

CARNFORTH EXPRESS



Carnforth Town Council – Working for you

September & October 2022

A Reign like no other!

Just a few weeks ago we came together as a community of friends to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II. Now, all too soon after that momentous occasion, we have been mourning and reflecting our Queen's passing, the death of the Mother of the nation, as well as a much loved Mother, Grandmother and Great Grandmother.



Many of you recorded your thoughts in one of our two Books of Condolence at the Royal Station Hotel and Christ Church. The books remained open until the day after the State Funeral on 19th September – these have now been collected and, after informing the Royal household, these will now be sent to the County Archives.

Like most of the country we observed the ten days mourning period and closed our offices and community venues for the Queen's funeral.

On Sunday 11th September, Carnforth Town Council and residents gathered at the War Memorial Gardens to reflect on the Queen's life and hear, first-hand, the proclamation of accession to the throne of King Charles III. Everyone present wholeheartedly welcomed King Charles' reign with '*God Save the King*' and three cheers.

The reign of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth is, for many, the only one they have known in their lifetime and her 70 years is unlikely to be surpassed. It really has been a reign like no other and we have all been honoured to have lived through it! God bless, Queen Elizabeth, may she rest in peace. God save the King! **Councillor Chris Smith, Town Mayor**





Carnforth's Great Big Green Week: Carnforth Town Council was delighted to officially support the National Great Big Green Week. Held between 24th September and 2nd October, the Great Big Green Week was the UK's biggest celebration of community action to tackle climate change and protect nature. We ran two events during the week. Our Carnforth Great Big Green Day was held on Saturday 24th September at Crag Bank Village Hall. We were joined by several contributors, all providing useful and interesting information on a range of matters including: climate change strategy; reducing energy usage and cost; how the Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan will reduce the town's carbon footprint; all electric vehicles and the Car Share Scheme; the joys of rambling and beekeeping; sustainable clothing and bags; bug hotels and wind chimes made from plastic bottles and pictures of what our 'Green' planet of the future will look like!



There was a real buzz throughout the two hours of the event with opportunities for lots of networking and great advice as well as a real sense that Carnforth is certainly doing its bit to protect our planet and its natural environment.

Town Mayor is shown how to make a wind chime from plastic bottles

That afternoon, Carnforth Rotary led a river walk from Mill Lane including a talk on fish counting and how to check their health and how the solar and hydro micro grid works!

On Thursday 29th September, the Town Council hosted the Carnforth Great Big Clean-Up. Children from years 5 and 6 from both Carnforth Community and Christ Church schools, supervised by Councillors and teachers and members of Carnforth Rotary helped with litter picking, weed clearance and overhanging bushes!



Climate change & electric car share advice

Almost 50 children from Carnforth Community school, supported by teachers and Councillors Paul Turner and Jim Grisenthwaite tackled the litter, overhanging bushes and weeds along the footpath between Tesco and the Carnforth Cricket club, whilst the younger children cleaned up around school and planted bulbs.

At the same time a group of children from Christ Church, joined by the Town Mayor, Councillor Chris Smith carried out a litter pick around Bridgeside. Councillor Smith, with his many years of environmental experience quizzed the children on the environment, biodegradability and energy from waste and was mightily impressed by their knowledge and passion for our planet. Meanwhile a small group of Carnforth Rotarians and Councillors carried out weed clearance along North Road.

On Monday 3rd October, children from Our Lady of Lourdes tackled litter on the path from Hodgson's Bridge on the canal and past their school and Carnforth Swimming Pool to Kellet Road.

A GREAT BIG GREEN THANK YOU to everyone who helped to support these events. This was the first time that Carnforth had taken part in the National Great Big Green Week but we will certainly be building on it (in a sustainable way of course!) for next year.

Bob Bailey, Town Clerk



Children from Carnforth Community (left) and Our Lady of Lourdes (right) schools



Carnforth Rotary tackling weeds



Christ Church children quiz the Town Mayor!



Community Car Share in Carnforth from just £5 per hour!

Lancaster City Council will soon take delivery of three new electric vehicles to make it even easier for people to make the switch to using more sustainable modes of transport and help to reduce air pollution.

They're part of the Council's partnership with Co-Wheels car club - which provides the opportunity to hire an electric vehicle for as little as £5 an hour - and are perfect for those who may only need a vehicle for short periods of time.

Air pollution is the biggest environmental threat to our health, no matter who you are or where you live. With no exhaust, pure electric cars produce no carbon dioxide emissions, which helps to reduce air pollution considerably.

The cars have been purchased using external funding provided to the City Council for public health initiatives. They will be available for the public to book 24/7 and are available at Dallas Road Car Park (Lancaster), Salt Ayre Leisure Centre, and **in Carnforth at Preston Street!** Keep checking our social media pages and website for the launch date!

Car clubs have been shown to reduce car dependence, removing on average 18.5 privately owned cars from the road. Around 22% of members say they would have bought a car if they had not joined a car club and, since becoming members, they tend to drive less and use public transport, walk and cycle more, further reducing traffic on our roads.

Carnforth Town Council has worked with both Lancaster City Council and Lancashire County Council to bring the all-electric community car club to Carnforth. Councillor Smith commented that *'Carnforth Town Council is delighted that Carnforth has been chosen as a preferred location for one of the three new Co-wheels electric vehicles. The Co-wheels initiative is a cheap and convenient way of reducing the impact of unavoidable car journeys. We are confident that once the scheme becomes established the vehicle will become very popular. The Town Council has set out, in its Neighbourhood Plan, an aspiration to achieve a future carbon zero status and this scheme will enable residents to play their part in reducing carbon emissions'*.

We hope that our local community will take advantage of this opportunity – as an added incentive, you can get membership for just £1, plus £40 driving credit and no monthly fees, when you join using the promo code LANCASTER40. For more information and to sign up for this special offer visit: www.co-wheels.org.uk/lancaster

Bob Bailey, Town Clerk

Carnforth Branch of Barclays is closing...but it's not goodbye

The Carnforth branch of Barclays closed on Thursday 13th October 2022.

In light of the level of public opposition that the closure generated when it was announced in July, Carnforth Town Council met with Barclays representatives in early August to seek assurances on the support that would be available for customers.

Barclays explained that the decision had been made after careful consideration of how the branch is used and how customers are banking. They listened to the concerns raised by residents and expressed a clear desire to maintain some presence in the town so that customers can talk to staff in person on day-to-day banking queries and gain assistance with managing money.



Barclays have worked hard to find alternative premises in a central location of town with good access and we are pleased that Barclays has been relocated at the Royal Station Hotel on Market Street and available on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9:30am to 4:00pm.

The new arrangements will be launched by the Town Mayor, Councillor Chris Smith who said: *'It is pleasing to see Barclay's Bank maintaining its support for customers in Carnforth and surrounding areas, especially given that this will be provided using space made available by one of our businesses. Our thanks to the owner and staff of the Royal Station Hotel for making this service possible. The Town Council will now work with Barclays to ensure that the change is communicated as widely as possible'*

Lindsay McAlice-Kennedy, Barclays Customer Care Director, commented: *"We're delighted we'll be able to operate from the Royal Station Hotel in Carnforth from 18th October onwards and they have made us feel very welcome. Customers will still have access to general advice and help with basic banking, such as transfers between accounts, change of address, opening of savings and ISA accounts, setting up mobile banking and amending direct debits and standing orders. We look forward to welcoming customers and local residents to our new location – please do call in and say hello as you're sure to see some familiar faces."*

Referendum on Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan gets closer!



After four years of complex and challenging work and widespread and detailed consultation, the Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan and its supporting policies, plans and consultation statement were submitted to Lancaster City Council in April 2022.

Following a final check that the Neighbourhood Plan and all accompanying documents comply with legal requirements, the City Council publicised the plan and carried out their own consultation inviting anyone who lives, works or carries out business in the Carnforth designated area to comment, along with a range of statutory consultees such as Lancashire County Council.

At the end of the final consultation period, the Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan, supporting documents and comments received were passed on to an appointed independent examiner. His role is to ensure that the plan: meets European and national policies and obligations; generally conforms with policies on the Lancaster District Local Plan and contributes to sustainable development.

At the time of writing, we are expecting the detailed final examiners' report to conclude that subject to some modifications, the Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan can proceed to referendum. This is a tremendous result and a great achievement for all of those involved in developing the Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan which will be a blueprint for the town over the next decade. The next step will be for Lancaster City Council to organise and pay for a referendum.

Anyone registered to vote in the designated area covered by the Neighbourhood Plan is entitled to vote in the referendum. Businesses (or more specifically non-domestic ratepayers) in the area will have a vote each. If there is a simple majority (over 50% of those voting) in favour of the Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan, it will be formally adopted.



Once adopted, developers will have to make sure that their planning proposals take into account policies set out in the Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan as well as, or in precedence to, the Local District Plan. Once adopted, Carnforth Town Council will monitor progress against our Neighbourhood Plan to ensure that momentum is not lost and our community aspirations are met. Regular reviews will also be carried out to keep it up-to-date and relevant. **Bob Bailey, Town Clerk**

Town shows its resilience during road closures!



We all know that the resolve (and indeed patience!) of residents, businesses and visitors has been severely tested in the last few months. At the end of July/beginning of August we had the temporary traffic lights whilst gas and water mains and high voltage electricity cables were installed along the A6 to provide new services to the Rowland Homes development near the Truck Haven services. This was not helped by several days of apparent inactivity and, over the last

weekend of July, severe delays caused by the four-way temporary traffic lights on Market Street and their subsequent failure! Understandably, over that weekend Carnforth Town Council received numerous telephone calls from frustrated road users and concerned residents and businesses. Attempts were made throughout that weekend to get the lights looked at and the traffic flowing. This proved to be far more difficult than it should have been and, as a result we were unable to communicate the situation as we would have liked to have done.

Soon after the matter was investigated resulting in an apology for the disruption caused and an acknowledgment that communications, and access to information, could have been better between Lancashire County Council, the utilities and traffic management companies and Carnforth Town Council so that we, in turn, could have kept the local community better informed. At the time, Carnforth Town Council recognised that Lancashire County Council are not directly responsible for the works and it was appreciated that there are vast amounts of road works constantly taking place across Lancashire. We strongly argued, however, that where major work is conducted on a highly sensitive route such as the A6 through Carnforth, communication should have been much better. Our view was accepted and actions taken to improve this going forward.

We knew that the Rowlands Home site still required substantial amount of work to install gas and water mains and sewerage pipes and that further disruption was inevitable and we made the case to Lancashire County Council that planning these projects would be enhanced by local knowledge that the Town Council could provide. The County Council agreed and, as a result, they have engaged more closely with us and the Carnforth Chamber of Trade before and during the latest two weeks of road closures on Scotland Road.

There is no question that, whilst disruption was inevitable, our direct involvement, together with subsequent action by Lancashire County Council and their contractors, substantially mitigated the risks and, through our website and social media, we were able to keep the local community informed. For their part, representatives from Lancashire County Highways have been very receptive to our ideas and have commented more than once about the value of local knowledge.

At the time, County Councillor Phillippa Williamson, leader of Lancashire County Council, and the local County Councillor for the Carnforth area, said: *"I'm grateful to residents and businesses in Carnforth for their patience while this work takes place over the next few weeks, and to the Town Council for their help in liaising with the local community"*.

We are pleased that our local insight and close working relationship with Lancashire County Council resulted in the works being completed by 7th October as planned with Scotland Road being re-opened, and the diversion and the 4 way lights being removed. Temporary parking suspensions on Kellet Road were also lifted and residents able to go back to on-street parking.

Lancashire County Council have said that they will continue to engage closely with us and the Chamber of Trade as substantial improvements are made to the highways network as part of the planning approval for the Rowland Homes development. These will include:

- The formation of two new bus laybys and bus stops along Scotland Road in the vicinity of the site frontage;
- Pedestrian / cycle access points along the site frontage on to Scotland Road and Netherbeck;
- Pedestrian crossing facilities on Scotland Road;
- Footway / cycleway improvements along Scotland Road between the new bus stops, the site access, and the junction of Scotland Road with the Booths/Aldi junction;
- Street lighting works between the site access and new bus stops on Scotland Road;
- Footway/cycleway improvements from the site along Netherbeck / Carnforth Brow.

As yet, there are no timescales for delivery of these essential works, however, Lancashire County Council have promised to consult with us further once the plans have been drafted so that our input and any suggestions can be considered before works commence.

Bob Bailey, Town Clerk

Local schools excel and continue to do our town proud!



Following a 'Good' Ofsted judgement, Carnforth High School students have excelled in their GCSE Results.

The school is extremely proud of the strong results achieved by Year 11 this summer.

A spokesperson for the school said: 'Students have undertaken a wide range of academic, creative and vocational subjects.

Particularly noteworthy are the achievements of students in Art,

PE and Religious Studies and vocational subjects have continued to perform well. Several students achieved outstanding results, with all 10 GCSEs achieved in the top Grade 9-7 bracket. This reflects their ambition and commitment. We are delighted that our highest attaining student achieved an amazing seven Grade 9 and three Grade 8 GCSEs. Our students are a credit to the local community. Results which are consistently strong would not be possible without the hard work of the staff and students at Carnforth High School, along with the support and encouragement of parents. We would like to thank everyone who has been part of our continued success.



Christ Church Primary School recently received accolades from Ofsted and SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican & Methodist Schools) of which they are very proud.

Headteacher, Catherine Prince told us: 'The Inspector, Amanda Stringer, found that 'pupils arrive at school happy and eager to learn'. Through her visit and observations around school she identified that 'from the early years, reading is given a high priority.' Whilst visiting the school, she observed lessons and playtime, chatted to staff and children and felt that 'pupils achieve well in the calm atmosphere that has been created by leaders'

When Angela Knowles, SIAMS inspector visited, she commented that 'Ambitious and inspirational leadership provided exceptional opportunities, experience and achievements for all pupils.' She identified that our central ethos, the Fruit of the Spirit values, 'weave their way through every aspect of school life, and ensure that children and adults know they are loved and cared for.' Our creative curriculum 'effectively supports the learning and spiritual needs of pupils in a church school' and our effective teaching of RE 'provides a foundation for the whole curriculum.' As a school, we are incredibly proud of our achievements, and value every member of our school community and the contributions they have made in our successes'



Our Lady of Lourdes School pays its respects to Her Majesty the Queen:



Liz Kendall, Headteacher writes: ***Our Lady of Lourdes** children were very sad to hear about the passing of our Queen. It didn't seem long ago that we had celebrated her Jubilee with lots of great local events and then welcomed some of the Town Council into school to give the children their commemorative medals. When we heard on Twitter that flowers had been laid in the Memorial Gardens it seemed fitting for us to do the same. The children all brought in bunches of flowers and in class they wrote some very heartfelt messages we then walked our older children in Year 3 to Year 6 to the gardens and laid our flowers with the others that had been put there. We said some prayers and had some quiet reflection about the Queen and some members of the public that were there joined in'.*

Christ Church school celebrates another milestone!

On the day that he attended a celebration of the 60th Anniversary of Christ Church School, Carnforth Town Mayor, Chris Smith paid tribute to all our local schools saying: 'Our town is so lucky to have such excellent schools. Fantastic Ofsted judgements, outstanding examination results and a range of educational, religious, sporting and fabulous extra-curricular activities really does make them the lifeblood of our community. Congratulations, on behalf of Carnforth Town Council, to the wonderful young people, school staff and parents on your achievements – we are immensely proud of you all!'

Carnforth Town Mayor and Catherine Prince



Chamber of Trade sets out its Green Credentials

In support of Carnforth Town Council's *Great Big Green Week*, the **Chamber of Trade** asked its members about the ways in which they are making their businesses more environmentally friendly. There are some really exciting steps being taken by our local businesses. Recycled bottles are being used to make bags, vegan friendly shoes and even bouncy castles. Manufacturing clothing from organic cotton and viscose uses fewer resources to grow and replace, and allows unsold stock to be repurposed instead of sending them to landfill. You can learn how to repurpose and upcycle your old clothes or make completely new fabric using local fibre and yarn and learn how to use natural dyes with very little waste. Even our furry friends are being served in compostable or recyclable packaging, and you can buy lots of items to encourage nature in your garden such as bird houses and hedgehog food to bug hotels.

When the Chamber decorate the town at Christmas, we use LED lights, and the trees are sent for chipping. Our hanging baskets are all sent to compost when they are taken down. But the thing that makes our businesses the greenest is that we are right on your doorsteps, no fuel required except maybe a coffee and a piece of cake to get you back home! If you want to know more about what individual businesses are doing to protect our planet, check out our Facebook page. **Alison Seddon, Carnforth Chamber of Trade**

Carnforth Swimming Pool takes the plunge!



The trustees of **Carnforth Community Swimming Pool** have applied for planning permission from Lancaster City Council to build a two-storey extension to the Pool.

The extension will provide improved shower, toilet and storage facilities on the ground floor with a café and viewing gallery on the first floor, a space that can also be used for staff training and other gatherings.

A platform lift, able to take a wheelchair and one other passenger, will ensure all facilities are fully accessible.

It is also intended that the fitting of solar roof panels on the main building will help to improve energy usage and efficiency. The decision to apply for planning permission was taken as a result of the growing popularity of the Pool with local schools, the public and other groups in our community, assisted greatly by the key ingredient of experienced and enthusiastic staff.

If permission is granted, it is hoped that building work will begin in the very near future and whilst every effort will be made to ensure the Pool remains fully operational throughout the construction phase, there may be some disruption that will be notified as early as possible on social media.

Built in 1978, the Pool has been governed by a trustee board since its handover from the County Council in February 2018 and continues to operate on a not-for-profit basis. The trustees now face the challenge of raising the money to fund the building of the extension. Grant funding organisations are being approached and members of staff are busy organising various fund-raising events.

If you'd like to help with this project to improve this much-loved community asset, please contact our Trustee and CEO John Blowes, email: johnb@carnforthpool.org

Councillor Jim Grisenthwaite

Warm Welcome awaits at the Community Centre:

Since the Carnforth Free Methodist Community Centre on Kellet Road opened in March it's become home for a variety of groups and we're encouraged by seeing people supported in different stages of life. Here's just some of what's on:

- Teacakes & Tots | Mondays 9-11am term-time | For preschool children and their adults
- Music & Memories | Second and fourth Thursdays 1.30-3.30pm | For those with dementia or memory loss and their carers
- Coffee Mornings | Third Fridays 10am-12pm | For anyone who wants to get out, have a brew and a natter
- Carers Support Group | Third Saturdays 10.30am-12pm | For all carers, whatever your caring situation



All these groups provide a warm welcome and free refreshments. For any questions or enquiries please contact: connect@cfmc.org.uk or 01524 736141. Event information is also on our Facebook page: CarnforthFreeMethodistChurch. **Carol-Anne Baker CFM Admin**

Twinning Associations renew friendships after three year wait!



Well, we waited three years, but it was worth it! Carnforth Twinning Association was finally able to welcome our French friends from Sailly-sur-La-Lys, after delays due to Covid. Carnforth was first twinned with Sailly, (a town of 4000 people in the North-East of France), in the summer of 2003 due to the work of former Mayor and Town Crier of Carnforth, Frank Barton, together with local resident, Tony Rimmer.

The two associations have

continued to make visits in alternate years ever since, with the aim of strengthening the ties between the towns and to broaden understanding of each other's culture, educational, commercial and recreational activities.

The French guests arrived on Wednesday 24th August to a welcome from the Presidents of both Twinning Associations and speeches from the Mayor of Sailly and the Mayor of Carnforth. From then on, we were very lucky that the sun shone on us for all our activities, a trip to Heysham village with a guided visit to the Church and a visit to Muncaster Castle in Cumbria where we were entertained by an amazing bird of prey spectacle. On Saturday we visited the Jetty Museum in Windermere where we were greeted in French and given a short talk on boat restoration, followed by a steamboat trip on a sparkling Lake Windermere.

The finale to the weekend was a musical evening at Warton Village Hall with music provided by the local band Craggside and from Stéphanie Acquette, a professional musician and daughter of one of our longstanding members of the Saily Twinning Association. The theme to the evening was red, white and blue in honour of the Platinum Jubilee and rumour has it that the 'Queen' herself attended! Bright and early on the Sunday morning (7am!), we waved goodbye to our French friends as they set off back to Saily. We are looking forward to our return visit to France in 2023.



The Twinning Association plans for this year include joint working between Carnforth Community School and L'École du Sacré Coeur in Saily, to make comparisons and look at differences between the two towns as part of the children's curriculum. It is hoped that the libraries in the two towns will also be able to make links in the coming months. Look out for our posts on Facebook and Instagram to follow our progress. We run the Twinning Association on behalf of Carnforth Town Council but are a self-funding group and have a series of fund-raising activities throughout the year. If you are interested in finding out more about the twinning or joining our group, please contact: julia.56moore@gmail.com or wearing@live.co.uk **Julia Grisenthwaite, Carnforth Twinning Association**

Success for Carnforth Bowling Club Ladies



On the 18th May the Lancaster & Morecambe District Ladies Bowling League held the first of their annual doubles competitions, the Jean Scargill Doubles, at Bolton-le-Sands. Twenty-four pairs entered the competition which was won by two Carnforth Bowling Club members – Linda Murie and June Kidd.

On the 20th July the 2nd Doubles Competition of the season, the Presidents Doubles, was held at Skerton Liberal Club. Eighteen pairs entered and, once again, June and Linda came out the winners.

Congratulations also go to Carnforth Lady member Gill Morton who, together with her partner Ann Jones from Galgate Ladies, were worthy runners up in the Presidents Doubles.

Social Bowling is held at the Club on the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month starting at 2.00pm. Having closed for this season, there are plans to commence next year. Anyone wishing to learn to play, or improve their game in a non-competitive atmosphere would be very welcome to go along and find out what bowling is all about. The Club has two qualified Crown Green Bowling Coaches and coaching sessions are available on request.

The Club is situated behind the 'Taps on the Green' (previously the Cross Keys) on Kellet Road, Carnforth. For more information please ring Joyce Cooke, on 01524733040 or 07887873849. **Brian Cook, Secretary**

Pictured: June and Linda being presented with the Jean Scargill Trophy by Alex Harrison, the Ladies League President.