

# *Craic*

The Magazine for  
Great Salkeld & area

Issue 5

Spring 2012



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## Spring Greetings to all *Editorial*

Now that the worst of the Winter is over, hopefully we shall soon see flowering daffodils and crocuses in abundance.

Many thanks for the donations received in support of the Craic. Any future donations will be welcome and should be sent to The Treasurer at 2 Grayson Drive, Gt. Salkeld or placed in the donation boxes located at the Lazonby Co-Op, The Drovers Inn, or Great Salkeld Village Hall when attending The Crack Coffee Morning.

In the December Editorial I wrote that we intended to include a Poets Corner in future issues, which would include poems from readers, with explanations for their choice. I have hopefully started the ball rolling by my submission of an extract from John Masefield's "Cargoes", together with my reason for the piece. We look forward to receiving future submissions from members of the Arts & Literature group. In addition, we will continue to welcome personal poems.

With this year being the Diamond Jubilee of our Queen, there are festivities planned of which we will keep you informed, both in the Craic as well as on the Village Web Site. The first event is a Jazz & Folk evening sponsored by The Friends of St. Cuthbert's. There is a flyer included in this issue.

Following the excellent series of The Drovers by Neil Wales, we will be serialising, starting in the Summer issue, an account of a journey by Donald MacLennan, who travelled from the UK to Australia by bus. An overview of this trip is in this issue.

My thanks again to the Craic team for all their efforts in the production of the Craic magazine. ■

*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.

Cover image of Spring lambs and Editorial page image of spring blossom by Fiona Exon.

### **ADVERTISE in CRAIC**

Advert rates per issue are: 1/4 page £15, 1/2 page £25, Full page £50. Single A5 flier inserts £20. Contact us: [copy@great-salkeld.net](mailto:copy@great-salkeld.net)

*(Photo by Fiona Exon)*



# The Village Herbalist: Spring 2012

**L**adies, of a certain age... if I offered you a product that would plump up skin and make it softer within a couple of weeks, could reduce your fluid retention and the puffiness under your eyes...I bet you would be interested.

Gentlemen...if I said the same product could be used as a general male tonic, and probably help your gout...you might also be interested. Those afflicted with indigestion might be keen to learn it may be able to soothe their stomach.

Even teenagers, with the thought that spots might also improve with this product, might get interested.

New mums struggling to breast feed would be delighted to discover this product would also improve their milk supply. They would also be pleased to discover they could give it to their babies to help with cradle cap and eczema.

So by now everyone is really interested in the new “miracle drug” and wants to know where they can get it and can they afford it. At this point, if I literally led you “up the garden path” and pointed to the nettle patch by the wheelie bin at the bottom of your garden...you might think I was winding you up and generally having a laugh at your expense. But I wouldn't be. All the health benefits listed above have been written about Nettle, in ancient texts from our own British tradition of herbal medicine for hundreds of years. How on earth, you are thinking, can something as basic as nettle be so powerful? A clue lies in the fact that nettle roots pull so many good things up from deep within the earth. Amongst other constituents, nettles

contain iron, magnesium, potassium, silicon, phosphorus, sodium, sulphur, vitamins (especially C, B and beta carotene), lecithin, and protein. This means it really nourishes the body and helps us detoxify. It is gentle too.

Nettle teabags are readily available now in health food shops. For a herb to have such effects, it needs to be taken regularly at say, two cups a day. After two weeks you should start to see improvements. Nettle tea can be taken long term. It is quite a bland taste and quite soothing. Of course you can gather your own, which if you know it hasn't been sprayed, will be organic and free. Make sure you can properly identify the plant, using a good plant identification book if necessary. You can hang small bunches up to dry in an airing cupboard and after a couple of weeks you can crumble the leaves and store them in paper bags or glass containers. The sting disappears on drying. Once the flowers come, stop gathering the herb, as certain crystals start to be present which are undesirable. The root and seeds are also used, mainly by herbalists as part of treatment for prostate and urinary problems. I use nettle as part of treatment for chronic fatigue, allergies, exhaustion, heavy periods, eczema, asthma and a multitude of other conditions.

So, next time you are passing the nettle patch...think on, think on. ■

Jane E. Riley MNIMH is a Medical Herbalist Clinic at Scales Fold, Renwick, Penrith CA10 1JE  
Queries to 01768 870308  
[www.janerileyherbalist.co.uk](http://www.janerileyherbalist.co.uk)  
Photographs by Thomas Dahms and Martin Fisch with Creative Commons License



# Bringing back bees

by Fiona Exon

What could nicer than a sunny day in the garden with the sound of buzzing bees?

Help bees by planting: Dahlia, Yarrow, Angelica, Lavender, Cosmos or Bergamot. A Buddleia shrub in flower will soon be covered in bees and butterflies. Avoid 'double' varieties, as these can be inaccessible to insects. If you have a patch of lawn in a sunny site it could be transformed into a mini-meadow. Plant: Ox-eye daisy, Sorrel, Cowslip, Ragged Robin and Red Champion. Clever planting will give long-lasting colour and interest.

It has been known for a while now that bee populations and other pollinating insects are in crisis. Healthy populations of insect pollinators are vital to the production of the vast majority of fruits and vegetables. Tempt bees into your garden by planting pollen-rich flowers, and especially by creating a wild-flower mini-meadow. A variety of flowering plants can give colour and scent and will provide much-needed pollen sources for insects.

(There is some good advise on this website: [www.bbc.co.uk/gardening/basics/techniques/organic\\_meadow1.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/gardening/basics/techniques/organic_meadow1.shtml))

## *Guinea fowl with Madeira & Tarragon sauce*

from Jo Thompson

**Serves 8**



### Method:

- ✓ Preheat oven to 180C/375F/Gas 5
- ✓ Combine the flour with salt and pepper in a plastic bag and add the guinea fowl pieces in 2 batches, shaking the bag each time to lightly coat them in the seasoned flour.
- ✓ Put the butter and oil into a non-stick frying pan over a moderate heat and then add the coated meat pieces and brown for 6-8 minutes. Do this in batches and set aside in a large casserole dish.
- ✓ Fry the shallots whole for about 5 minutes until they start to soften and brown, then add to the casserole.
- ✓ Add remaining flour from the bag to the pan and, stirring, add the stock and the Madeira. Allow to thicken, then pour over the meat in the casserole.
- ✓ Transfer to the oven and cook for about 30 minutes or until tender.
- ✓ Use a slotted spoon to transfer the cooked guinea fowl and shallots to a warmed dish, cover and keep warm. To the sauce in the casserole stir in the crème fraiche and chopped tarragon and bring to simmering point.
- ✓ Season to taste with salt and pepper and return the guinea fowl and shallots back to the casserole. Serve garnished with some more fresh tarragon. ■

### Ingredients:

- 2 x 1kg guinea fowl, jointed. Also works well with pheasant or chicken pieces
- 40g plain flour
- 40g butter
- 1 tablespoon sunflower oil
- 225g shallots, peeled and left whole
- 300ml chicken stock
- 200ml dry Madeira (Sercial)
- 200ml crème fraiche
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh tarragon
- salt and pepper
- tarragon to garnish

NOTE: This dish improves if prepared ahead/ the day before. Make to the end of step 5 and then cool until required. Reheat from cold at 160C for about 20 mins, until hot. Then continue at step 6.

# “ In conversation with... ”

## Donald MacLennan, sound engineer and traveller

### When did you come to live in Great Salkeld?

I was born in Alston and when I was two moved to Little Salkeld as my father worked in Long Meg Mine, part of what is now known as British Gypsum. In 1968 my father left the mine due to his health and got a job as an undergardener at Nunwick Hall. The family moved into Prospect House initially, and then the Old Hall, before my parents retired to Beck Bank Cottage, so I have had a base in the village for over 40 years.



recordist and come and work for him. I had all of 1 week's training! But with my background as an electrician, and experience in graphics and photography, I took to it straight away.

### What happened next?

We worked together for the next 3 years and then I felt I had enough experience to go freelance myself. I worked for the BBC, ITV and other international companies, mainly on news and topical documentary based programmes such as Panorama, Newsnight, Horizon and Blue Peter. It was an amazing time meeting such a variety of people and travelling all around the country.

I was freelance for about 10 years and then moved to Plymouth and worked 6 years for TV South West in their sound department learning about studio work, which consolidated my location experience. In the early 1990s I became interested in the new area of ambisonics (full surround sound systems). I went to work for a small company, demonstrating systems for them, and then moved to Saudi Arabia and worked for British Aerospace as a media technician for the Saudi air force. I lived in an expat compound in Riyadh, which was a fascinating cultural experience.

After a few years I returned to freelance work, but with the digital age the role of sound engineers had changed dramatically. I decided to move back to Great Salkeld in 1996 to help my sister, Kathleen, look after our aging parents and I got a job locally as an audio technician. I then spent a while living and working in Orkney, followed by a few years working for a housing association in Bath. >>>>>

### How did you end up as a sound engineer?

In a rather roundabout way! I went to Langwathby School and then on to Ullswater School, Penrith, but left at 16 without formal qualifications. Luckily, due to my father's connections, I was taken on as an apprentice electrician at Long Meg Mine. I worked there and then at the British Gypsum site in Kirkby Thore for the next 5 years. As a teenager I became interested in photography. My brother, Ian, gave me my first camera when he returned from a tour of Aden with the Marines. I went to night classes in Carlisle with a close friend, Jimmy Harrington, who later founded Harrington Studios. A tutor at the college suggested that I apply for a full time art course and I then spent 3 years studying graphic design and photography. After qualifying, I became manager at Tassells Photographic Studio in Carlisle. Whilst there, I was introduced to a freelance film cameraman who suggested I trained as a sound

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**“The Wild Within”**

*The Wild Within* is the third book from local man Simon Yates. He is one of Britain's most accomplished and daring mountaineers. Laced with dry humour, he relates his own experience of the rapid commercialisation of mountain wilderness, while grappling with his new-found commitments as a family man.

Simon is about to start a UK lecture tour before embarking on more exciting worldwide expeditions.

You can discover more about Simon and buy his book from his website. He would be happy to sign copies for Craic readers.

Contact him via his details on his website  
See: [www.mountaindream.co.uk](http://www.mountaindream.co.uk) for information.

**<<< What are your most memorable experiences from such a varied career?**

There have been so many, but a few in particular stand out. When working for Horizon, on a program about early earth, I was lucky enough to handle a piece of actual moon rock. Following the fall of President Ceausescu, I was involved in a documentary about the terrible orphanages in Romania, which was a very emotional and eye opening experience. I also went to Northern Iraq to do a documentary about the victimisation of the Kurds by Saddam Hussein just before the first Iraq War. We were flown into the area in helicopters with the United Nations Peace Force.

**When did you get interested in travel?**

My jobs enabled me to travel extensively in the UK and parts of Europe. In 1989 I undertook a 12 week expedition through South America. When I was living in Saudi Arabia I travelled to Africa. That led me on to a longer term project; to try and travel to all the places I had not been before. I started plotting places on a map that I wanted to visit and eventually this culminated in me setting off from London in April, 2011, on

an overland journey to Australia. I travelled with a group of 18 people, plus driver and guide, in a converted lorry through Europe, Turkey, India, Pakistan, Nepal, Thailand, Southern Asia and Indonesia, before finally flying to Sydney, Australia, in October.

**..and your favourite place along the way?**

It's difficult to choose, everywhere was so different, but Iran in particular stands out. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia is an amazing city.

**Where is your favourite place in Cumbria?**

It may sound a slightly strange choice, but it's where the M6 passes through the gorge at Tebay, as it's a sign I am almost home.

**What next?**

I have just turned 60 but don't feel quite ready to retire yet, so will be looking at various options. My recent trip has wetted my appetite for more long distance travel. I would like to explore more of Africa. ■

In 2011 Donald travelled overland from London to Sydney in 210 days. Starting in the next issue of Craic we will serialise his journey. See his blog here: <http://blog.travelpod.com/travel-blog/dgm2oz/1/tpod.html>

# Pennine Perambulations - Walk 5. By Colin Barnfield, Lazonby



**LENGTH:** 7.25km (4½ miles);

**GRADE:** Mostly easy walking with a few steep inclines and 9 stiles.

**MAP:** OS, Explorer Series, No.OL5 (NE Lakes) and No.OL31 (N Pennines).

**START:** Renwick (public telephone kiosk), GR 5975 4342

**PUBS and VILLAGE SHOP:** Kirkoswald

**FOOTWEAR:** Good walking boots recommended.

- 1** From the phone kiosk walk SE uphill for 75m (81yds) and follow the fingerpost to Raven Bridge. Go through a field gate and down the hillside to a gate at the edge of



woodland on the left.



- 2** From the gate bear right, keeping on the level, to a kissing gate at the opposite corner of the field. Turn left along the road, over Raven Bridge towards Alston for 0.5km (540yds) to a fingerpost at a field gate on the right.

- 3** Follow the LEFT finger pointing SE. Aim for the stone wall ahead and descend gradually to a stile close to Kiln Beck. Cross a footbridge over a small beck and then cross over Kiln Beck. Bear left along a track to a gate, next to a pond on the left.

- 4** Continue through two more gates on to a byway. Turn right for 150m (162yds) to a field gate on the left, leading to a footpath alongside woodland. Where the woodland ends, bear right across open field towards a distant house at Busk. Pass through a small gate in the stone wall, just west of the house.

- 5** Walk ahead for 14m (15yds) and then turn sharp left towards a field gate on to a farm track. Turn right for 75m (81yds) to a gate across the track. Go down the lane through Busk to a gate and fingerpost to Cannerheugh.

- 6** From the gate follow the farm track past two more gates to a fourth gate into a field. IGNORE the path branching off to the right and go straight ahead across open field. Bear slightly up and to the left to a gate near the field corner, close to a small conifer wood. Turn left along the farm lane to Cannerheugh.

- 7** At Cannerheugh Farm go through the farmyard to a gate. Follow the track down to Swarthgill Beck. Eventually cross the beck and walk uphill to a gate and farm buildings at Swarthgill.

- 8** Bear left and through a gate by the stone building. Walk 25m (27yds) to another gate into a field. Keeping to the fence on the right, cross three fields into a fourth field. Walk straight ahead to a field gate in a stone wall, on to a byway (cycle route 7).

**9** Turn left, downhill for 225m (244yds), cross a shallow ford and continue along the byway for 200m (216yds) to a stile on the right into a field. Walk up the steep hillside with the stone wall to the left and at the top go through a gate with the remains of Haresceugh Castle ahead.



**10** Follow the farm track to the left of the castle remains, downhill, across a shallow ford and up to the road at Haresceugh Farm. Turn right along the road for 125m (135yds) to a fingerpost to Outhwaite and Croglin.

**11** Turn left across the road through a gate into a field. Head for Outhwaite Farm on the distant hillside. Walk downhill along the stone wall on the left, bearing right along the fence at the bottom for 60m (65yds) to a stile. Cross the stile into woodland with Raven Beck below.



**12** Descend to a stile and cross the footbridge over Raven Beck at Peas Crook. Head north, steeply up the field to a farm track. Turn right along the track to Outhwaite Farm and go through the gate into the small farmyard and out through a second gate. Walk up the lane to a fingerpost on the right to Scalehouses and Croglin. Turn into the farmyard, bear left past some barns and then turn sharp right up to a stile in a stone wall.

**13** Turn left along the fence for 50m (54yds) to a stile. Keep to the fence on the left, with woodland on the hillside to the right, and walk for 275m (300yds) to a stone stile on the left. From the stone stile turn right, across a small beck to a stile and field gate. Continue for 200m (216yds) to a stile in a fence.



**14** Keep to the fence on the right for 75m (81yds) and then bear left for 23m (25yds) to a ladder stile over a stone wall. Over the stile follow the wall on the right, down to a stile on to a byway. Turn left, downhill to Renwick, past a turning to Outhwaite on the left.

**15** Continue down past the Anglican Church on the right. At the junction with the Renwick to Croglin road there is the Methodist Church. Turn left through the village to return to the telephone kiosk. ■



*Photographs: Colin Barnfield*



Once across the River Eden the route would be open to Little Salkeld, Langwathby, Melmerby, Alston and beyond. In past centuries, before trains and road transport, animals had to be driven long distances to wherever the markets might be. Horses were driven to Appleby Fair in June, and sheep to Brough Hill Fair, which was held on the 30th September and 1st October, near Brough. On other occasions livestock was driven even greater distances to cities such as Newcastle, Leeds, Manchester and even to Smithfield Market in London. There is evidence that the animals rested in fields in Yorkshire before carrying on to markets further south. When the Carlisle to Settle railway was completed in 1876, these routes began to be used less and less for the long distance transportation of animals.

An important part of the infrastructure surrounding the drove routes were the inns, pubs and alehouses along the way. In Great Salkeld there were certainly three and possibly four of these. There was the "Highland Drover", (known today as the "Highland Drove"), the "Hare and Hounds" lower down the lane (now a house called "Eden View") and the "Garlands Inn" at North Dykes, at the top of Garland Lane, and known today as "Dufton House". The current crossroads at North Dykes is relatively modern as the road originally went round the back of "Dufton House". There are stories that there was once a pub at South Dykes. These are confirmed by the 1829 "Directory of Cumbria", which states that there was a public house at South Dykes called the "Fox and Hounds" whose landlord was Joseph Harrison. The "History, Topography

and Directory of East Cumberland", published in 1884, also records that there was an inn at Salkeld Dykes called the "Fox and Hounds". Apart from being resting places for the drovers, these establishments also had land at the rear, or close by, where livestock could remain overnight. These areas were called "stances". For example, at the Garlands Inn drovers are said to have been charged a halfpenny per night for the animals to stay there. This land, at the crossroads of Garland Lane at North Dykes, is said to have been used once or twice a year for auctions of cattle and sheep. 'Navvies' are also said to have stayed at the Garlands Inn, and probably at other pubs, whilst building the Carlisle to Settle railway. A tale is told of how a drunken navvy climbed onto the roof of the Garlands Inn and stood on his head on the chimney pot, causing great consternation to the landlady. The buildings in Great Salkeld now known as "East Winds" were once part of the Hare and Hounds pub and were used to stable horses and provide accommodation for grooms. There was also land at the rear of the buildings to provide stances for livestock. It is thought that the Hare and Hounds was in existence as a pub until the late 1920s or 1930s. When David Graves first moved there in 1940, the bar was still a fixture of the property. Often wives held the licence for these pubs as their husbands were out at work for most of the time.

Natural supplies of water were used to provide watering places for livestock. The Watering Gap, Beckbank and Lonning Head Dub have already been mentioned. Halfway Well was so named because it was midway between Kirkoswald and Penrith. At Scatterbeck the trough by the side of the road was kept supplied by a beck that ran from Brown Rigg, on Wan Fell, down to the River Eden. Even before a trough was placed there, a watering place would have existed. Similarly, the trough at the end of what is now Grayson Drive, in Great Salkeld, would have played a similar role, though these troughs were >>

# Spring is Sprung....

To celebrate the coming of Spring here is a little picture quiz. There are no prizes, it's just for fun.

Can you name each of these Spring Flowers?  
The answers are on Page 12.

①



③



⑦



②



④



⑧



⑤



⑥



<< possibly placed there for horses rather than herds of cattle.

An Irish drover and folk musician, Packie Manus Byrne, born in 1917, continued to drive cattle well into the 20th century. He wrote:

*“Every drover I’ve known, and there’s quite a few, was either a singer, musician or both. Traditional music and folk songs played an important part in our lives; it was almost a religion to us”.*

Byrne himself wrote many songs including one called “Highways and Byways” or “The Life of a Drover”:

I am an old drover, I earn my pay  
By tramping the country all over;

With nowhere to stop at the end of the day,  
For that is the life of a drover.

## CHORUS

And over the highways and byways I plod,  
My clothes are all tattered my feet are ill-shod,  
But there isn’t a roadway that I haven’t trod,  
Being forty-five summers a drover.

When the weather is raining, the journey is long  
And the cattle get footsore and lazy,  
Then I help them along with an old droving song  
And I hustle them careful and easy.

## CHORUS

And when at the end Mr. Death comes around,  
To tell me my days are all over,  
As they bury my bones six feet in the ground  
My ghost will appear as a drover.

## CHORUS

# A 'Fowl' Easter!

by *Richard Wood*



Hopefully, not a description of the usual Eastertime weather, but rather a good time of the year to start planning to keep a few poultry. This can be a very rewarding and fulfilling pastime, not only for producing your own eggs but also, maybe, a bird or two for the oven.

Fowl, of course, not only includes chickens but also ducks, geese, turkeys, and even pigeons, guinea fowl and quail. But let's talk about chickens first. You need to decide whether you have enough land or lawn to keep them free-range or in a chicken ark (or house!). Free-range is obviously best as a chicken can gain up to 25% of its feed requirements from scratching around in grassland. They can also "dust bath", which cleans their feathers and rids them of mites. Otherwise an ark will suffice and, depending on size, you could keep from 3-6 hens quite comfortably. For both methods you will need to supply clean water. An Eltex water container is best as it keeps the water reservoir clean. Feed will also need to be given at least once a day – corn or barley, or best of all, layers' pellets which are a balanced, manufactured feed but expensive. Feed is best put into a self-feed hopper, hanging off the ground and out of reach of rodents. The chickens only take what they need and the reserve feed is kept dry. Do not overfeed on the ground as it will not only attract vermin but will also poach and sour the ground. Lastly, the house or ark will need to have nest boxes with straw, hay, or sawdust spread on the bottom to allow the hens to lay in privacy!! An orange box on its side will do fine. Just collect the eggs each day but don't let a hen go broody and continually sit on the same clutch of eggs. The eggs will go bad unless they have been fertilised by a cockerel, in which case the broody hen should hatch out chicks after 21 days sitting. Finally, give your chickens grit – crushed oyster shell to be precise. It helps form the eggshell and aids the gizzard to digest food.

So what breed of chicken should you keep? There are various hybrids specially bred to be high egg producers such as Black Rocks, Goldies, etc., and you will find them advertised for sale in the local paper under "Eggs and Poultry". Otherwise, you may decide to keep well known historic breeds, which are not only very attractive birds but also good for egg laying and for the pot, if required. Rhode Island Red, Light Sussex and Cuckoo Maran are just some of the best examples, but there are over 200 different breeds, both chicken and bantam (miniaturised chickens). In order to obtain stock there are excellent poultry auctions usually held in early spring and autumn at the auction marts of Carlisle, Longtown, Cockermouth and Wigton. Again, these are advertised in the local paper but try to set yourself a budget as it is easy in the heat of the auction room for the heart to rule the head!

You could, of course, try hatching out your own chickens. You will need to borrow a broody bantam or an electric incubator. You can buy clutches of named-breed eggs at the poultry auctions and, 21 days later, you may have your own fluffy chicks.

Raising and keeping other fowl such as ducks, turkeys, etc., is not much different from chickens. Ducks and geese appreciate a small pond but it is not vital. A washing-up bowl filled daily keeps them happy.

If you would like to find out more, I recommend "The Complete Book of Raising Livestock and Poultry" by Katie Thear and Dr. Alistair Fraser. It has everything you could ever hope to know.

Now, have a "Fowl Easter" - it is so rewarding! ■

Spring Flower Quiz (on page 11) answers: 1. Camelia, 2. Daffodil, 3. Lesser Celandine, 4. Red Campion, 5. Witch Hazel, 6. Blackthorn, 7. Bluebell, 8. Wood Anemone

## 100+ A CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION?

Lazonby and District Community First Responders (CFRs) became operational in July 2008 and have just celebrated their 114th emergency call out. Where were these emergencies? 69 patients in Lazonby, 24 in Kirkoswald, 7 in Great Salkeld, 9 in Plumpton, 2 in Armathwaite and one each in Glassonby and Little Salkeld.

There must be very few people from the above villages who have not heard of CFRs or do not know somebody who has been a patient. We are all unpaid volunteers and, whilst we have attended every 999 call we have been despatched to, there is always a possibility that there are no CFRs available to attend a call. We do our best to help our communities. Is there anything you can do for us? Yes – have you ever studied the outside of your house? How visible is your number or house name? Is it hidden by a large bush? How visible would it be to somebody who did not know your area, trying to find it at 5.00am on a dark, rainy, blowy, cold November morning? An example being, attending a 999 call and discovering that the house we were seeking, was one of 5/ 6 houses ,which had no visible identities, and couldn't be quickly identified on our ambulance crew's maps. No houses had lights on.

### *CRAIC* PRIZE DRAW

The lucky winners of the Craic Christmas Prize draw are: Jean Sinburne, Sue Marshall, Mrs F Patrick, and Jane Yates. We hope you enjoy your prizes. ■

### Village Jubilee Celebration Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee.

The Sports and Village committees are joining forces with the Parish Council to organise a celebration for the Parish as a whole on Sunday 3rd June. This will include Village Sports events and Floats with a Royal Theme in the afternoon. In the evening there will be a Hog Roast and a dance will be held at the Village Hall.

All will be welcome. A Flyer with full details will be circulated nearer to the date. ■

There were 2 paramedics and 2 CFRs running up and down paths in the pitch black, flashing torches over house fronts, doors and gates trying to find names. If it hadn't been so potentially dangerous, it would have been comical. We did find the house and the patient's health hadn't suffered because of the lost minutes, but it could have done and next time it could be you!

Please, please have a nameplate or number on your house, preferably on the gate or roadside fence and somewhere easily visible on rainy, dark nights. If an ambulance is needed at your house at night, please put lots of lights on so we can find you more easily.

Would you like to help your community even more by becoming a CFR or helping us to fundraise? Yes? Then please call me for an informal chat. Would you like to help your community even more by becoming a CFR or helping us to fundraise? Yes? Then please call me for an informal chat. Elaine Thomson, Team Leader. 01768 898576 ■

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# POETRY CORNER

## SEASONS by Robert Wales

For there to be life there must be death.  
To have touched happiness is to have known sadness.  
To hope is to have despaired.  
Ecstasy and agony cannot live without each other.

Life is like the cycle of the seasons.  
No state is constant  
Nor should it be.

And to love?  
To love is to accept the seasons.  
For love brings life and death; happiness and sadness;  
hope and despair; ecstasy and agony.

When the sun is out, soak in it.  
Sometime, whenever, the rain will come.  
Marvel at the blossoming trees.  
One day soon they'll shake away their dying leaves.

It is not possible to go back and turn winters past into summers.  
Nor should we try to.  
We can only learn to soak longer in the sun when it next shines  
And to share an umbrella when the rains arrive.

## Extracts from "Cargoes"

by John Masfield (1 June 1878 – 12 May 1967 - Herefordshire England)

*Quinquireme of Nineveh from distant Ophir,  
Rowing home to haven in sunny Palestine,  
With a cargo of ivory, and spices*

*Stately Spanish galleon coming from the  
Isthmus,  
Dipping through the Tropics by the palm-  
green shores,  
With a cargo of diamonds,*

*Dirty British coaster with a salt-caked  
smoke stack,  
Butting through the Channel in the mad  
March days,  
With a cargo of Tyne coal,  
Road-rails, pig-lead,  
Firewood, iron-ware, and cheap tin trays.*

The last verse of this poem captured my imagination during a school lesson. I visualised the poet overlooking the Channel and espying this coaster struggling through the choppy sea.

However, the line Cheap Tin Trays has stuck in my mind and it is only recently that I researched what quinquiremes were, that carried valuable loads of spices and ivory. A quinquireme was an ancient Roman galley with five banks of oars.

In contrast to these exotic ships, Masfield's British coaster cargo does seem pretty dull, but Cheap Tin Trays were an everyday product in my early years, only to be replaced by plastic ones today.

Tin trays, which then seemed a dull product, are now being sold as collectables on eBay. How things change with time! ■ **Frank Hope**



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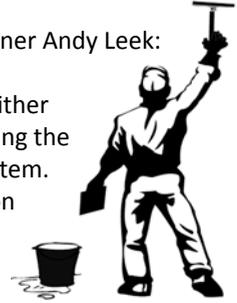
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