

CARNFORTH EXPRESS

Carnforth Town Council – Working for you

May & June 2021



Flying the Flag for Carnforth

On 21st April Carnforth Town Council adopted my motion to fly the Union flag on council buildings – every single day! Currently, the Union flag is only flown on days of national significance but I proposed this motion because we British are a proud people - we have a glorious past, and a very bright future!

The last 18 months have proved that while some make much of our divisions, we have far more in common, and our neighbourliness, humour and optimism is the envy of the world. Our flag is a symbol of our collective nationhood. So my motion was a simple proposition; *'This is Britain, why not fly that flag everyday?'*

Since the motion was passed, I have been touched by the huge number of residents who have contacted me saying that they are fully in support of the Council's decision.

The overwhelming comment is that people think it's right to fly our national flag, and more importantly that we need take back the Union flag as a symbol of the nation from people who have hijacked it.

I subsequently proposed the same motion to Lancaster City Council but it was sadly defeated by just one vote!

Undeterred, on behalf of our Town Council, I will be working with Lancaster City Council and other local partners to bring more Union Jack flags into the town and I am inviting residents to get in touch with me with suggestions about where we might place new flag poles. Please email me at john.reynolds@carnforthtowncouncil.org or call 07813 117462.

The Union flag is already flown on all days at the War Memorial and you can now see it flying proudly at Carnforth Civic Hall too!

Councillor John Reynolds



Carnforth Pays Tribute



Councillors, our new Town Crier - City Councillor Mel Guilding, local Clergy and residents braved the wet weather for a Thanksgiving Service at the War Memorial Gardens on May 8th May to mark the 76th Anniversary of Victory in Europe Day.

Councillor Major Malcolm Watkins put together the Order of Service which included a Town Cri, prayers, readings, hymns (non-singing due to Covid19 restrictions), poignant music and the reading of the names of the local fallen.



Councillor Rebecca Stretch played the 'Last Post' on her bugle and Deputy Mayor, Councillor Chris Smith laid a wreath on behalf of the Town Council.

It was a truly fitting service in memory of our fallen heroes and the sacrifice that they made for all of us.

More recently, the flags at the War Memorial and the Civic Hall were lowered to half-mast following the tragic event in Heysham. The Town Mayor, Councillor Larry Branyan said: *'Our thoughts are with George's family and those injured. This is a deeply tragic incident and we are once again grateful and inspired by the way that our communities have rallied round to support their friends and neighbours in their time of need.'*

We are also grateful and proud of Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service (Official) Lancashire Police, gas service engineers and all our emergency responders and colleagues at Lancaster City Council for their professionalism, bravery and teamwork'

Bob Bailey, Clerk & Proper Officer



Breaking News - Carnforth Town Council is delighted to announce that it is on the point of completing the official transfer of Crag Bank Village Hall from the original trustees. The Hall will be managed by the Town Council who will continue to run it as a valuable and valued facility for the benefit of all local residents.

The Hall was built in 1986 and placed in the hands of a community led trust chaired by George Birkett, a local resident and former Mayor of Carnforth. Over the years the number of trustees has dwindled leaving George, now 90 years old, as the sole surviving trustee. The Town Council believes that by assuming the trusteeship it can not only safeguard the Hall's future but also play an active role in its continuing development. We will let you know more about our plans for the Hall in the next edition of the *Carnforth Express*. **Councillor Jim Grisenthwaite**



Meet your new Town Mayor...

Councillor Larry Branyan was elected Mayor on 6 May and will lead the Town Council at a critical time as Covid19 restrictions begin to be lifted. The Town Council will continue to work collaboratively with community groups, Lancaster City and Lancashire County Councils and other partners to deliver the best possible services and outcomes for our town.

Councillor Branyan has been on the Town Council since June 2015. He is a member of the Finance & Governance Committee and was Chair of the Asset Management from 2019 until his election as Town Mayor.

Councillor Branyan was born in New York, New York, later becoming a British citizen. He served as a Commissioned Officer in the Royal Navy and Royal Naval Reserves for twenty-six years as a Mine Warfare and Diving Officer, before retraining as a Communication and Information

Systems specialist. In 2002, he was awarded the Reserve Decoration.

Since retirement from the Royal Navy, he has been Managing Director of a web design and database development company specialising in small business and equestrian work. He has lived in Lancashire since 1998 and shares a house with his former mother-in-law Mavis and their dog Rocco in Capernwray.

Councillor Branyan has been a member of Carnforth Rotary Club since 2006 where he was President in 2011- 2012 and served as Rotary District Governor for Cumbria and Lancashire in 2017- 2018.

As Town Mayor, Councillor Branyan looks forward to leading the Town Council in supporting the re-opening of local shops, hotels, pubs and restaurants in getting back to some form of normality!

Throughout 2020, despite all the challenges, the 'Carnforth spirit' has never been in question and has grown even stronger, The Town Mayor, Councillors, and staff at Carnforth Town Council are now looking forward positively to serving our community in the coming year.

Future plans include the completion of the Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan and working with the Eden Project to develop the town's status as the gateway to the lakes.

A key focus will be the protection of our local environment, where we will be working with partners and local volunteer groups, like the Carnforth Wombles, to reduce litter and fly-tipping and supporting our local community to '*take pride in your patch*' (more of this later!)



Bob Bailey, Clerk & Proper Officer

...and your newest Councillor

Hello, I would like to introduce myself as the latest addition to Carnforth Town Council, and to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the messages of congratulations and best wishes posted on the Town Council Facebook page..



I was born and grew up in Carnforth. I went to North Road Primary and then Carnforth High. My greatest passion at school was music - thinking back I probably spent too much time playing in a brass band rather than doing my homework! In my youth, I was a keen member of Morecambe Band and I still play with local orchestras and the Salvation Army Band today. Being in a band taught me some important life lessons; crucially the need to listen to others if you want to get the best out of a group.

Some of my best memories are of regularly playing Christmas carols for the Salvation Army at 7.30 a.m. on a railway station! Although cold, the enjoyment of those stopping to listen to us before going off to work or home made it all worthwhile!

Some of you may recognise me from playing the Last Post at the War Memorial which I have been privileged to be asked to do on a number of occasions.

My career in healthcare traced my Grandma's footsteps, and it has been a great honour to have practiced nursing for more than thirty years. I have been fortunate to have worked in many clinical settings in the UK and overseas, with leading organisations, such as the NHS, International Federation of the Red Cross, World Health Organisation and Doctors Without Borders/MSF. I started my nursing Career in Manchester specialising in HIV which was a new disease at the time; this led me to The Hospital of Tropical Diseases in London, specialising in infectious and tropical medicine. The knowledge I gained gave me the confidence to lead teams in countries experiencing outbreaks of Ebola, Plague and Diphtheria supporting those with less resources than our own. Whilst there have been many challenges, the colleagues (now friends) that I worked with and the experiences we shared have broadened my view of life and changed me for the better.

Now back in Carnforth I am currently working at Public Health England, as the Clinical lead for the Cumbria Hub in the COVID 19 response. I never expected to be managing the effects of a pandemic in my hometown. Lockdown has made me reflect on the importance of the local community and how I want to be actively involved and contribute to our town.

I am looking forward to working with Council Members, staff and community groups who tirelessly support people and our local environment. I hope to meet the expectations of the Council and the people of Carnforth. **Councillor Rebecca Stretch**



Citizen of Merit Awards 2021: After the success of last year's Carnforth Citizen of Merit Awards it is back again in 2021! Nominations will be accepted for individuals of all ages and community groups who have gone that 'extra mile' to inspire others, benefit the Carnforth community and who deserve special recognition.

Closing date for this year's nominations is 31st August 2021. Full details and nomination form* are available here: <https://carnforthtowncouncil.org/carnforth-citizen-of-merit-awards-2021/> The awards will be presented later in the year - details to be announced.

Information provided will be dealt with in accordance with Carnforth Town Council's Privacy Notice.* **Bob Bailey, Clerk & Proper Officer



Keep Wombling!

Councillors Branyan (Town Mayor), Smith (Deputy Mayor) and Watson (Chair of Asset Management Committee) recently handed over essential equipment to the wonderful Carnforth Wombles.

The equipment will help them with their litter picking and weed clearances and to keep them safe! The Town Council is also delighted to have been able to help insure their activities in the town.

Four Carnforth Rotarians, Councillors and the Carnforth Wombles carried out litter picking and weed clearance on Wednesday 12th May, filling over 20 bags in just a couple of hours! We are grateful to everyone for their efforts which is making such a positive difference!

Carnforth Rotary are always amongst the first to volunteer to help with litter picking and other projects in Carnforth and the surrounding areas.

They are a friendly bunch of people putting back into the community and working with local schools and other organisations to improve lives locally, nationally and internationally.

If you are 18+, have a few hours to spare and would like to be involved, visit www.carnforthrotary1190.org email info@carnforthrotary1190.org or phone 015242 62619 or more information. They can open up a world of opportunities.



Do you know who is taking your waste away?

The Town Council recently reported the illegal dumping of this little lot to Lancaster City Council and we were grateful for the speed in which they disposed of it. Not too long ago, the City Council had to deploy a HIAB truck to clear more fly-tipping!

Both these incidents were on Shore Road, but we know that it can happen anywhere! Despite this we are lucky in Carnforth that we have people like the Carnforth Wombles and many residents who take pride in our town – it is a sad fact that it is the actions of a few that spoil it for the rest of us. Every householder, business and landowner is responsible for the proper removal of waste from their property. If you use a trader to remove your waste take time to check they are a registered waste carrier or it could

land you with a £400 fine! If you can offer any information which might lead to an offender being identified and caught, please call Lancaster City Council on 01524 582491, email customerservices@lancaster.gov.uk or use the online reporting form at www.lancaster.gov.uk/fly-tipping



Report an Issue: Did you know that you can report issues online to Lancashire County Council or Lancaster City Council?

Faults on **roads, pavements, cycle paths, public right of ways, street lighting, traffic lights or flooding incidents** can be reported to Lancashire County Highways using their 'Report It' service: <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-travel/report-it/>.

This online service displays a map that allows you to pinpoint the exact location of the issue you are reporting, as well as check existing reported issues and monitor what action is taken.

For **Fly-tipping, graffiti, dog fouling, litter and bins** visit the 'Street Scene service provided by Lancaster City Council: https://www.lancaster.gov.uk/forms/ShowForm.asp?fm_fid=228. You will need to provide details of the location, nature and extent of the problem.

In both cases, uploading one or more photographs will help to get the issues dealt with as quickly as possible.

All of this information is also available on the Carnforth Town Council Website at: <https://carnforthtowncouncil.org/report-an-issue/> **Bob Bailey, Clerk & Proper Officer**



Still A Bridge too far?

Since we brought you news of Lancashire County Council's plan to refurbish and repair the bridges on the A601(M) in the October 2020 edition of the Carnforth Express, a number of residents have enquired about the latest developments.

Concerns were raised by the proposal to remove the bridge which carries North Road over the dual carriageway at Netherbeck and replace it with an "at grade" junction. This has led people to the conclusion that a new junction at this point would allow unrestricted access to North Road creating a rat run into Carnforth and, at the same time, open up the land to the north of the dual carriageway, currently part of the green belt, to future development.

Last year a spokesperson for Lancashire County Council promised there would be a period of public consultation before any bridge work took place. It was suggested that this period of consultation would take place in May 2021 but we have learned that because of lockdown and Covid restrictions it was postponed and it is unlikely it will now take place before December. The County Council is waiting to undertake detailed traffic studies of North Road to gauge levels of vehicular use when traffic flows return to more normal levels.

As we promised in October, the Town Council will keep you updated on progress with this scheme and when the period of consultation will begin. Watch this space but don't hesitate to let us have your thoughts on the subject in the meantime. **Councillor Jim Grisenthwaite**

Around our Community:

Carnforth Community Primary School children have worked hard to adjust to their new normal writes Headteacher Sarah Hudd.

'After the past few months of lockdown and remote education having the children back in schools, albeit in our bubbles, for the past term has been a real positive.'

A huge focus for both staff and children has been on Mental Health and Wellbeing. The school accepted an invitation from the national Mental Health Awareness campaign and we immersed themselves in the '5 Ways to Wellbeing', while reconnecting with nature across the week, including enjoying a whole school Outdoor Classroom Day. The British weather was typical but it did not put us off – staff and children thoroughly enjoyed the wet, wild and wonderful outdoors!!'



Promoting City, Coast & Countryside

Play Days! Between 19th July and 13th August, Lancaster City Council is running playschemes in conjunction with a group called CEEP at Carnforth High School Sports Hall. These will be Monday to Friday 10am to 4pm and are available to young people aged 8-11 years old and who were in Primary School in the past school year.

The cost of the playscheme will be from £3 a day - £13 on Fridays to include a variety of trips. For the first time they will be using an app called 'Groop' that will enable you to book the days you want and pay electronically as well as outline other ways of paying. The app can be downloaded to most smartphones or accessed through the internet.



Visit the CEEP website at <https://www.ceep.org.uk/playschemes> to complete an expression of interest form (separate form for each child) and they will send you the information needed for registration. Playschemes are also running at: Our Lady's Catholic College Sports Hall - 9:30am to 3:30pm (from 21st July); Morecambe Bay Community Primary School and Bay Leadership Academy Sports Hall - 10am to 4pm.

That was the year, that was!

Accompanying this edition of the *Carnforth Express* is Carnforth Town Council's first Annual Report!

In what has been a strange and challenging year for us all we are delighted to share with you an overview of our activities in the municipal year 2020/2021.

We are proud of our achievements given that, like so many, we had to quickly adapt to an entirely new way of working! Before March last year 'Zoom' was a word meaning 'travelling at speed' or known as an early 80's song by *Fat Larry's Band*! But it soon became familiar to us all as the World used the video-conferencing software to connect with work colleagues and loved ones – it also made an international star of a stand-in Clerk at a Parish Council called Handforth!

We know that the last year has been a desperately sad and difficult time for many but, true to form, the Carnforth Community came together to help those that needed it most. Your efforts were recognised throughout Lancashire with a *Certificate of Recognition* being awarded by the County's High Sheriff!

Led by former Town Mayor, Kath Bromilow, perhaps the Town Council's greatest achievement was engagement with, and support for, our fantastic community and working collaboratively with our partners. Key amongst these was Lancaster City Council whose Director for Communities and the Environment, Mark Davies, tweeted '*Carnforth Town Council provides the example of why and what can be achieved for a community. Community engagement, clear vision, positive working with partners = Outcomes, outcomes, outcomes!*'

Our report will be formally presented at the *Annual Town Meeting* which the Town Council will be hosting at **Carnforth Civic Hall on Wednesday 30th June from 6:30pm**. This meeting is open to all electors, where you have a legal right not only to attend but to speak on any matter of local interest.

We are delighted that a host of local community groups and organisations will be joining us to give a short talk on what they have achieved in the last year and their plans going forward. There will be 'stalls' where you can get information, support and advice on a range of matters from the likes of the *Carnforth Integrated Care Community* and Lancaster City Council's *Connecting Communities* teams.



enjoying some refreshments. We very much look forward to welcoming you to this annual event – Covid safe, of course! **Bob Bailey, Clerk & Proper Officer**



CARNFORTH TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2020 -2021

Serving our community



www.carnforthtowncouncil.org

We have also invited guest speakers including the new leaders of both Lancaster City and Lancashire County Council's - Councillors Caroline Jackson and Phillippa Williamson.

Essentially the night will be a celebration of everything that is good about Carnforth but it's also an opportunity for you to 'Have Your Say' or, if you prefer, have an informal chat whilst