



# *Craic*

The Magazine for  
Great Salkeld & area

Issue 4

Winter 2011

Merry  
Christmas  
everyone

**Dear Father Christmas, for Christmas I would like...  
from the Pupils of Lazonby School (aged 7 to 9)**

We have used the exact spelling as  
the pupils and feel sure that Father  
Christmas will understand!

**Tatty Tedy Snugle Blanket**

**Crayola Moosaic  
Maddness**

**Zhuzhu Pets  
Play Set**

**Nindedo Wii**

**Star Wars  
Dovae**

**Air Hocie  
Tabl**

**iPhone**

**A Diary**

**Laptop**

**Morcentrole  
car**

**Sylvanian  
Grand  
Hotel**

**Irings &  
Megup**

**Lego  
Hogwarts**

**Blakberry  
Messingjer**

**A Magic Box**

**Mek &  
doow**

**Lego  
Ninjago**

**Skuter**



**Do YOU remember what you asked Father Cbhristmas for?**

## Seasons Greetings!

## Editorial

This Christmas issue of Craic is the fourth since the magazine first appeared in spring 2011. The team have been buoyed by the positive feedback from the community and have already started to plan for the spring 2012 issue. This will coincide with the start of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations and I'm sure there will be many events to cover in our area.

With Christmas fast approaching, we have included articles relating to this festive season, which we hope you will enjoy and find interesting.

In my autumn Editorial I mentioned that we would like to have some input from the young people of our area and I am pleased to say that we have had a response from Lazonby School.

Another planned feature for the spring 2012 edition will be "Poets Corner". We invite anyone to submit a favourite poem and give the reason for their choice.

I would like to thank the Craic team for all their dedication and effort over the past few months in producing the Craic magazine. They are all volunteers and have, I believe, given the community a magazine to be proud of.

Finally, to help cover the costs of producing Craic, we have set up green donation boxes in Great Salkeld Village Hall, The Highland Drove Inn, and Lazonby Co-op. Any contributions, both great and small, will be much appreciated.

We wish you all a Very Merry Christmas! ■

*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 any 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.

Cover image of Seasonal Robin and Editorial page image of a Stained Glass Window in St Cuthbert's Church by Fiona Exon

### ADVERTISE in CRAIC

Advert rates per issue are: 1/4 page £11, 1/2 page £22, Full page £44.

Contact us: [copy@great-salkeld.net](mailto:copy@great-salkeld.net)



(Photo by Fiona Exon)

# “ In conversation with.... ”

## Maurice Wilkinson, countryman

### Tell me a little about yourself

I was born in Penrith and moved to Calthwaite shortly after. My father was an agricultural worker and then a tanker driver and my grandfather was game keeper at the Brackenburgh estate.

When I left school I worked at a farm near Calthwaite called The Elephant,



originally an old coaching inn. When I married Edith, we moved to Armathwaite and I worked for Sir Gerald Lee as his foreman at Nord Vue Farm and Wood End Farm.

### When did you move to Eden Lacy?

After Sir Gerald Lee's death, I initially thought about applying for the police force as I had been a special constable for a few years, but I was deemed too old at 32!

Then I saw an advertisement for an estate worker at Eden Lacy, applied, and have been here for 30 years.

### How long were you a special constable?

For about 24 years, then you had to retire at 55. I have many happy memories of that time, including when myself and Mike Carrick were the first special constables in Cumbria (and two of the first in the UK) to be allowed to take a "Panda car out unsupervised".

### Tell me about working at Eden Lacy

When I started I was mainly involved in farming, especially sheep, but steadily the job evolved to include game keeping.

When countryside stewardship schemes were introduced, encouraging farmers to introduce areas to improve the local environment and wildlife habitats, Mr Gubbins was keen to get involved. Some of

the things we created include several "scrapes" to encourage newts, improvements to the riverbank, tree planting and wildflower meadows, which provide wonderful habitats for birds and butterflies. Last year I saw about 800 chaffinches rise up from one of the fields. We now regularly see bramblings, tree sparrows, linnets, gold and green finches and water rails. The populations of water voles and otters have also increased.

### Do you have any particular memorable moments of working at Eden Lacy?

One in particular stands out, which does not involve farming. When Mr Gubbins was High Sheriff of Cumbria, I used to be his chauffeur (cap included) for special events. Princess Diana was visiting Ulverston and then travelling on to Kendal, and we had to follow behind and keep up with her car. As we wound our way along, I was concentrating so hard it was not until I glanced down that I saw we were doing 110 mph!

### What do you do to relax?

Both Edith and I love gardening. I also enjoy a pint at the local pub and a game of dominoes. When I was younger, I played cricket for Nunwick.

### Tell me something that not many people know about you.

I am related to John Peel on my father's side.

### Where is your favourite place in Cumbria?

Walking along the river bank at Eden Lacy, from the falls to the caves. Even though I do it most days, I never tire of it. ■

(Photo by Fiona Exon)





# CRAIC CHRISTMAS PRIZE DRAW



**5 lucky winners will win a prize in our special Christmas Draw.**

Correct entries drawn from the 'bag' will receive one of these prizes  
(1st drawn winner prize no. 1, 2nd drawn winner prize no. 2, etc)

- 1) **£25 Voucher** from the Highland Drove Inn
- 2) **Bottle of Champagne**
- 3) **Voucher for 5lb of Cumberland Sausage** (redeemable at any Cranston store)
- 4) **Winter Screen Gift** of 5 litres of screen wash and 2 de-icer sprays (Lace's Garage)
- 5) **1.5kg bag Harvest Flour** from Little Salkeld Watermill

**HOW TO ENTER** Just answer this question:

**Who was said to have been poet laureate to King Henry VIII?**

(Clue: the answer might be somewhere in this issue of Craic)

**SEND YOUR ANSWER** (remember to include your answer, name, address, contact phone no. and/or email)

**either by email to:**

copy@great-salkeld.net (with CRAIC DRAW as the subject)

**OR enter by post to:**

CRAIC Draw, c/o F. Hope, 3 Farleigh Court, North Dykes, Great Salkeld, Penrith, Cumbria, CA11 9ND

**Closing date** is January 28th 2012.

## The Winter Season

Come comforting Winter  
With your long cosy evenings  
Reflecting dancing shadows of light  
From my open fire, glowing so bright.

Holly with crimson berries,  
Ladies wearing coloured wellies,  
Street lamps shining on vendors' stalls,  
Such warmth as I turn the key and enter my hall.

Curtains drawn as the village  
clock chimes six,  
A nice pot of tea, or even a whisky,  
with a Mac in it.  
Cleansing snow drifting by the door,  
Drifts forming as you watch in awe.

Each pure snowflake leaving  
A gentle Yuletide greeting;  
Merry Christmas to you, one and all,  
As I raise my glass and hug my shawl.

*by Kate Mary Hope, Winter 2011*

## Ousby Charity Ride & Drive

by Steve Sowerby, North Dykes

On the 28th of August, 46 persons driving Horses with Carts & Drays, also 15 Riders on Horse Back, took part in a Charity event raising approx. £1000 for the Air Ambulance Service. In addition a sum of £100 was raised as aid for St. Luke's Church, Ousby; all donations were raised by followers of this event.

Participants travelled from as far as Kent, Fife, the North East, Yorkshire and Lancashire. The groups left Ousby at 1pm, riding to Skirwith, Culgaith and then down to Langwathby Village Green, to rest their Horses and to partake of some refreshments themselves. The groups then set off back by Little Salkeld Station, Winskill, and Hunsonby and were back at Ousby around 4pm.



*Steve with his mare, Maddy*

Having seen to their charges, the Groups had a most enjoyable evening at the Fox Pub, Ousby, with music and a sing song. A great night was had by all and we are now looking forward to next year's event, which will be held on Bank Holiday, Monday 26th August, 2012. ■

## A "Reet Grand Day Oot" out on the Settle to Carlisle line

We're lucky to live in the lovely Eden Valley and lucky, too, that the scenic and popular Settle to Carlisle railway line runs close by. Living in the CA11 postcode area you can save one third off a single, return and saver tickets on the line by buying a Dales Railcard for £10. Just one journey could recoup your £10.

Dales Railcard Holders can take advantage of the annual winter offer of a very low set fare, for which passengers can travel the whole route. Occasionally other special offers are also made available to Dales Railcard Holders.

The line has something for everyone; city, town, countryside, wild areas, culture and coast. You could have a day out in Leeds for shopping, a visit to the market town of Skipton or a day walking and exploring in the Yorkshire Dales or even visit Brampton on the Tyne Valley line. You can take a windswept winter walk at the Ribbleshead Viaduct before a lunch at the pub near the station there or travel to Morecambe for a day at the sea. You can use the card to travel from Lazonby or Langwathby or other stations on the line. For information see [www.northernrail.org](http://www.northernrail.org) or download the application form from <http://www.scrdc.co.uk/dales-railcard/> ■



*Fiona Exon*



## SEARCH for TALENT in Great Salkeld and area

Lazonby & District's Got Talent is now recruiting for entrants for its 4th Annual Talent Competition to be held in 2012. The three previous finals have been a huge success and showcased a range of talent from local people. Previous winners have included dance pair – Glamour Girls; singer - Nicole Malloy; and band- Fixing Maurice. So far, we have only had one entrant from the Great Salkeld area! - although several young people are part of the 'FLUORESCENT' dance group that performs the opening routine for the Final.

So the SEARCH is on for further new talent from your area – please show us what your talents are and audition for the 2012 Final, which will be held on Saturday 10th March 2012 in Lazonby Village Hall. Auditions will be held on Sunday 11th December 2011 in

Lazonby Village Hall; anyone wishing to enter needs to obtain an Entry Form from:

Gail Eastham: 07425 171957 or Jill Eastham: 01768 879824 or [jill@jilleastham.co.uk](mailto:jill@jilleastham.co.uk)

Please help us to ensure that this popular event continues to attract new and emerging talent. The event is open to anyone of any age, living in or local to the villages and community of Lazonby & District. All proceeds from the event are donated to local groups, organisations and charities and the three finals so far have raised over £2000.

Anyone aged 5 years and over wishing to be part of the FLUORESCENT dance group, which practises most Sundays, from 11am to 12pm, in Lazonby Village Hall, and appears at events throughout the year as well as at the Talent Final, please contact : Gail Eastham- 07425 171957.

You do not need to have had any dance experience, just come along, enjoy and look forward to performing to an appreciative audience. ■

## Parish Community Shelter – Your Support Please

As many of you will be aware, the Parish Council is planning to build a Community Shelter. This will be located on the main road through the village, by the playing fields, just north of what is popularly known as Dennis's bench seat. This position has been chosen after discussions and site visits by the County Highways Engineers and the Police. It will be built in a traditional style of local sandstone and tiles, to fit in with its immediate surroundings. Inside there will be seating and a new Parish noticeboard.

This form of construction is expensive and the Parish Council has been looking to reduce the net cost to the Council. The

concrete base will be provided free of charge by the County Council. There have already been generous offers to supply, or to pay for, the sandstone, the seating and the notice-board. All of these will be acknowledged in due course.

This is a much needed facility and we are asking for generous donations of materials, money in multiples of £25, sponsoring of an element of the works, or for those with the right skills, their time or reduced rates.

We are hoping to have the shelter completed in time for the Diamond Jubilee celebrations. Please give generously and speak to Mike Carrick (01768 898147) or Nigel Robson (01768 870027) ■

# Christmas Cranberry Beef Casserole

Local recipe

From Janet Brenand

Serves 4

## Ingredients:

- 600g/1½lb lean braising steak, cubed
- 5ml/1 teaspoon dried basil
- 2.5ml/½ teaspoon cinnamon
- 50g/2oz plain flour
- Salt and pepper, parsley garnish
- 3 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 12 small shallots
- 6 cloves
- 250ml/½ pint beef stock
- 1 red pepper, diced
- 150g/6oz jar cranberry sauce
- 30ml/2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 150g/6oz mushrooms, sliced

## Method:

✓ Place meat in a large plastic bag. Add basil, cinnamon, flour and seasoning, then toss together.

✓ Heat oil in a frying pan and fry off beef until sealed. Place in a casserole dish.

✓ Stick cloves into some of the shallots. Place the shallots in the pan and cook for a few minutes until lightly browned. Add any remaining flour and the stock. Take off the heat and stir well.

✓ Stir in the red pepper, cranberry sauce, lemon juice and mushrooms and bring back to the boil. Pour over the meat in the casserole dish.

✓ Place in the oven at 170 degrees Celsius, 325 Fahrenheit or Gas mark 3 for about 2 hours until tender.

✓ Season to taste, garnish with parsley. ■



## Plea from a Dog Walker

We walk our dog in and around the village. It is unpleasant to have to watch our step where others don't clear up after their own dogs. Particularly bad areas are Green Lane (despite there being a bin especially for this) and the track that runs towards the river, just before the village Recycling Area. Please remember - it is the responsibility of all dog owners to scoop the poop and keep our village clean for everyone. ■



## MOVING HOUSE IN THE 1700s from Mr David Occomore, Eden Place

Bishop William Nicolson, son of the Rev Joseph Nicolson, was born on June 3rd 1655 at Orton, near Carlisle. On October 3rd 1682 he was collated to the Archdeaconry of Carlisle, to which was annexed the rectory of Great Salkeld. In his diary he recalls that most of his happy married life was spent at Salkeld. When he became Bishop of Carlisle in 1702, he left Salkeld for Rose Castle, the Bishops Palace. He writes, "Friday. Having sent off eleven carts more (eight had already gone) with Household Goods, I followed them (with my wife and family) to Rose, taking a final leave of sweet Salkeld."

Extract from *Round Carlisle Cross*  
by James Walter Brown (eight series) 1928. ■



Very few working class families had bathrooms. In my own case it was not installed until about 1948. Toilets were usually earth closets situated behind the houses at the bottom of the garden. They sometimes included an ash pit, where the day's ashes from the coal fires, along with other household waste, were deposited. There was no electricity before 1935. Bathing was done in a tin bath in front of the fire.

Jars, bottles and tin cans had to be taken to two large enclosures made of corrugated zinc, one at the top of Pillar Hill and one between North and South Dykes, but a service was provided by 3 young lads, my brother, myself and a neighbour from across the road, who, with a bogie consisting of a set of old pram wheels, a wooden plank and a large wooden soap box, collected refuse on a Saturday, in the hope of remuneration to augment our pocket money of one penny each week.

Lighting was provided by oil lamps on the kitchen table or by candles when going to bed. Farmers usually used stable lamps, portable lamps with a thick glass cover surrounded by a wire frame, that they were able to move around when attending livestock and were safer in case of fire. Wirelasses (radios) were run off heavy, portable glass wet batteries that had to be taken to the local garage to be charged up now and then.

Pocket money was usually spent at Mrs Fisher's Shop along the road, at the bottom of Green Lane, where for a penny you could obtain 10 Golden Charm Toffees, a stick of liquorice or, on special occasions, a bottle of pop which was sealed with a glass marble in the top. This shop was also the General



*Great Salkeld away day at Penrith Station*

Store, but there was a small sweet shop further up the village. There were some other small businesses in the village. A very busy Post Office was in the centre of the main street, a Stonemason's Workshop, a Joiner and Undertaker's Business, together with a Blacksmith's Shop were all very active, making the village self-contained. Most of the houses had vegetable gardens and many also kept a few hens at the rear of their property.

The Library (now the kitchen) attached to the Village Hall was lined with cupboards full of books, later augmented by boxes of books from the County Library, which the Caretaker issued on a Saturday evening. The Reading Room (now called the Thompson Room) was provided with a large table and seating. Newspapers and other reading matter were provided. Later a billiard table was installed which was much used by village members. The Village Hall, Library, and Reading Room had been built at the turn of the century by Mr Heywood Thompson of Nunwick Hall. ■

*(We would like to thank Les for sharing some his memories of Great Salkeld Village life with us through the pages of Craic)*

# Pennine Perambulations - Walk 4. By Colin Barnfield, Lazonby



**LENGTH:** 10.5km (6½ miles); **GRADE:** Easy walking with a few steep inclines.

**MAP:** Ordnance Survey, Explorer Series, No.OL5 (NE Lakes)

**START:** Armathwaite Bridge, Armathwaite, GR 5072 4600

**PUBS:** Armathwaite: The Dukes Head, Tel. 01697 472226 & The Fox & Pheasant, Tel. 01697 472400

**SHOP:** Eden Stores – traditional village shop, Tel. 01697 472778

**FOOTWEAR:** Good walking boots recommended.



**1** Looking south, upriver from Armathwaite Bridge, Armathwaite Castle is visible on the right bank of the River Eden. It was the seat of the Skelton family from c.1300-1712. The present 4-storey, square, sandstone peel tower was probably built in the mid-C15. John Skelton, c.1460-1529, is said to have been poet laureate to King Henry VIII.

**2** From the fingerpost on the east side of the bridge, descend the steps and turn left through a kissing gate, upriver under the bridge. Continue upriver for 0.75km (½ mile) to look down on Mill Farm falls and weir.



**3** **OPTION:** When the river is **VERY LOW**, descend to the riverside and scramble upriver, at the base of the sandstone cliff, to view faces carved into the rock. Then return to the main path.

**4** Proceed to a fence line cutting uphill on the left. Continue ahead for 55m (60yds) to a viewpoint. Return to the fence line and follow it uphill to a stile. Turn **RIGHT** at the stile, along a forest track through Coombs Wood. Pass an Eden Benchmark sculpture titled “Vista” and proceed to where a track branches to the right. **IGNORE** the directional marker pointing ahead and turn right, downhill.

**5** Just before the track levels out by a PAA parking sign, turn right, down a path to a fishing cabin on the River Eden. Turn left, upriver, for 0.6km (½ mile) to where the path bears left, uphill, away from the river. A narrow path on the right leads down to a riverside seat and viewpoint. Return to the main path.

**6** Follow the main path, uphill through the wood for 90m (100yds) and bear left, ignoring any side paths, to rejoin the forest track from which Stage 5 started. Turn right for 100m (108yds) and take the right fork. The track soon narrows.

**7** Continue for 0.75km (½ mile), climbing the hillside. Eventually bear left, uphill through the forest, ignoring the narrow path ahead on the level. Emerge onto the main forest track through Coombs Wood. Turn right, uphill, and go past a gate onto the Armathwaite to Kirkoswald road. Turn left along the road, then first right to Longdales.



**8** At Longdales follow the fingerpost to Ruckcroft. Pass through a gate and along a farm track for 0.25km (260yds) to another gate. Go between farm buildings and a cottage, then over a stile into a field. Keeping to the stone wall on the left, cross over the next 3 fields into a fourth field.

**9** Walk uphill, along the fence line for 90m (100yds) to a marker post. Bear right, uphill, across the field and through a gate at the corner of woodland. Continue uphill, alongside the woodland and then across open field to a fingerpost on the Ainstable to Ruckcroft road. Go through a gate and turn left along the road towards Ainstable. Keep left at a road fork and then first left, downhill to Bascodyke.

**10** Where the lane turns sharp left, go ahead towards Bascodyke Foot farm. Go through a gate in a stone wall on the right. Follow the track through another gate, and then turn sharp left down across the field and through another gate. Continue along the fence line on the left, towards Aimbank, to a stile overlooking a pond.

**11** Walk to a kissing gate with a stream on the right. After 46m (50yds) turn right, across a shallow ford into a field. Turn sharp left, along the stream to the field corner, and then turn right, uphill along the hedge on the left.



**12** Cross a stile into another field and bear left, down to a stile in the field corner. Keep along the fence on the left and over the next stile into a field. Walk straight ahead, towards Ainstable Methodist Church at Rowfoot. Cross a stile next to the hedge on the left and walk along the hedge to a gate onto the Armathwaite to Ainstable road.

**13** Cross the road and walk down past Ainstable Hall towards Brampton. At Towngate, turn left at the fingerpost (right goes to Ainstable) through a gate into a field. Keeping to the field boundary on the right, walk for 1km (¾ mile) across 3 fields to a kissing gate and fingerpost. Turn left to Oatlands Cottage.

**14** Turn left down the road to Hall Beck Bridge and a fingerpost to Armathwaite on the right. Follow the path to Armathwaite, through a small gate into a field alongside the River Eden. Continue along the riverside to Armathwaite Bridge. ■



(Photos by Colin Barnfield)

## High Speed Broadband News Installations underway

Following a demonstration of high speed broadband in the Highland Drove pub in mid-November installations are well and truly underway and many households in the village are already enjoying high speed broadband. One said, *"I am amazed by the speed of the connection and how fast it makes browsing or shopping online. Even uploading a film to Youtube takes a fraction of the time it took before."*

Anyone who returned a sign-up form should now have been connected or have been contacted by NextGenUs to arrange installation. If not, please email [nga@great-salkeld.net](mailto:nga@great-salkeld.net) and someone will get back to you to make arrangements.

If you're unsure about the benefits of this high speed broadband and couldn't get to the demonstration email [nga@great-salkeld.net](mailto:nga@great-salkeld.net) for more or, find out from neighbours who have it already. ■

## Great Salkeld heating oil buying group

Since the last issue of the Craic the heating oil group has got off the ground and placed their first bulk purchase of oil at the beginning of November, when twenty four residents received approximately 22,000 litres between them. On the day that all the different oil distributors were contacted the prices for individual customers ranged from 62p-58.6p per litre. Buying as a group we were able to bring the price down to 55.95p per litre. In the words of that huge commercial conglomerate, "every little helps".

To join the group just send your name, address, email, telephone number, and any specific instructions relating to your tank to: [carolmckend@aol.com](mailto:carolmckend@aol.com). ■

## Move Over Mr Dimbleby - Any Questions at the Village Hall



On Friday October 28th there was a real opportunity to question and debate the issues of the day with a notable panel

of speakers at an 'Any Questions' evening that also included a buffet supper.

The BBC and the Dimbleby's should be concerned after St Cuthbert's showed them

how an 'Any Questions' event can be a successful fund raiser. A panel of 'big gun' speakers consisting of James Newcome, Bishop of Carlisle, Rory Stewart MP, Annette Hennesay, CEO of Cumbria Probation and our own business leader, Philip Cranston provided some clear and succinct answers to the challenging questions put by the audience for over an hour, but not until they had all been amply fed with a superb hot meal, prepared by the Church committee. Nigel Robson brought his sharp, international legal

mind and skills to bear in chairing the question session and it has been said that he managed to out Dimbleby the Dimbleby's in his ability to keep the evening on track.

A very successful evening in all respects. All those who attended thoroughly enjoyed the event and our Church has benefited by over £700 from the money raised, which will go a long way towards the repairs that we have had to undertake on the South wall. ■

*from Peter Pickthall*



# Game Birds

by Richard Wood



Now is the season of autumn fruitfulness and the start of the shooting season with fresh game roasting in the oven. In this country we are so spoilt with an abundance of game species and unending recipes to aid their preparation. Yet, no matter how much marketing expenditure is thrown at the promotion of eating game, the majority still go to the poultry counter. If only they knew what they were missing!

There are, give or take, about 23 game species in this country. I say “give or take” because species such as Capercaillie are classified as game but are very rare and virtually inedible, although not to the Victorians! But we all know about Pheasants, superb with slices of fried apple and a little Calvados; Partridge, both grey (indigenous), red-legged (introduced); Red and Black Grouse; and the far rarer Ptarmigan, confined to the high ground of North-West Scotland.

Also classified as game are birds of wet ground and marshes. The Common Snipe (but not so common!) is small, very fast in flight and elusive to shoot; the Golden Plover is a bird of the high moors; and the Woodcock is probably the finest of all gamebirds for the table. One

per person, roasted for 20 minutes in the oven complete with its entrails for making the sauce. It is so prized, especially on the Continent, that you can easily pay £50 per bird and there are exclusive gastronomic clubs that meet during the season just to praise and luxuriate in the taste of the Woodcock.

And then we move onto the foreshore and inland ponds for a wealth of duck and goose species good for eating. Mallard, Wigeon and Teal probably head the list of “best” ducks but Pintail, Shoveler, Gadwall, Tufted, Pochard and Goldeneye are other good edible species. Living in the Eden Valley we know all about wild geese. Hardly a day goes by at this time of the year without skein after skein flying over on their daily commute from the Solway Marshes to the lush grazing and stubble fields of the Eden Valley. Particularly this year, the Canada geese have been prolific. Other good game species are the Greylag, Pinkfooted and Whitefronted geese.



The only bird that is missing from this seasonal list is, of course, the Turkey which originates from North America, where it is still hunted in the wild. I suppose if you wanted

the ultimate “game” dish for Christmas, you would take a Snipe, put it inside a Woodcock, then both into a Mallard, then a Pheasant, followed by a Goose, and finally a Turkey! Now, that really would be a “Feast of Game”! ■

*Photographs by Fiona Exon*



When Drovers reached Great Salkeld, it appears that there might have been several routes through the village enabling them to come and go in both North/South and East/West directions.

The first route followed the line of the main road, the B6412, past Beckbank and the Watering Gap to Edenhall and then on to Udford, where there was a ford crossing the River Eamont. Beckbank and the Watering Gap were important features for it must be remembered that there was no mains water and so provision had to be ensured, at regular intervals, for watering the livestock.

The second route came across Salkeld Dykes and either carried on towards

Inglewood or dropped down past Beckbank to join with the route through the centre of the village and on to Edenhall. More or less opposite the Methodist Chapel at Salkeld Dykes is Lonning Head Dub. A 'lonning' is a lane and a 'dub' a pond. Hence, this is a pond at the head of Green Lane. At one time there used to be two walls there. One of them still remains near the road. There was another with a fence on top, further into the pond, which prevented livestock from going in too deep and drowning. The area in between was paved with cobbles and open at each end, so the animals could walk in and out from both directions to drink. The wide grass verges, for example in South

Dykes, were a common characteristic of drove routes as they provided grazing and also space for animals to rest.

The third route went past the Highland Drove pub and the Hare and Hounds (a former pub just below the Highland Drove) and then down Pillar Hill. Immediately at the bottom of the hill were two stone watering troughs set into the ground and fed by the beck that runs down the hill. At one time the council was responsible for the upkeep of these troughs as well as the road. It is still thought that these troughs are there but, despite recent work that was carried out to celebrate the '2000 Millenium', they have not yet been unearthed. From here the route carried



on to the River Eden and was known as Wet Lane, probably because it is low lying and subject to frequent flooding in wet weather. There was a ford at the bend of the river. Even today large rocks can be seen, which indicate that an attempt was made to facilitate a crossing in the shallows. This ford was called 'Low Wath' (Wath = Ford) and met a route on the Little Salkeld side of the river. The low lying fields, next to the river going north towards Eden Lacey, were known as 'Salkeld Haugh'. In Scotland and Northern England, 'haugh' signifies the alluvial flat in a river valley.

A fourth route that is spoken about went past Wetheral House and from there towards Nunwick Island (no longer present), where there was said to be a ford across the river. Further south from Nunwick Island, but north of the Watering Gap, there is also said to have been another crossing at Garbridge (now the name of a field). This name would suggest that there was a bridge of some description there in the distant past. It would seem logical for there to have been crossings at either or both Nunwick

Island and Garbridge, for the Nunwick estate included some 80 – 90 acres (32-36 hectares) on the other side of the river. Going back to the 14th and 15th centuries the Manor House was in Little Salkeld and so it would have been convenient for all these crossings to be in existence. A.G. Loftie, in his book, 'Great Salkeld: It's Rectors and History', printed in 1900, writes that, 'It is quite possible that there may have been a wooden bridge over the river near Nunwick at some time, for a field at the Little Salkeld side is still called, as it was in the Parish Terrier of 1749, 'the Bridge Willies' (Willies are Willows).

A fifth, and an important route even in the 14th century, would have been down Mill Lane towards Eden Lacey and Force Mill. A.G. Loftie records, 'There is a tradition in the Parish of a narrow pack-horse or footbridge here, and some of the remains of it can still be seen, as a large fragment, much broken within the memory of man, lying in the river at Force Mill, near Eden Lacey'. He also records that in 1360 'letters of indulgence' were issued by the Bishop of Carlisle 'for the repair of a

bridge at Salkeld which had fallen..... the archdeacon in his visitations would feel the want of, for this bridge was on the direct road from Alston to Penrith'.

The Rev. C.J. Gordon in his article 'Old Eden Bridges at Great Salkeld' in the Cumberland and Westmoreland Transactions, writes that, 'The ancient roadway leading from Dacre to Kirkoswald, and from Penrith to Alston and Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, appears to have been carried over the Eden from west to east below the Force at Salkeld by means of a high and narrow pack-horse bridge of stone'. He also refers to the issuing of 'letters of indulgence' several times and states that the bridge was rebuilt at or near the same site in both 1530 and 1770.

It is interesting to note that older residents of the village remember the Eden as being much narrower in years gone by. One says that it was possible in the 1920s to jump across the Eden at Temple Sowerby. If this was the case, it is possible that in centuries gone by the building of bridges and the fording of the river would not have been as difficult as it might appear today. ■

*Photo of pack horse bridge remains at Eden Lacy by Fiona Exon*

## Friends of Great Salkeld Village Field Update



more than £400, which will help to pay for grass cutting and other maintenance during the coming year.

**New Equipment.** Thank you to everyone who contributed to discussions about new play equipment. Based on the comments and preferences of village families a new slide, 'Rotabounce' and climbing frame from Playdale were installed in mid November. Another exciting item is outdoor, weatherproof table tennis equipment, which will be installed as soon as possible. These new developments have been made possible by a £15,000 grant from the Playbuilder fund and a very generous donation from Mary Boulter in memory of her late husband, Paddy.

**Thank you.** Many thanks to everyone who supported the recent Squares competition by donating prizes and buying squares. We raised

**Committee.** Eden District Council will soon be taking on the management of the Village Field and Play Area, under a new scheme. This will significantly reduce the responsibilities of the Friends group, which effectively will become a fundraising organisation. Due to increased work commitments, Jane Yates, Rachael Cosslett and Gail Mattinson will be standing down as Chair, Secretary and Treasurer of the Friends group at the AGM on 28 November. It would be great to have fresh faces to bring new ideas into the fundraising group. If you would like to get involved, or would like to know more about the Village Field, please contact Rachael on 898850. ■

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### CHANGING TIMES

A shooting party with gamekeeper and beaters taking a break under Eden Lacy viaduct in 1890.

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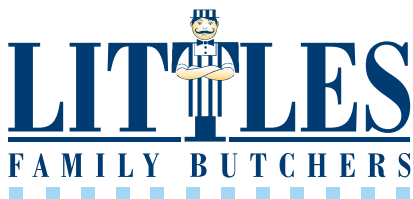


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