

100 years of friendship as WI marks special occasion

AT an afternoon tea for over 80 people, members past and present and invited guests celebrated 100 years of the WI in Morland and Newby.

The event was attended by special guest Karen Hanks chair of the Cumberland and Westmorland Federation of Women's Institutes, and the afternoon included memories of the two communities and notes from the archives and minute books of 1924 and the decades that followed.

"There was obviously a lot to laugh about as well as lots to be done," said Joyce Berry, current president of Morland and Newby WI.

"And the buzz of conversation at the tea made it obvious that women still see the WI as a place to meet and make friends.

"We've been raising money for over a year to buy new curtains for Morland village hall and these were hung ready for the celebratory tea.

"The new curtains have been our contribution to the Federation's Challenge in honour of the late Olive Clarke. It was amusing, here in 2024, to realise that the records from 1950 and the opening of the hall indicate that the WI provided the curtains then, too!"



SPECIAL OCCASION: Karen Hanks, federation chair, and Joyce Berry, president of Morland and Newby WI, as they cut the cake.

Members of the WI thanked a number of local people and businesses for their

help in the celebrations: Karen Richardson of All Stitched Up in Penrith for making the curtains; Anne Pettican (cello) and Christine Ravetz (flute) for accompanying tea with live music; and Steve Green for creating more than a dozen cake stands from old tea services.

Also 15-year-old Amy Vermeulen, who is the granddaughter of WI member Judith Lightburn — for making and icing the 100 years birthday cake (with support from Pat Russell of The Lake District School of Food and Drink in nearby Sleagill).

"We are also grateful that so many past members, friends, and representatives of our neighbouring WIs were able to celebrate with us too," said Joyce.

"We are now looking forward to the next hundred years!"



GOOD TURNOUT: Over 80 guests enjoyed afternoon tea, baked and served by current members of Morland and Newby WI.



WORKING TOGETHER: Amy Vermeulen (third from left) with Pat Russell and WI members Judith Lightburn and Jackie Green, ahead of baking the cake.

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£10,000 target for Angela's fund

Cottage. The Angela McLean Memorial Fund, which will raise money for staff based at Penrith, Keswick and Brough ambulance stations to pay for additional training, was launched on 29th February, which would have been Angela's 56th birthday.

"We just wanted to give something back to the ambulance service, because they were fantastic," said Jo, who added they were hoping to raise over £10,000.

When Angela was taken ill, an ambulance was on site within 10 minutes and paramedics worked on Angela, who had suffered a blood clot, for two and a half hours.

In total, there were two road ambulances, the air ambulance, an ambulance car and fire engine as part of the emergency response.

Praise was also given for the way the rest of the staff, who were all in shock, were looked after.

Penrith-based senior paramedic Heather Beedie said the additional training would focus on a range of things and could include mental health development and new skills for dealing with major trauma events.

"It is just investing a little bit more in the staff to gain extra experiences and extra skills that will then be shared among the teams," said Ms Beedie.

North West Ambulance Charity fundraising manager Roya Armstrong said:

"Everything that the charity funds is all over and above the general NHS budgets.

"One of our aims is to support staff, support their health and wellbeing, as well as supporting local communities with additional resources."

The fundraising initiative has the full support of Angela's family, including her son, Robbie, and brothers John, Grant and Richard. Over the last three years Larch Cottage has raised nearly £24,000 for Hospice at Home through events including open garden days, held from May

to September, when people pay to visit the private garden and chapel. This year, £10 from the sale of every Rosa Angela rose will go towards the newly launched memorial fund. There will also be an afternoon of summer music and a pizza and Prosecco night.

Angela's sister-in-law, Sue Skelton, who is a yoga teacher, will be also giving her time to do some yoga sessions outside on the lawn. To support the fund with a donation visit www.justgiving.com/page/angela-cleanfund



GIVING BACK: Angela McLean, who died suddenly at work.

Appleby's bollards an "eyesore"

APPLEBY'S ageing bollards have become a "town eyesore" and could be replaced, thanks to funding from Westmorland and Furness Council.

An audit is set to be carried out of the town's 200-plus bollards and those in the most "desperate" condition, or which have fallen over, are set to be replaced first, a meeting of Appleby Town Council was told.

Westmorland and Furness councillor for Appleby Andy Connell said the issue of the town's "dreaded bollards" comes round year after year and they are a focus for endless complaints.

"They don't do us any credit at the moment, the state they are in. They are shabby and some of them have fallen over," said Mr Connell.

Photographs have been found which show bollards in Boroughgate in the 1920s and there was a photo of the bollards on the Sands going back to 1907.

"They are an Edwardian thing, maybe even Victorian," said Mr Connell.

They may have been erected for an aesthetic reason or to protect the municipal grassland from vehicles or carts, the meeting was told.

"Responsibility for the bollards went to Eden District Council by default and they never really had a funding arrangement to deal with these hard wood bollards as they rotted and needed replacement," said Mr Connell.

He added: "Now there is a proposition that composition ones (of a similar design) might replace the wooden ones on the grounds that they would be more durable, because hardwood eventually starts to rot."

A fund had been identified which could help towards the cost of replacing the bollards, although it would not cover the entire cost, councillors were told.

May Day drummers "ban" claims caused "distress", says council

WESTMORLAND and Furness Council has strongly denied claims that a community music organisation was being banned from Penrith's May Day celebrations due to new "noise control" rules.

The claim — published on the Penrith Town website and Facebook page, which is run by former Penrith town councillor Jonathan Davies — sparked the launch of an online petition signed by more than 370 people.

However, in the wake of the article, Westmorland and Furness Council issued a strongly-worded and lengthy rebuttal.

It read: "We can categorically state that there is absolutely no ban on bands taking part in this year's May Day celebrations in Penrith, and Westmorland and Furness Council is not enforcing noise limits that will prevent bands from taking part.

"As with all large, organised events and in line with national guidance and legal requirements, the council routinely liaises with event organisers to ensure measures such as appropriate health and safety, food hygiene standards, public liability insurances and any required road closures are in place to protect both the public and the event organisers.

"This includes discussions about noise levels and basic information and advice, such as asking organisers to consider the location of any static positions of bands or stages where bands may be performing for prolonged periods, so performances do not cause undue disturbance to nearby residents.

"All we advise is that organisers planning any static band positions or stages consider consulting nearby residents as a courtesy and to check noise levels in those locations."

The statement added: "To be clear though, this does not apply to carnival or drumming bands in processions or parades. Drumming in a parade is not, and has never been, an issue and the council has never 'banned' any band from taking part in any parade.

"The council has contacted both Penrith Lions and BlueJam Arts (Bjamba) named in the (online) report to discuss the issue and to reassure them about the council's position and advice.

"Neither the Lions nor BlueJam Arts were involved in the news article and coverage. The Lions are very much looking forward to the May Day event and are in discussion with BlueJam Arts about their involvement."

The council statement added: "It is also regrettable that the council was not approached for comment or response until after the article had been published online and on social media this week, so we were not offered an opportunity to correct the record before the article was published — resulting in the understandable, and avoidable, alarm, distress and upset felt by the local community."

A statement on the Penrith Town Facebook page, attributed to the CEO of Penrith Town, stated that a request for comment from the council had been made but it was not "received" by the relevant department.

The statement also added that the "CEO" had "spent the day working with the council's communications team" to address the matter.

Doubling down, the statement added: "We stand by the information received from multiple individuals as one based on the information available (sic) and at no time stated the council intended to 'Ban' any part of the event the article could have been clearer on the issue and explaining the situation."

Elsewhere online, Mr Davies describes himself as "founder, director, and CEO of Penrith Town".

Trouble flared at 40th birthday party, court hears

A PENRITH man was brought to court after pushing a bar manager and punching her partner as trouble flared at his own 40th birthday party.

Gareth Hutton (40), appeared in front of magistrates on Friday following an incident at the town's cricket club on 11th November last year.

Prosecutor Lee Dacre told the hearing in Carlisle that the bar manager had been working at the party.

Hutton "took exception" to comments made by the manager about a gathering of children. During a subsequent incident in the club, he pushed the manager backwards, causing her to fall to the floor.

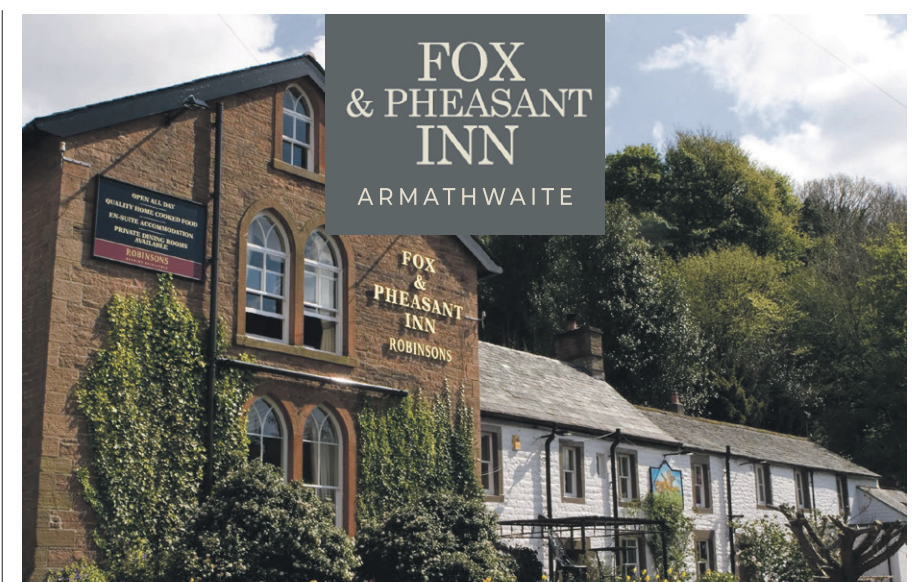
The woman's partner had sought to get between the woman and Hutton, and saw the push on her before he, too, was assaulted. "He punched me with a clenched fist to the right side of my face," said the man, who spoke of bleeding in the aftermath. "I felt very dazed and light-headed, and wasn't really sure what was going on."

The man later received medical treatment, having suffered bruising, swelling and a cut to his nose.

Hutton, of Barco Terrace, Penrith, was arrested. "To his credit, he made full admissions in interview when the circumstances were put to him," said the prosecutor.

In court, Hutton admitted assaulting both the woman and man by beating. Speaking in his own defence, he told the court about events leading up to the offences. "It was my birthday party," he confirmed. He described both the woman and man being "in my face". Hutton said he struck out after the man "threw a punch at me", although that "punch" claim was not accepted by the prosecution. "Police arrived at the scene. I got arrested for it," he said.

Hutton also produced a video clip on his phone which captured part of the incident and was taken into account by magistrates. He was fined £580 and ordered to pay £200 compensation to the man he assaulted. He must also pay a £232 mandatory surcharge and £85 prosecution costs.



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