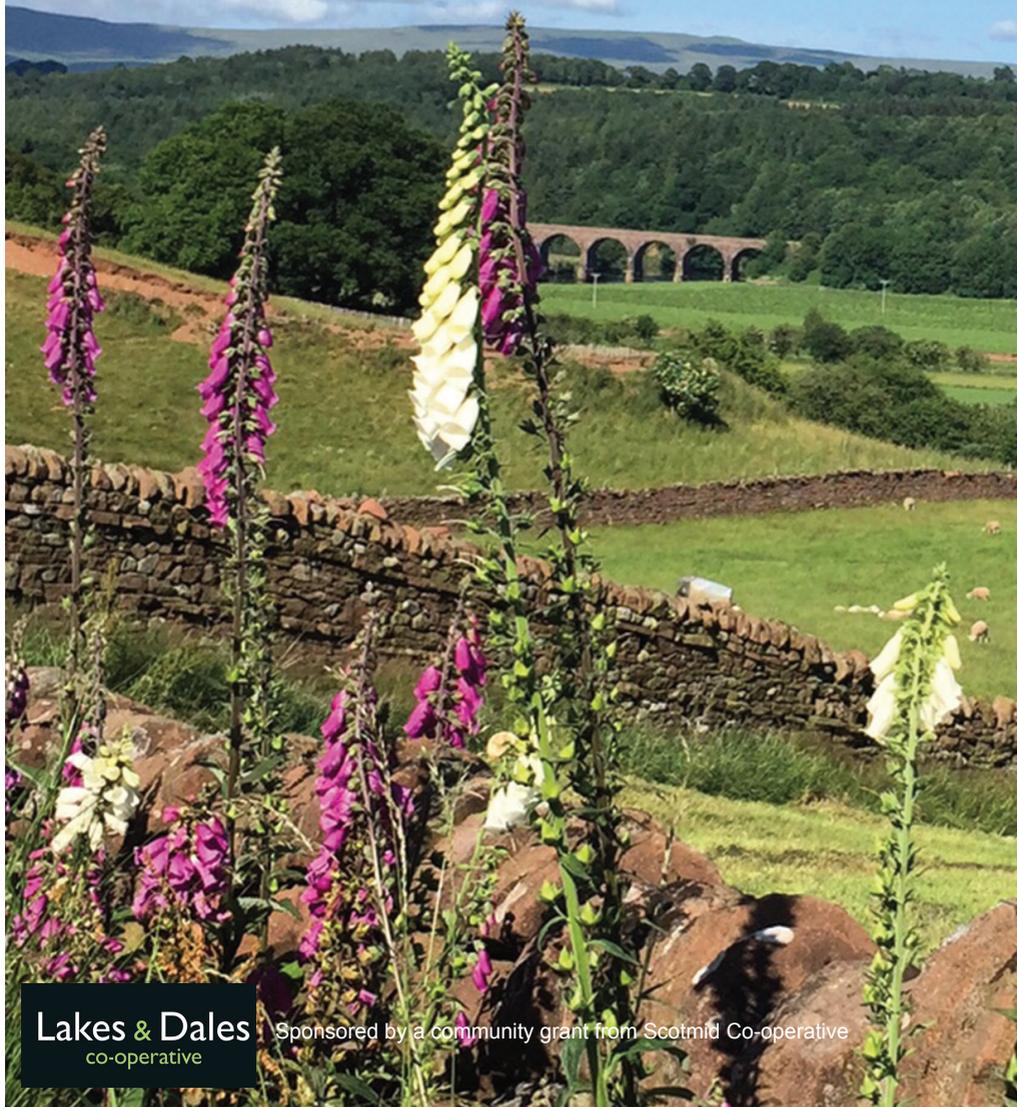


Craic

The Magazine for
Great Salkeld & area
Issue 19 Autumn 2015



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Dear all,

Editorial

You will see when looking through this issue of your magazine what it is that makes our neighbourhood so special. The photographs not only show off the attractiveness of the district we live in but also the commitment by the members of our community. Great Salkeld and the Eden Valley really is a special place to live.

Looking ahead to upcoming issues of Craic, we have plans to cover the following subjects, so if you can help or would like to share with us your thoughts and memories, please do make contact.

Proposed Articles: Long Meg and her daughters – Long Meg Mine – Lacy Caves – The Apostle seat at Eden Lacy – Langwathby Bridge 1968 – The Ladies Walk – History of Hunter Hall – Great Salkeld Church – Eden Hall Church – Musgrove Family history – Legend of Dick Whittington (The Bell) – The Night Stars – Low flying jets along the Eden Valley – Steam Trains through the Eden Valley – Church of Addingham – Eden Valley walks.

I'm going to have to go now; I've already had a read of the recipe in this issue for Sausage and Apple with Cider Sauce and I must get to the shops before they close.

I'd like to welcome two new volunteers to our Craic team - Bev Pink and Jill Stewart.

Donald Maclellan, Editor

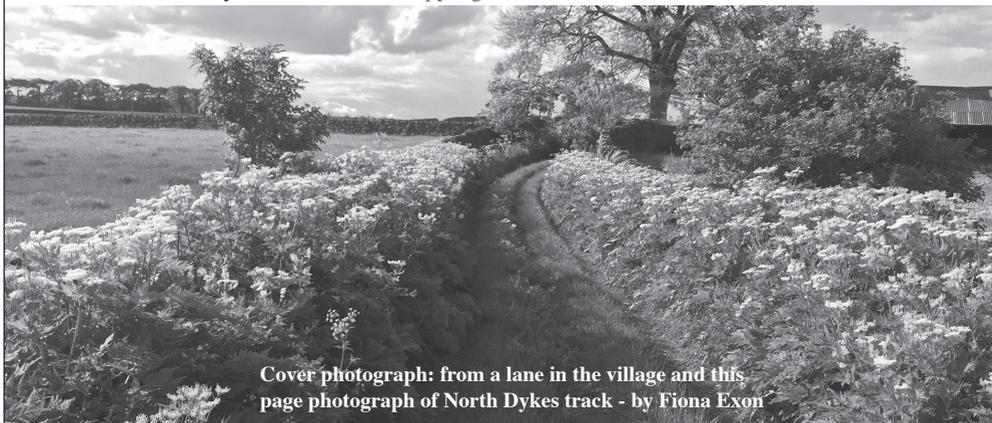
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**CONTRIBUTIONS:**

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 Philip Bowden 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.

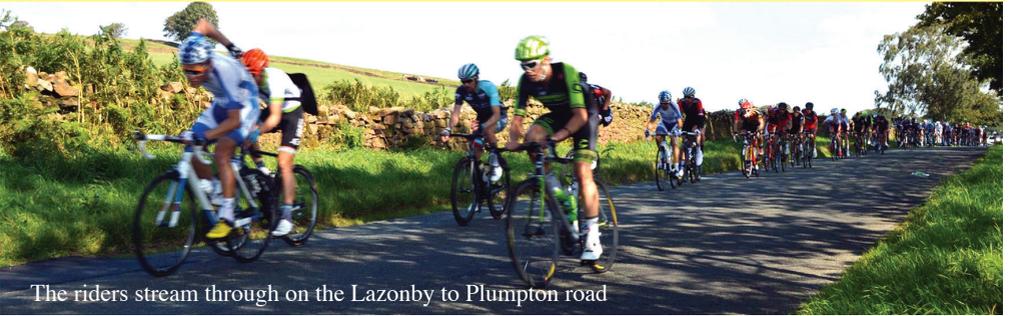
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Cover photograph: from a lane in the village and this page photograph of North Dykes track - by Fiona Exon

# Unforgettable! The Tour of Britain passes by - by Rich Martin



The riders stream through on the Lazonby to Plumpton road

*The Tour of Britain wheeled by close to Great Salkeld, twice, on September 10th, as it flowed through Kirkoswald and up through Lazonby to Plumpton, before an hour or so later (via Ullswater) heading from Penrith to Langwathby and up to the exciting stage finish at Hartside top. Cycling enthusiasts and lots of other people turned out by the roadside to cheer the riders on and enjoy the atmosphere. Rich Martin who lives in the village reports on his day watching the Tour.*

UNFORGETTABLE! It's simply the only way I can describe the Tour of Britain's visit to Cumbria. As a huge cycling fan that owns a cycling business and bike shop in Whinlatter, Keswick, to hear that this year's tour would have two race stages left us with mouth watering possibilities.

"Would Sir Bradley be riding? What about Cav,

the Manx missile? Oh and let's not forget the amazing Team Sky squad with riders from the Tour de France,.... really they're finishing up on Hartside.....that's where I ride.....Oh, I hope the weather is nice."

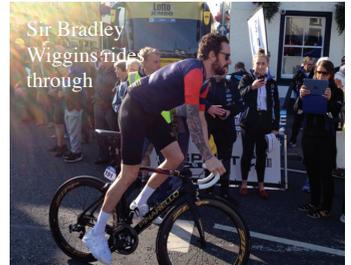
Thankfully it was all this and much, much more. I got to see the race depart in Cockermouth which was crammed with almost every cyclist from the West coast. The buzz around the town was electrifying. What a joy to see masses of cyclists and kids out from school to witness such a prestige event. Having to move out of the way as Team Sky and Sir Brad rode past to sign on for the race. Unforgettable. Then, just like that, it was gone. The race had started and they were off into Scotland. But wait, that was only the first day finished. >>>



Sprint finish



Rich Martin (r) at the finish line



Sir Bradley Wiggins rides through



Spectators gathered on Hartside at the finish line

## Tour of Britain passes - by Rich Martin - continued.....

Big plans were made to meet again up at Hartside and fingers were crossed that the weather would hold. The excitement was growing to new levels. To think that these super nice, super professional riders would be riding up “my” Hartside was incredible. It’s like David Beckham coming for a kick around on your local turf, only this was REALLY going to happen.

As we all now know, the weather did hold and I will never forget EVER being able to ride up Hartside on a closed road with literally thousands of cycling friends where we sunned ourselves on the summit watching on TV the riders breeze through all of our most beautiful villages. The TV guy in the helicopter must have been dizzy, given the stunning offerings on show from our most amazing region. “Look they’ve gone through Penrith,.....just LOOK at the crowds!.... AMAZING.” It felt like the whole world had turned up to watch. We kept getting announcements that the riders would be 45 mins away. Being locals, we knew how long it would take; this is our ride. Boy, how wrong were we. When we saw the

helicopter move around the last corner, it was only then that we realised how fast these lads were moving. It was unbelievable. The noise was immense as the first two riders turned the last corner. “GO ON POELS.....GO TEAM SKY!” I yelled. He passed Bossen Haggen next to me with 100 metres to the finish where he won. It was simply out of this world. The cheers got even louder for Sir Brad and Cav and then, just like that, it was over.....! I have never passed so many grinning cyclists down Hartside on my ride back home, all sharing their stories, finishing with the line.....that was UNFORGETTABLE. Big huge fat thanks to all who dressed up their villages in yellow. They looked fabulous. Big thanks to all those who were offering tea and cakes around the Eden valley; they too were unforgettable. Finally, a big thanks to the tour organisers and, on this occasion, Cumbria County Council for making this happen. For two days, this huge cycling fan was in cycling heaven in his own back yard and I will never ever forget it....Ever! ■

### *CRAIC Recipe - Sausage and Apples with Cider Sauce*

#### **Ingredients - Serves 4**

- 450g good quality sausages
- 1 small red onion thinly sliced
- 1 clove of garlic crushed
- 125g bacon bits
- oil for frying
- 2 red eating apples, cored and sliced
- 1 teaspoon freshly chopped thyme
- 200ml medium sweet cider
- 150ml crème fraiche
- salt and black pepper

#### **Method**

- Grill, fry or oven cook the sausages and set aside once done
- In a large frying pan, cook the bacon bits adding the onion and garlic half way through and cook until soft and brown



- Add the apples, thyme and cooked sausages to the pan and pour in the cider
- Bring to the boil then cover and simmer for 10 minutes
- Stir in the crème fraiche, season with salt and pepper to taste and continue to simmer uncovered for a further few minutes
- Serve with baked or mashed potatoes ■

## The Sound of Silence - by Bev Pink

Great Salkeld has long been known as a haven of peace and tranquillity but between the months of March and July this year, things were much quieter than usual. Those attuned to the rhythms of village life will, no doubt, have noticed the absence of the quarter hour chime, and the ringing of church bells on Wednesday evenings.

The cause of this sudden silence was the result of a dramatic incident in the church tower. No, it wasn't the Border Reivers come back to haunt us, but the deafening fall of the half ton tenor bell snapping off its bearings during bell ringing practice. The tenor, also known as "number six", is the biggest and heaviest bell in the tower and was being rung by the bell captain's daughter, Wendy Colclough, at the time. Recalling the moment the bell fell, Wendy explained, "I felt the rope suddenly go slack and made a run for it across the tower." Not surprisingly, bell ringing practice was brought to an abrupt halt as fellow ringers Sandra Evans, Simon Porter, Eileen Dunning, Mike Allison, Fay Hoy and David Horne, absorbed the shock. "All eyes went upwards," reported Sandra, "I honestly thought Wendy's bell was going to crash through the ceiling," she added. Simon Porter compared the sound of the bell falling to, "a clap of thunder".

Bell Captain, Mike Allison, explained, "Fortunately, when the bell came off, it lodged within its frame. There was no danger to anyone below." He added, "Wendy did the right thing though. Any bell ringer knows that when something unexpected happens – it's best to get out of the way." He was keen to stress, however, that this was very much a one off occurrence, "I've been ringing bells for the best part of forty years and I can't recall an incident like it." The cause of the mishap, he explained, was metal fatigue. "On bells of this age, you can expect some wear and tear." An inscription on the tenor bell itself reveals the age and history of St Cuthbert's venerable bells, "These bells were placed in this tower in 1892 at a cost of £400, collected by S. J. Butler, Rector, and his family, 1882."

It was a great relief to Mike to find that, as well as his daughter, the tenor itself had not been damaged in any way, "It's a miracle really it escaped unscathed." However, the bell's frame and mechanisms were in some need of repair and replacement. Also, during its fall from grace, the tenor had hit the clock mechanism and jammed it, causing the loss of the chimes.

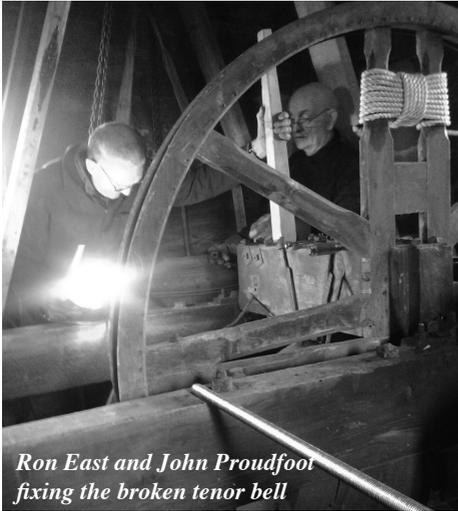
Mike, who usually carries out his own repairs at St Cuthbert's and St Nicholas', Lazonby, realised he couldn't manage this job on his own.

Fortunately, that evening, David Horne, secretary of the Carlisle and Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers (Eastern Branch), was paying a visit and he knew exactly whose services to call upon: Ron East and John Proudfoot. Ron and John ring bells at Carlisle Cathedral and carry out repairs to church bells all over Cumbria. Both are retired. Ron used to teach Science at William Howard School, while John was a paramedic at Carlisle Infirmary. They carry out this work on an entirely voluntary basis for the sheer love of it, "We are passionate about bells and keeping the tradition of bell ringing going," said John. When they heard about the "little mishap" at Great Salkeld, Ron and John, who live in Carlisle, were more than happy to help. However, despite their vast



*The tenor bell fallen*

## The Sound of Silence - continued



*Ron East and John Proudfoot  
fixing the broken tenor bell*

experience, the pair admitted to feeling more than a little challenged by the sight that greeted them at St Cuthbert's. John recalls, "We took one look at each other and said - 'Oh dear!'" They went on to describe this repair as their, "most challenging mission to date".

First, they had to work out how to lift the tenor safely. After much head scratching, Ron and John came up with the idea of building an A frame structure and equipping it with chains and pulleys. Recalling the day the bell was lifted, using this sturdy home made device, Mike Allison, said, "It was such a relief to see the bell dislodged, then hauled up on the chains. It was quite a sight." Mike, who was on hand throughout the repair process, added, "You learn such a lot watching Ron and John work. They are so methodical."

A large wooden wheel also had to be removed and replaced along with some bearings. Interestingly, these were sent to Taylors of Loughborough, the foundry that first cast St Cuthbert's bells all those years ago. Ron and John had to carry out a lot of ground work to provide the specifications for the making of the replacement parts. Thankfully, a temporary loan was provided by the bell restoration fund

and The Friends of St Cuthbert's have made a significant contribution towards the final costs involved.

During this repair period, two weddings were to be held at St Cuthbert's for which bells had been requested. Rather than let down the brides and grooms in question, Mike, John and Ron came up with a couple of temporary solutions. For the first wedding, the tenor bell was secured, making it safe for the remaining five bells to be rung. By the time of the second wedding, the bells were completely out of action but Mike was able to ring the tower's carillon. The sound generated by the carillon is lighter and softer but, nonetheless, suitably celebratory in tone.

Since then, the repairs have been completed and all six bells are back in working order. There was definitely an air of celebration in the bell tower the evening bell ringing practice was resumed. John Proudfoot attended the session with a fellow ringer to witness the success of his and Ron's rescue mission. But their work was not yet at an end. Next on their list of repairs was the clock mechanism that activates the quarterly chime.



*The tenor being lifted*

Anyone interested in seeing the bells being rung or interested in training to become a bell ringer can contact Mike on: 01768 898806. Bell ringing practice takes place at St Cuthbert's and St Nicholas' at Lazonby, alternate Wednesday evenings between 7.00pm and 8.30pm. ■

## Village Sports Day 2015



Great weather, great floats, great fancy dress and great cake. Yes, once again Great Salkeld Sports Day proved to be another vintage year. The traditional parade down the village had more floats with some extravagant creative designs. Along with the individual fancy dress competitors, it really is a great parade to witness and makes me proud to be part of our superb village. This year's VIP's, Liz and Philip Cranston, were given the tough job of judging which, after much debate, declared a joint first place for GS Playgroup and the Book Club. A big, big thank you to all who turned up in fancy dress. A special mention to Mrs Harrison who looked amazing as the book character "Suzie Wong". Brilliant!



As usual, the traditional sports were hard fought with many glorious moments of success. The motor cross trophy(overall winner) was shared between Shannon Mounsey and Jonny Martin. >>>>



## Village Sports Day 2015

<<< For 2016 this programme will be updated to provide for more fun for all.

The fun continued with an epic girls v boys tug of war, an “egg-citing” egg chuck and then the prestigious GS Welly Wanging Championship for the Golden Welly. Now in its 4th year, this challenge is taking on epic status that must surely one day be made into a Hollywood film. The 2015 female champion was, once again, Kaz Burns who retook her 2013 crown whilst, after a very hard fought “wangfest”, the men’s crown went once again to Bob”The Dog” Miller.

I would like to thank the extremely hard working Sports Committee who make miracles happen at the same time each year around Sports Day!! More members always welcome. Huge thanks also to the army of cake makers who donate the best cakes for us all to enjoy. The army of extra helpers that really do glue the event together and finally to our superb villagers who really are the stars of the show. Next year’s theme is based on “a favourite TV show”.

*Great Salkeld  
Sports Committee Chairman.*

*Photos: Rich Martin, Fiona Exon*



# Lutra lutra - The European Otter

- by Richard Wood

There are 13 species of otter in the world but we are only looking at the European Otter – *Lutra lutra* – which actually ranges across Europe, Asia and parts of North Africa. Although common throughout the British Isles until the 1950's, they suffered a sharp decline due to pesticides leeching into waterways, water pollution, habitat loss and being hunted by packs of otterhounds. Moreover, post-war fishing was becoming the most popular pastime in the country and fisheries and fish-farm owners obviously took steps to protect their investments. From 1958 to 1963, 11 otter hunts in England and Wales killed 1065 otters and, in case you did not know it, the prized trophy the hunters would take from the otter was the penis bone, which would be worn as a tie-pin! However, otter hunting was banned, environmental issues were tackled and since the low point of the 1980's, otters are making a very successful comeback. Scotland, especially the West Coast and the Hebrides, have always had a strong population due to their remoteness and abundance of food.

Otters, like most animals, have their specific terminology. The male is a dog, females are bitches, young are pups. They live in a holt; a group is called a bevy, or if in water, a raft. Their faeces is called spraint and is a good indication that you have otters on a stretch of river as it is often prominently left on top of a riverside boulder, fallen tree trunk or other prominent feature to act as a territorial marker.

Otters are mainly nocturnal, except on the Scottish West Coast where they are often seen during the day, hunting along the coast. Their main diet is fish, especially eels. They will also eat crustacea, frogs, small mammals and waterside birds. They are very strong swimmers and can stay underwater for upto 4 minutes, swimming 400 metres without surfacing.



They can live upto 20 years. Dog and bitch otters live separately, coming together only for mating which can take place at any time of the year. A bitch is on heat for about 14 days every 30-40 days. Gestation is 62 days and they produce usually 2-3 pups, sometimes upto 5, in a holt often well hidden in a river bank under overhanging trees, lined with grass and moss. The pups are weaned after 7 weeks and develop an adult coat when 2-3 months old. The family breaks up when the pups are about 1 year old.

I am often asked if I have ever seen otters and the answer is “lots of times....for better or worse”. For “better” because they are beautiful creatures and masters of their aquatic environment. For “worse” because I usually see them at night when fishing for sea-trout and that spells the end of fishing since an otter in a river will scare away every fish around!

However, over years of night-fishing, I can recall 3 memorable otter encounters. Firstly, on one particular river pool, there is a steep earth bank, where the otters have built a mud slide into the water. This is for play, and just like a children's slide, they will repeatedly go down and up this slide. >>>

**WE NEED YOU!**

## **VOLUNTEERS WANTED!**

The team of volunteers who make Craic happen have lost two vital members recently as people have moved away from the area. With dwindling numbers on the committee it is crucial we find more people who would like to join us if we are to be able to continue to publish the magazine. After 5 years we are pleased that the magazine is popular and want to see it continue.

If you are interested and have a little bit of time you could give to help out please contact us at [copy@great-salkeld.net](mailto:copy@great-salkeld.net) or phone Fiona on 01768 898878.

Sadly, it is likely that the magazine would have to close its pages for good if we aren't able to find new volunteers.

**So, please come and join us to keep the magazine going!**

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Why not send your Christmas and New Year greetings to friends and family in the village with a message in the Winter issue of Craic which is delivered in December.

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## **continued... Lutra lutra - The European Otter**

The second encounter was actually in broad daylight and very unusual. I was fishing a pool in mid-afternoon, hoping for a brown trout, when I saw 3 heads bobbing in the bankside grass about 200 metres away. I thought no more of it as occasionally people walked their dogs on this stretch. As they got closer to me, I saw that they were 3 pup otters, playing and frolicking together. They got to about 4 metres from me and then either saw or smelt me; they hurtled into the river and were gone – but what a sight!

Finally, a month ago, I was fishing a pool at midnight and heard a loud chirruping up on the far bank. This is the noise otters make, especially when playing. I knew it was pups and, with luck, they would go on down the river and not disturb my pool! I was wading in about 1 metre of water and at almost the exact moment that I heard chirrups, there was an explosion of water at my feet and there was an adult otter coming to the surface, rolling over onto her back, brushing my legs with her tail as she did so and swimming away. I do not know who was

more surprised but I was so shaken that I packed up and went home for a calming whisky! All of this in the dark, as well. The adult had obviously been fishing for the pups and on meeting my legs underwater, had come to the surface to investigate. A close encounter of the wrong kind.....but certainly memorable! ■



## Nunwick Cricket Club 2015

In 2015 we saw the inaugural Nunwick 8s competition take place. This consisted of 6 cricket teams playing in 8 a side, 10 over matches, with Caldbeck Cavaliers beating the Staffield Ravens in the final to lift the very first ASTsigns Nunwick's trophy. The day was not all about cricket though, as it was a huge family fun day with a host of activities and attractions for children and adults to enjoy and, with plenty of good food and drink on offer, the day was a massive success and planning has already started for the 2016 tournament.

Also, in the 2015 season, Nunwick 1st team secured their first overseas professional to represent the club in the Cumbria County Cup. Geeth Alwis from Sri Lanka played in the match against Cleator and, although Nunwick lost the match, it was a great experience for the whole club to have Geeth play and show his qualities.

In the Eden Valley premier league, Nunwick 1st team sadly were relegated at the end of the season, but as the team has a good young squad, the plan is to rebuild and have a big promotion push in 2016 back to the premier league.

Nunwick 2nd team had a positive season, being involved in a promotion battle for most of the season until the last couple of weeks, when the team ran out of steam a little. A highly



respectable 4th place finish in the Eden Valley 3rd division was a good achievement and, for a village club to once again be able to field two separate teams every week, is a massive achievement for Nunwick cricket club.

Once again the club has run a successful junior system on a Tuesday night with primary school kids taking part in training sessions and with the club producing a good U15 team, we hope this will continue to produce keen young cricketers to help bolster our senior teams in the future.

So 2015 has been a very productive year on and off the pitch and it hasn't finished yet. With events, fund raisers and winter training, this really is a all year round club and 2016 is shaping up to be another exciting year at Nunwick cricket club. ■

## Village OPEN GARDENS - July 2015

Fine and bright weather made the village Open Garden Day extra special. Thirteen varied and gorgeous gardens were open for viewing. Our village is home to some very talented and dedicated gardeners, some of whom have lived and gardened here for almost 50 years. Not only gardeners, but artisans and potters who have made their own artefacts, placed strategically in their gardens; hens, owls, different kind of birds etc. to name but a few.

Interesting plants brought from New Zealand, a vast selection of colourful perennials and lovely ponds attracting frogs and wildlife, often surrounded by wild flowers. Several gardens have vegetable plots and fruit areas. There are many who are creative with pots and containers.

Lots of thought had obviously gone into planting with those who have a north facing aspect. Not an easy task in this part of the world. Monty Don and Alan Titchmarsh, beware!

After enjoying the gardens, putting was available at Fell View, with the highest score winning a bottle of champagne. A plant stall outside the village hall, with contributions from villagers, raised £184.70. And the scrumptious teas provided by the ladies made £293.80.

The raffle made the fantastic sum of £1575.00; gardens income £430.00, and ice cream £68.50. All in all, a brilliant effort and grateful thanks to all who contributed for their hard work.

We have a full page of photos of some of the gardens on the next page....■ photos >>>

## Village OPEN GARDENS Day - Photos





Around the world, many countries have winds that have been named as they have such a marked effect upon human activity, from the Chinook, a warm, dry westerly wind blowing down the eastern side of the Rocky Mountains of North America to the Fremantle Doctor, an afternoon sea breeze which cools Perth, Western Australia during summer afternoons, bringing relief from the heat.

Across Europe, well known winds include the Mistral, which blows down the Rhone valley as a cold northerly wind in winter, sometimes for several days at a time and at speeds of up to 70 mph, and the Foehn, a warm, dry southerly wind on the north side of the Alps, sometimes called a snow-eater for obvious reasons.

### In the UK, the only named wind can be found here in the Eden Valley – the Helm wind.

A cold wind, the Helm wind occurs when the wind direction is perpendicular to the lie of the Cross Fell range of hills, from the north-east. The name, Helm, is thought to originate from Anglo-Saxon, signifying a helmet, as the Helm wind is

accompanied by the Helm cloud which caps the Cross Fell Range, and remains stationary, whilst a few miles downwind over the Eden Valley, the Helm Bar, a cigar shaped rotating roll of cloud also remains stationary.

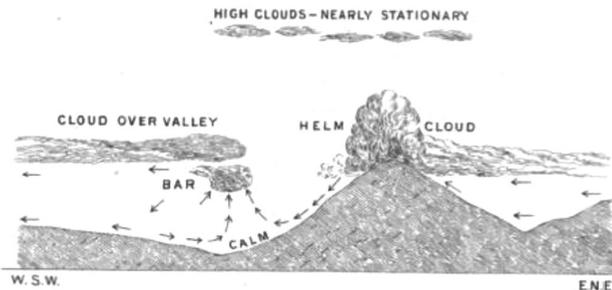
Historical records show the Helm wind as being responsible for blowing men from off their horses, overturning carts, blowing roofs from houses and even ‘blowing sheep about like so many pieces of wool’.

What creates the Helm wind was a mystery until 1937 when British Climatologist Professor Gordon Manley set up a weather observing station on Cross Fell.

Professor Manley discovered that the prerequisites for a Helm wind included an ENE-NE wind at Tynemouth of no less than 15 mph and 20 mph at the top of Cross Fell. Additionally, a stable layer of air is needed over the Pennines. The stable layer above the Pennines acts as a lid and forces the wind to flow between the stable layer and the Cross Fell Range, in a fashion akin to rocks in a stream forcing the water to race through a narrow gap. Similarly, this stable layer then causes the wind to accelerate down the Cumbrian side of the hills into the Eden Valley.

One legend has it that the Helm Wind is the ghost of Peg Sleddal or Meg Sleddal of Crackenthorpe Hall who rides through Crackenthorpe when the wind blows.

One thing is for sure, woe betide anything that stands in the way of the Helm wind. ■



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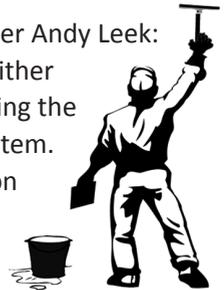
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First Sweep  
**only £25**  
normal price  
£35

**Save  
£10**

