

Lorton Parish Council Newsletter

Spring 2014



Parish Website: www.melbreakcommunities.org.uk Contact Email Address: davidsmith@tinyworld.co.uk

KEEPING THE LIGHTS ON.

In our rural location we are probably more aware of and affected by power cuts than our urban cousins. They enjoy a more secure supply of electricity, being fed by underground cables, compared to us country folk who receive our power via overhead lines. Why is this? I hear you ask. Well money is the simple answer. It is approximately 10 times more expensive to install cables underground than it is to string wires between poles and in rural areas we don't have convenient footpaths in front of our homes in which to lay these cables. So for sparsely populated rural areas it is far cheaper and convenient to use overhead lines to supply our power. We are not alone in this respect. Developed countries throughout the world use very similar philosophy and technologies to provide power to residents.

In the last few years a short section of the overhead lines in our valley have been removed and replaced with underground cable (Hopebeck to Miller Place). Why I hear you ask? Well this is something you can thank the "Friends of the Lake District" for. They complained for a long time that nothing was being done to remove the "unsightly" power lines from our countryside. The power company's response was that, since privatisation, all their budgets have been tightly controlled by the regulator and no expenditure was allowed for undergrounding of overhead lines. After lobbying the regulator for some time they eventually won the argument and now a small amount of funding is allowed each year to fund what are termed "Visual Amenity" works. The local power company (Electricity North West) asks the "Friends" each year where it would like this work to be carried out and, for reasons I am not aware of, they chose Lorton for the work a couple of years ago and this year similar work is taking place in the Darling How area (Whinlatter).

So, when the power does fail, usually during periods of severe weather, why do the lights go off and on several times before either staying on or staying off? Well, various sections of the network are protected by individual circuit breakers mounted on poles (similar to the circuit breakers you have in your fuse box at home) but they are a little more sophisticated. Many faults on overhead lines are caused by tree branches falling on to the power line before falling to the ground. The initial short circuit, caused as the tree branch falls, only lasts a few seconds, so the circuit breaker is programmed to switch off when it detects the short circuit but it then waits a few seconds before switching back on to see if the fault has disappeared. If it has then the lights stay on, if not it tries a couple more times but then decides the fault is permanent and the power stays off until the cause is fixed. This usually requires staff from ENW to attend site to locate and fix the fault before the power can be restored.

Steve Irlam
Retired Electrical Power Engineer.

And Parish Councillor



Words from the Chair

March 2014

The sun is shining as I write, daffodils and crocus are coming out on the various green spaces in the village, so no doubt we are all hoping Spring is on its way. Many thanks to the Gardening Club for the Jubilee Tubs that have been planted up with spring flowers.

However, evidence of the excessive heavy rainfall over the last few months is everywhere. Many fields are still water logged, drains full, and road edges damaged by the torrents of water flowing off the fields after each downpour. Pot holes continue to be a problem throughout the valley. Your clerk David Smith regularly reports matters to the Highways Department, but we urge you to also report any Highways issues to the Hotline, 0845 6096609, as sometimes an individual complaint seems to get a quicker response.

The council met on January 7th, and March 5th in the Yew Tree Hall. In addition a special planning meeting was held on Feb 26th. As always, we would welcome greater community participation in our meetings. 'People power' can be very effective, and when there are challenging planning issues in the area everyone has a voice and can contribute to the discussions. The Council may support or object to an application but the LNDPA do take into account individual responses so please come along and be aware of what is happening in your village.

Matters still under discussion include the possible moving of the Pound Wall, which is frequently damaged by vehicles negotiating the sharp bend at Boonbeck, (plans have been submitted to the LNDPA and approved subject to certain conditions) and the possible relocation of Lorton School Adventure Playground equipment to an area on the Parish Field.

The third annual Lorton School 10k road race is due to take place on March 22nd. This is a great event. Why not enter and enjoy the run up the valley, or come along to support the runners as they head into the finish at Parish Field. WI members have volunteered to help out with refreshments. They must be one of the longest running community groups in the village, as they are due to celebrate their 92nd birthday this March.....they welcome visitors, and new members, so just pop along to the meetings at the Yew Tree Hall on the second Tuesday of the month.

You may have seen the new Lorton Parish Council notice board, located near to the bus shelter in Low Lorton. The council would like to express its thanks to the Melbreak Communities for their contribution to the cost of this Notice Board, which we hope will withstand the weather better than the previous one. There is now a much larger space to display community notices so please do use it to promote your local events.

Now households in Lorton have been issued with purple recycling bags, for bottles, plastic and tins, the bottle bank should be used appropriately and not left overflowing by those who do not seem to see that it is already full.

Finally, a great place to catch up on local news, and have an excellent cup of coffee and slice of home-made cake, is the monthly Coffee Morning held at the Yew Tree Hall. Organised by the Melbreak Communities, the next one is Saturday March 15th, then April 12th. See you there !



Wishing you all a very happy Easter.

Chris Poate
Chair of Lorton Parish Council

Meet the Councillor.



Marian Sloan

I am the newest recruit to Lorton Parish Council having joined up in September 2013. I am a Geordie lass, married to John, a Lamplugh lad, for the past 20 years. We moved back to Cumbria nearly four years ago after retiring from the pharmaceutical industry. We love living in Lorton although we thought, at first, that it may be a temporary measure. Everyone here is so welcoming and we have made many good friends in the last two, and a bit, years.

What makes you happy? Oh, loads of things - I am a glass half full sort of person. Being in the company of family, friends and cats (but not necessarily in that order), wildlife watching, good food, shopping – the list is endless (not the shopping list!)

What are your hobbies and interests? I passed my driving test when I was eighteen and have had a love affair with cars ever since. I have owned all sorts over the years but Land Rover Defenders are my favourite vehicle of all time – every home should have one. We have a couple of elderly classic cars, too, which we use for autotesting and motor club outings. They are a great source of fun as long as I don't have to get my hands dirty. Sequence dancing is a relatively new interest. John and I can be found gliding gracefully around the dance floor every week at Gatra Farm. I say "gliding gracefully", which sounds like we are on castors, in fact, we are more like a couple of cart horses but "at least we have a go" as our teacher helpfully points out.

Here's a few of my favourite things (cue: Julie Andrews):

Hero: Nelson Mandela – no explanation necessary.

Film: The Shawshank Redemption – good ultimately triumphs over evil with a very satisfying, feel good, ending.

Book: I love anything with a gruesome murder – Stuart McBride is brilliant and funny.

Form of exercise: Bike – more Wobbly Biguns than Bradley Wiggins but, hey, who's watching? (and probably sniggering!)

Smell: Freshly cut grass and the bluebells at Rannerdale.

Food and drink: Edna Vickers' home-made quiche and Loweswater Gold – should be available on prescription.

Music: Rolling Stones "Hey, hey, you, you, get offa ma cloud."

TV Programme: Strictly Come Dancing – Fab-u-lous!

Animals: Cats (any), donkeys (any) and Sue & Dave Hulme's new puppy, Lily.

CUMBRIA COMMUNITY MESSAGING SERVICE

You can now follow the Cumbria Messaging Service on Twitter and receive updates and information from Cumbria Police, Cumbria Fire Service and Cumbria Trading Standards. You can also contact these services through the Twitter account.

Follow Cumbria Community Messaging Service, CCM
[@cumbriaccm](https://twitter.com/cumbriaccm)

Have you taken an amusing photograph lately?

How about sharing your howlers with us? It's a bit of fun!

We would love to see your photos which have turned out badly - perhaps unintentionally! If you have a suitable caption then that would be even better! We will publish the best ones over the next few issues of the Parish Newsletter.

You can send them to me by email at mazsloan@tiscali.co.uk or, if you only have a hard copy, then drop it off at High Mill Cottage and I will copy it and return it to you. Alternatively, give me a ring on 85833 and I will call & collect it.

As a starter for ten, the following is what happens when you take a "selfie" reflected in a teapot!



Problems on the road

If you have a concern about something on the highways network, a pot-hole, flooding, a blocked drain or a salt/grit bin that needs filling, then call the Highways Hotline number, **0845 609 6609**, and report it or email:

betterhighways.allerdale@cumbria.gov.uk

Problems with litter

If you see litter bins overflowing or piles of litter along the roadside then get in touch with Allerdale Borough Council on **01900 702800** or email:

cleansing@allerdale.gov.uk

Problems with lights

If you know of a street light that is not working or faulty in any way then get in touch with Allerdale Borough Council on **01900 702770** or email:

footway.lights@allerdale.gov.uk

HIGHWAYS HOTLINE

0845 609 6609

Lorton Parish Council MEETING DATES 2014

Wednesday May 7th (AGM)

July 2nd

September 3rd

November 5th

All meetings are held in

The Yew Tree Hall

at 7.30pm

EVERYONE WELCOME

Please come along and find out what is happening at the local level.

Contact the Clerk (see below) if you require further details.



Lorton Parish Council Contacts

Cllr. Chris Poate (Chair)	Yew Tree View, High Lorton, CA13 9UJ	01900 85265
Cllr. Glenis Postlethwaite (V. Chair)	Armaside Farm, Lorton CA13	01900 85616
Cllr. Peter Deeks	Lime Tree Cottage, Low Lorton CA13	01900 85753
Cllr. Steve Irlam	Beckside House, Low Lorton CA13	01900 85336
Cllr Ian Aitken	Fellside, High Lorton CA13 9UL	01900 85787
Cllr. Ian Armstrong	Terrace Farm, Lorton CA13 9TX	01900 85278
Cllr. Marian Sloan	High Mill Cottage, High Lorton CA13 9UB	01900 85833

David Smith (Parish Clerk) Ivy Cottage, Blennerhasset, Wigton CA7 3QR 016973 23296

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Allerdale Borough Councillor:

Cllr. Eric Nicholson Hill Top, Victoria Road, Cockermouth CA13 9PA 01900 827944

Cumbria County Councillor:

Cllr. Alan Bowness High Waverbridge House, Bolton Low Houses CA7 8PN 016973 71322

The Melbreak Communities Website: - www.melbreakcommunities.org.uk