

NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 2013

UNDERSKIDDAW PARISH COUNCIL

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

At the Election held in May Alan Bowness (Con) was elected to the County Council to represent this area and Marion Fitzgerald was elected to Allerdale Borough Council.

At the Parish council AGM held on 21 May Jim Wilson was elected as Chairman and Jan Boniface as Deputy.

SEWAGE WORKS

The Parish Council regards the appearance of the new works on the sewage site as one of the most pressing subjects of concern. The Parish Council is holding on-going meetings with the representatives of United Utilities to try to improve the current and future appearance of the site. One step forward has been that the tall street lamps on the site have been replaced by waist high bollards, which will be much less noticeable; the lights will only be lit when they are needed for workers on the site at night, but the previous lights were very ugly and eye catching in broad daylight. The position of a Kiosk has been changed to make it less noticeable. The number of trees proposed to be planted on the site has been increased but there is concern that many of these are deciduous and will not give good screening in winter for many years. Proposals are awaited for camouflaging the concrete structures and for painting the units on the crown of the site in subdued colours. A further meeting is to be held shortly at which the Planning Officer will also be present.

HIGHWAY MATTERS

The state of the Parish roads is an on-going concern. The County Highways Department has recently undergone a complete re-structuring and requests for information as to who is responsible for what have not yet received answers. However before the upheaval two significant pieces of work were accomplished : the drain near Sydenham House on the Terrace Road which blocks and floods in stormy conditions has had a large catch pit dug above it to catch the stones which cause the blockage – there is a promise that this will be emptied regularly. The problem with water overflowing near the gates of Underscar has also been thoroughly dealt with and a new culvert installed. A safety issue is the lack of a white line at the crossroads by the Village Hall : something which has been reported as urgent for many months.

KESWICK AND DISTRICT FIRST RESPONDERS

Activated by Ambulance Control, First Responders provide a fast response for heart emergencies and aim to be on scene in less than eight minutes. As well as a number in Keswick there are First Responders living in Bassenthwaite, Braithwaite, Thornthwaite, Threlkeld and Thirlmere but none in Underskiddaw. As a result, at the moment, if there is a local need, a First Responder has to be called in from elsewhere and this could result in a delay.

It is thought that at least one Underskiddaw based First Responder would be highly desirable and an appeal is now made for volunteers who, after suitable training, would be willing to help by dramatically increasing the chances of resuscitation for residents and visitors alike. Local knowledge is regarded as being very helpful in such circumstances. A target is that there would be a centrally located Defibrillator that, in the event of an emergency, would be immediately available.

This is regarded as a very worthwhile project and provides the opportunity for significant valuable service to the community. Contact Tony Gibbs (71166) for further details.

**U3A
(University of the Third Age)**

Is there something more to retirement? Do you want to keep your mind and body active and to meet new friends? You may be interested in a new area U3A which is being launched on **Monday 21 October** with meetings at 10.00 am at the Crosthwaite Parish Room Keswick, and at 2.00 pm in Portinscale Village Hall.

U3A is a democratic self-help organization run by its members, at minimal cost, to share activities and interests. Currently there are 900 U3As in the UK with some 317,000 members. Individual interest groups make their own arrangements to meet. The list of activities over the country is absolutely endless and growing all the time. Examples are singing, art appreciation, cookery, crafts, languages, geology, theatre visits, outings, lunch groups, computing, gardening : and many more!

To find out more :
Come to one of the meetings.
Contact Tony Gibbs 71166
Visit www.u3a.org.uk

BULK BUYING OF DOMESTIC OIL

It is pleasing that a good deal of interest has been shown in the recently discussed bulk domestic oil buying project. Joe Saxton is now the official Co-ordinator for the scheme and, with a number of names having been registered, the first group order is now being planned. Further information on joe.saxton@btinternet.com or phone 73747.

UNDERSKIDDAW PARISH COUNCILLORS

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