but was probably created as a watering facility and for use of the drovers driving livestock through the area. There is documentary evidence that the area was once a hive of droving activity and the name of the village pub “The Highland Drove” as well as roads with wide verges must bear testament to the area once being a major droving route and probably on the route from Scotland to Eastern and Southern England.

The Dub must have required some maintenance in the past and this was probably done by the local users but in recent years it's use diminished.

The clearing of the Dub as a wildlife oasis and to help protect the habitat of the resident and rare Great Crested Newt was part of the “Great Salkeld Millennium Project” and it has received a small amount of maintenance since. Bulrushes were introduced many years ago but these have constantly been a problem and have again become very invasive. This means there is not sufficient clear water left for the Great Crested Newts to lay their eggs.

The project has again taken advice from Paul Hudson local (Penrith) Great Crested Newt licence holder for over 20 years who concluded in his observations:

*“...the pond is now at such a late successional stage that removal of the rampant growth of vegetation and mud must be undertaken by JCB or similar machinery. If this could be achieved the amphibian population would certainly recover and return to healthy population levels within just a few years. In 2008 I surveyed this pond .... to my surprise I saw over 20 Great Crested Newts by torch light. If this pond was cleared of it's*



*overgrowth of vegetation and mud and had open water once again I'm sure it could hold 100's of Great Crested Newts in future years.”*

You can find out more about Great Crested Newts here:

[www.great-crested-newt.org](http://www.great-crested-newt.org)

Wetheral Cottages are now working with Great Salkeld Parish Council, with guidance from Paul Hudson (GCN) to initiate a maintenance programme, as well as make an application to Nurture Eden for a grant to help clear the Dub and resurrect it as a suitable breeding area for the

Great Crested Newt. As the invasion of bulrushes is now quite severe, these would be best removed mechanically. Whilst there would be some disturbance of other flora and fauna in the short term, the long-term benefits would be far greater.

## Future

Most residents within Great Salkeld Parish are aware of the presence of Great Crested Newts living in the Dub though very few will have seen these largely nocturnal creatures. It is proposed to hold an open evening in the Spring of 2014 where residents of Great Salkeld can see at first hand newts and other pond life. This would also be a great opportunity to inform the community of the history of the Dub and explain any of the problems that should be avoided.

## Access

The Dub, being situated close to the road, also affords the opportunity for local groups to visit, such as schools, community groups, and nature trusts. There is also the opportunity for limited disabled access—as this type of environment is often difficult to see without having a long and arduous walk. ■

*WWI Commemoration - In his own words....extracts from letters from the front written by a local soldier*



Many WW1 soldiers patiently waiting for their orders - a poignant image.

*From a local private collection*

*December 1914*

*Your letter found me and the battalion taking two days off after another bout in the trenches. The cold snap has been succeeded by rain and mud. We were digging all day and a good part of the night, for the most part under fire from the enemy and covered in the sticky black clay of this region.*

*November 1914*

*We have had rather a trying time in the trenches and the mud in the last few days. It has done nothing but pour with rain and I have been standing in water, knee deep, and we have been working like slaves to prevent getting buried by falls of sticky clay. I lost all feeling in both legs.....*

*January 1915*

*I am still optimistic enough to hope that this will not last as long as many think.*

*November 1914*

*I was so delighted to hear news of you.... You don't know how comforting it is when you are feeling rather damp and the shelling is too close.*

*December 1914*

*We had the bad luck to lose three men shot through the head by snipers.  
What a ghastly tragedy this war is and what a sacrifice of young lives.*

**In more issues of Craic this year we will take more extracts from letters from the WW1 trenches. There will be humour, fortitude, work-a-day observations and messages of hope for an end to the war.**

# WWI Commemoration - Great Salkeld's Contribution - The Border Regiment

by Philip Bowden

The memorial plaque in the Village Hall holds the names and units of 72 men who were villagers or had links to the village and who served during WW1. Nineteen men served with various battalions of the Border Regiment and this article gives a very brief history of the Border Regiment and its deployment during WW1.

In 1705 the 34th (Cumberland) Regiment of Foot was formed as a line regiment of the British Army. Fifty years later in 1755 the 55th (Westmorland) Regiment of Foot was also formed. These two regiments were later amalgamated in 1881 to form The Border Regiment. Under the reforms of 1881 each line infantry regiment was to have a defined regimental district, with two regular battalions sharing a single permanent depot. At any one time, one battalion was to be on foreign service and one on "home" service. These battalions were supplemented by County Militia and Rifle Volunteers.

The Border Regiment's regimental district comprised the counties of Cumberland and Westmorland, with the depot established at Carlisle Castle. In 1908 two Territorial Battalions were formed using the militia and volunteers as a basis and again using the two counties as recruiting areas.

(In 1959 the regiment was yet again amalgamated to form the King's Own Royal Border Regiment and, in 2006,



Men of the 8th Border regiment faced great danger. Their job was to destroy enemy opposition at either end of a trench section so that prisoners can be taken back across No Man's Land for interrogation.

*Photo: From the collection of Tyne Tees TV and John D Clare*

*You quickly get used to the noise of the bullets striking trees over your head or dropping, spent, into some puddle nearby.*

*It was bad luck to lose four men to bullet wounds.*

Extract from a letter written by a local soldier, November 1914.

following a restructuring of the army, it was merged with The Queens Lancashire Regiment and the The King's Regiment to become The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment.)

The Regiment served in many theatres of war during World War One – France and Flanders, Italy, Macedonia, Gallipoli, Egypt and the

North West Frontier. By the time of the armistice at 11am on the 11th November 1918 the major warring nations had suffered greatly in casualties and more than one million British soldiers had died. Of this figure, the Border Regiment had suffered over 13000 deaths and many more casualties. By the end of the war, individuals of the regiment had been awarded more than 200 gallantry awards including five Victoria Crosses. Battle Honours were awarded to the Regiment for the following WW1 battles. >>>>.

## WWI Commemoration - The Border Regiment...continued

France & Flanders 1914-1918  
Ypres 1914-18  
Langemark 1914-17  
Gallipoli 1915-16  
Somme 1916-18  
Arras 1917-18  
Cambrai 1917-18  
Lys 1918  
Macedonia 1915-18  
Vittorio Veneto 1918  
Afghanistan 1919

The Border Regiment formed a total of 16 battalions during WWI from the pre-war establishment of two regular (1st and 2nd Battalions), one reserve (3rd Battalion) and two territorial battalions (4th and 5th Battalions). Thirteen of the wartime battalions saw active service. Each battalion had an established strength of approximately 1000 men. Early in the war the territorial strength was increased by volunteers responding to Lord Kitcheners's appeal for men and the 4th Battalion and 5th Battalions

eventually formed three Battalions each which were (confusingly) named 1st/4th, 2nd /4th, 3rd/4th, 1st/5th, 2nd/5th and 3rd /5th

The disposition of the battalions were far and wide during the war. Between them, Border Regiment soldiers fought in 6 Theatres of War, 18 Operations and 68 major Battles between 1914 and 1918.

As many battalions suffered heavy casualties during the war, the numbers had to be replenished regularly throughout the war. For a village the size of Great Salkeld, we can be proud of our contribution towards this County Regiment during World War 1.

Further information on the Border Regiment including transcripts of each battalions war diary can be accessed at <http://border-regiment.co.uk> and the Kings Own Royal Border Regiment museum at Carlisle Castle has an impressive collection of WW1 artefacts and displays (Tel 01228 532774). ■

## WWI Commemoration - World War I Poetry – Rupert Brooke

### 1914: The Soldier

If I should die, think only this of me:

That there's some corner of a foreign field  
That is for ever England. There shall be  
In that rich earth a richer dust concealed;  
A dust whom England bore, shaped, made aware,  
Gave, once, her flowers to love,  
her ways to roam,  
A body of England's, breathing English air,  
Washed by the rivers, blest by suns of home.  
And think, this heart, all evil shed away,  
A pulse in the eternal mind, no less  
Gives somewhere back the thoughts by  
England given;  
Her sights and sounds; dreams happy as her day;  
And laughter, learnt of friends; and gentleness,  
In hearts at peace, under an English heaven.

• **Rupert Chawner Brooke** was an English poet known for his idealistic war sonnets written during the First World War

• **Born:** August 3, 1887, Rugby **Education:** Rugby School; University of Cambridge, King's College  
• **Died:** April 23, 1915, Aegean Sea  
• **Buried:** Skyros, Greece



There are so many things in life we take for granted and we never miss them until they are no longer there. We pay our taxes both national and local and hopefully the money collected will be used to provide services when we need them. Very often we see little direct benefit when we no longer have children at school, or have good health so seldom need health care. It is however reassuring that they are there and as they are not free, we have no choice but to pay when we receive the demand from the tax office or the council. Costs are going up and we either pay more or often lose a service. We have little choice or influence in the decision making process.

We also make lifestyle choices and pay for these, whether we use them or not. Gym membership to get rid of the Christmas pounds, RAC/AA in case our car breaks down, or holiday insurance if we go away to escape the Cumbrian rain. If no one paid, the gym would close down or the recovery company would go bust.

In my time living in the village, I have seen the school, the post office, and the shop all go. As a result of this, we are no longer a 'Service Centre' so building new houses to keep our young families living within the village is frowned upon by the planners in the town hall. The pub also struggled until Donald gave it a new lease of life and now many of us have enjoyed village occasions in its convivial surroundings. The village hall went through a rough patch, as did the cricket club but an overwhelming desire not to lose yet another integral part of our village life rallied support from all quarters.

In the centre of the village is St Cuthbert's Church. We take it for granted as it has been there for 1000 years. If we want to get married, it is available to us; if we want to christen our children, it is there, and when we die, we have the option of having a funeral and be buried in it's well cared for graveyard. We can bring



our children to Christingle on Christmas Eve and involve them in the magic of Christmas.

Most of the year, we tend to forget about it and a few, mainly older people, attend the services, average age 75, and they gain a lot of spiritual benefit and fellowship from being there.

However, it is not just a facility for the elderly and we need to wake up to the fact that keeping

it open for when we might need it costs money. I recently took over as treasurer and have to report to a wider audience that despite the money raised from collections from the small congregations, the gift aid monthly standing orders, the generosity of the **Friends of Great Salkeld Church**, and the well supported fund raising events, we are not meeting our costs and a day will come in the not too distant future when hard decisions will have to be made. I do not want to see the day when our school which closed after 300 years is joined by an empty 1,000 year old church.

A snapshot of the financial facts is these:

In the last year our Parish share to the Diocese, this is for the vicar's wages and pension, was £13600 or £260 per week.

Insurance: £1100

Grass cutting: £900

Heating oil and electricity: £1900

Building repairs and maintenance: £5500

Cleaning: £600

On top of this is expenditure on general maintenance.

Our income does not cover this. One way you could help is to set up a standing order each month in favour of Great Salkeld Parochial Church Council, similar to other monthly outgoings. This is a great village to live in and the church is at its centre, spiritually for some, architecturally for others. Let's help keep it that way.

Thank you for reading this and if you feel you can make a regular commitment, please contact me for details. ■

Photo: Church gate by Fiona Exon



# LITTLE'S

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