

Maryport Matters



WE ARE THANKFUL

Maryport: Our beautiful coastal town has a rich heritage. We are thankful for clear skies, open seas and a vibrant community, made up of family and friends.



Pictured: Aubree-Rose and Hadley-Harold sat waiting and waving for their Daddy, Lee Musgrave who was skipping the boat Arlanda with crew member John Dawson.

All our info was correct at the time of going to print but please be aware that in these unprecedented times, things can change quickly. Please follow current government guidelines.

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MARYPORT MATTERS



"As I put 2 large garden bins out for collection and also a full paper bin, I thought, how wonderful our refuse collectors are. They do such a great job come rain or shine. We grumble if they don't turn up but wouldn't it be good if we all just said, 'thank you, you're all stars'."

Kathleen Willis, Reader



CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON

Maryport Christmas Lights will be switched on, on Saturday 27 November this year. The Town Council are currently organising a programme of family entertainment to be held during the afternoon, leading up to the big switch-on at 5pm. Acts include Maryport Amateur Dramatics, Netherhall School, Ellie Rowley and Mojo Rising. There will also be food stalls, helium balloons, fairground rides and Santa's grotto will be back with fantastic presents! Further details to be announced soon.



T'ANKS A LOT!

As we look back over the Summer season, we find ourselves grateful for all the customers that have chosen to visit Maryport Aquarium. Especially this year, even with all the restrictions, we can't thank everyone enough for their understanding and continued support after a very challenging 18 months. Whether you were local, travelled from afar, a veteran visitor or it was your first visit ever - we appreciate you!

Of course, it's not just the customers that have kept the wheels turning. Thanks are due also to our wonderful staff members who have kept spirits up and worked through a time where few things have been straightforward. We are truly thankful to have such a brilliant team.



BLOOMING MARVELLOUS

Maryport Town Council would like to give thanks to local residents for all their efforts in developing their gardens. To recognise residents' commitment, this summer they launched a 'Best Kept Garden & Containers Competition 2021'. People were asked to nominate either their own or their neighbours' gardens & flower displays.



Congratulations to 'Best Kept Large Garden' winners Kenneth & Audrey Brown in Flimby, 'Best Kept Medium Garden' winner Stephen Foster, 'Best Kept Small Garden' winners John & Brenda McCulloch and 'Best Kept Containers' winner Sally Watson, all from Maryport. The gardens were judged by Mayor Peter Kendall and Councillor Christine Slater.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

As we charge through Autumn, the days are getting shorter and the nights a little darker. But don't let the cold weather get you down. Maryport Matters promises to warm you up with 20 pages of joyfulness and gratitude – a host of stories from people in your community expressing their thanks for good deeds, generous gifts and acts of kindness. As you flick through the pages, we invite you to think about what you are thankful for this month and I sincerely hope that everyone can find something, no matter how small, that fills their world with a little bit of light.

Of course, we realise that this time of year can be particularly hard for some people so please remember to look out for your friends, neighbours, colleagues and family members. Don't forget that there is help available, although it can be hard to find it on your own. Please let people know about HUG A MUG. If someone you know is struggling with problems linked to finance, housing, health & well-being or family issues, then why not encourage them to give HUG A MUG a call to see if they can help? It's free and confidential – and it could really make a difference. Find out more on back page.

Our next edition won't be out until February 2022 so we'd like to wish you a warm winter, a cosy Christmas and a New Year full of hope.

Large print copies are available. Contact info@ewanrigg.com
Digital downloads: www.ewanrigg.com/maryportmatters

Happy reading!

**Rachel and the
Maryport Matters team.**



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Christmas can be a stressful time for anyone – particularly those with poor mental health. If you are worried about someone, follow these simple tips:

ACT ON YOUR INSTINCT.
If you think someone needs support, ACT.

WHAT TO SAY:

Ask if they are OK.
If they don't want to talk, reassure them that you are there if and when they want to.

As you listen, don't think about what to say in response.
Just listen. Silence is OK.

If you think that this person is at risk of harming themselves, ask them outright 'do you have thoughts of harming yourself?'

You WILL NOT make it worse by asking them.

HOW TO LISTEN:

Listen properly. Give your full attention. Don't interrupt.
Don't try to fix their problem.
Unless they specifically ask for it DO NOT GIVE your advice.
Accept what they are saying.
Accept their worries are real for them.



HAVE THE COURAGE TO TALK; HAVE THE COURAGE TO LISTEN. NO-ONE IS ALONE.

EWANRIGG
Local Trust

WHAT TO DO:

If you think that someone needs specialist support encourage them to:

- See their GP.
- Speak to a trusted teacher.
- Self-refer online to NHS First Step (adults).
- Ring Cumbria Mindline 0300 561 0000 (not 24 hrs a day).

If you are worried that someone is at immediate risk of taking their own life, stay with them and take one of these steps:

- Ring their GP or out of hours service for an emergency appointment.
- Go with them to the nearest A&E department.
- Call 999 or NHS Direct on 111.
- Text SHOUT to 85258 in the UK to text with a trained Crisis Volunteer (24 hours a day).
- Ring the Samaritans on freephone 116 123 (24 hours a day).
- Adults within the mental health system can contact the Community Mental Health Team (CMHT) or Crisis Team if they have one.
- Visit www.togetherall.com - an anonymous online community where you can find support. Trained professionals are available 24/7, 365 days a year. Ages 16+
- Visit www.kooth.com - a free, confidential and anonymous mental health platform for children and young people.

Patients of Maryport Health Services can access the **HUG A MUG** telephone service by calling 01900 815544 weekday mornings from 9.30am-11.30am.



GOOD CARE REWARDED

G-Care are pleased to announce the results of their recent CQC inspection, achieving a GOOD rating as a care provider. We are extremely grateful to have such a wonderful staff team who each received a bottle of prosecco as a thank you for all their hard work during the inspection.

We recently held a Macmillan Coffee Morning where service users and staff were welcome to pop into the office for cake and a cuppa or cakes were delivered to their homes if they could not make it to the office. Thank you to everyone who donated or bought cakes raising £185 to support the wonderful work that Macmillan do.

For more information about G-Care visit their Facebook page or contact zoegcare@yahoo.com.



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UPDATE FROM MARYPORT HEALTH SERVICES

If you need help or support for medical conditions, please call the surgery and your call will be forwarded on to the right person or department.

Our hard working team are here to help.



Allison Blair, Frailty Co-ordinator: To help with any adaptations and support to elderly patients living with long term conditions.



Assistant Practice Managers, Liam Southwell & Lewis Stephenson: Liam and Lewis oversee the day to day running of the service. *"Thank you for bearing with us through these difficult times."*



Chloe, Emma and Bethan: Our Mental Health team, always on the other end of a phone for support.



Our Receptionists answer as many calls as they can. They can help to signpost you to the right department or person.



The Nurses and Health Care Assistants: Whatever we see you for, we can always refer for further support if it's needed, especially to HUG A MUG and our Social Prescribers.

The team at Maryport Health Services would like to wish HUG A MUG a very Happy 4th Birthday. For more information on ELT's HUG A MUG service please see back page.

THANK YOU TO VOLUNTEERS

Hospice at Home West Cumbria (HHWC) is a vital local charity that simply could not operate without the support and dedication of its volunteers.

HHWC currently have 176 volunteers across the organisation, who are all hardworking and devoted to helping the charity make a difference to people's lives.

HHWC are extremely grateful to all of their past, present and future volunteers for their professionalism, enthusiasm and their caring hearts. The commitment shown for every second, minute and hour of their time they volunteer is inspirational.

If you think volunteering for one of West Cumbria's leading charities is for you, please visit www.hospiceathomewestcumbria.org.uk or email teresa.mccall@hhwc.org.uk for more info.



HEALTHY HOPES

Healthy Hopes provide free health and wellbeing sessions based at Signpost, Curzon Street, every Thursday from 1pm - 2.30pm.

Activities include relaxation, positive thinking, mindfulness, coping strategies, goal setting, stress awareness, confidence and self-esteem. Open to all. Pop in and have a cuppa. For more info contact admin@healthyhopes.co.uk or visit www.healthyhopes.co.uk



WANT TO GET OUT AFTER LOCKDOWN?

WANT TO HELP SUPPORT A VALUABLE LOCAL ASSET?

The Settlement has been part of the lives of many Maryport people since 1937, whether through school, Brownies, clubs, classes, festivals, etc.

NOW WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

To develop the facilities we can offer, we need volunteers in all areas, including gardening, administration, marketing, finance and building maintenance.

The Settlement was established for the people of Maryport. You may discover new friendships or renew old ones, enjoy the stunning location and practise your skills.

You could also apply to become a trustee and help build the future of our town.

COME AND GET INVOLVED!

To find out more, contact Sara on sh@castlehilltrust.org.uk



Strict Covid guidelines will be followed at all times.

AWARD FOR OWL BLUE

Congratulations to Owl Blue for winning Organisation of the Year 2021 at the Diverse Cumbria Awards in September. The award was presented to Stuart and Nichola McDougall and Andy Long by Peter McCall, Cumbria Police and Crime Commissioner.

"We were delighted to be presented with this award and be recognised for all our hard work. Thank you to everyone associated with Owl Blue and our local community for their very generous donations to our fundraising shop."

Maryport based charity Owl Blue works with families of children with hidden disabilities and those who share their lives. For more info find them on Facebook @owlblue, visit www.owlblue.org or call 0800 7555 432.



FOODBANK

Here at the Foodbank, we are thankful that we have been able to help low income families over the school summer holidays by giving out 600 bags of food. Each bag contained enough food to make 5 lunches for 2 primary children - plus treats! We also included a craft kit each week for the younger children, and a recipe idea for the older ones. Thanks to the Methodist Church for helping with storage. We are also grateful to everyone who has donated to harvest collections, which will help to refill our depleted warehouse so we can meet additional demand as Universal Credit is reduced and the colder weather begins.

Thanks to everyone who has donated including local schoolchildren.



WANT A HEALTHIER LIFESTYLE FOR FREE?

We're really excited to share that people can join the National Diabetes Prevention programme for FREE for 9 months if they are at risk - no GP visit or blood test is needed!

Type 2 diabetes can lead to serious health complications if left untreated. Finding out your risk, only takes a few minutes using the Diabetes UK risk tool - it could be the most important thing you do today. <https://riskscore.diabetes.org.uk/start>



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A photograph showing a group of business professionals in a meeting. In the foreground, two men in suits are shaking hands. In the background, a woman and another man are looking at documents on a table.

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NATURAL HISTORY GROUP

Maryport Natural History Group was started in 1946 by a group of people who had an interest in flowers, birds, wildlife & geology. We now meet on the last Wednesday of every month at the Senhouse Roman Museum. Talks start at 7.30pm with refreshments afterwards, giving our members and guests a chance to chat.

We are so thankful that we are now able to meet face to face after closure during the pandemic.

We are hugely grateful for the committee who give their time to organise the programme (Dennis Renney – Chair, Pat Balfour - Secretary and Lynn Trussell -

Programme Secretary). New members of all ages are welcomed. Find us on Facebook. Search for Maryport Natural History.

Contacts: Dennis on 01900 817921 or Pat on 01900 810308.

Programme:

24th November

Local Speaker, Topic of their choice

26th January

Reagan Blacker,

Harrington Nature Reserve

23rd February

Gordon Fletcher, Morecambe Bay

Underwater Safari

30th March

Members' night AGM and Sam O'Key,

Police Wildlife Officer

27th April

Sarah Neil, Cetaceans in Cumbria



CAPTURING NATURE

These lovely photos were sent in by Joanne Hill who took them in her garden over lockdown. Joanne says, "I am so grateful to live where I live and to be surrounded by nature and open spaces. Having access to the outdoors and learning a new skill has really helped to keep me grounded and focused throughout the challenges of recent months."



TREASURE TROVE GIFT SHOP

at the Lake District Coast Aquarium, Maryport. Open 10am - 5pm everyday

Jingle all the way down to the Aquarium - Gifts for all!

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Harbourside Café. Family Pass Vouchers available for the Aquarium

For more info please call 01900 814774 or email info@coastaquarium.co.uk



WOMEN IN WAR



This year the Royal British Legion are celebrating the role of women in wartime with a week of events from 6 - 14 November. The Town will purchase a Royal British Legion female figure to stand beside the 'soldier' already installed in the Memorial Garden and there are three exhibitions planned at local venues to coincide with the celebrations. 'Maryport Women in War' will run at The Settlement and 'Senhouse Women in War' will be on display at The Senhouse Roman Museum. In addition, local schools will exhibit their work in St. Mary's Church. This will be open to the public at pre-arranged times during the week beginning Monday 8 November. Each school will highlight a woman who lived during wartime and who made such an impression on the world that their story is still remembered today.

See the Town Council Facebook page for up-to-date details or visit maryportwomeninwar.com to see how you can take part.

THE SETTLEMENT NEEDS YOU!

As part of the British Legion's celebration of the role of Women in War, we are holding several exhibitions and events. We want to know about the women in your families and their experiences of war. For example, a Maryport resident has shared the story of how her sister was rescued from a bombed building in Portsmouth by a fireman, to whom she was then married for over 50 years!

Please bring your photos and memories to The Settlement on 6th, 7th, 12th, 13th & 14th November 11am-5pm.

On Tuesday 9th November there will be a Coffee & Craic morning 10am-12pm (£2) and Cumbrian author Ruth Sutton will be giving a talk entitled 'Snapshots of Cumbrian Women in Wartime' on Friday 12th at 7pm (£6).

Some events are still to be confirmed at time of going to press, so please check our website castlehilltrust.org.uk

Details of other activities in the town and beyond can be found on maryportwomeninwar.com

POPPY ART

Maryport community members are being invited to knit, crochet, felt, paint or make pop bottle poppies which will be fixed to the Memorial Gates to create a visually stunning piece of community art, marking Remembrance Sunday.

Poppies can be the traditional red or other colours to represent different groups (white for pacifists, purple for pets, rainbow for Pride etc.)

Poppies can be left at All Stitched Up (Senhouse St), Handmade By You and Signpost (Curzon Street), or attached to the netting on the gates of the Memorial Gardens from the start of November.

If you would like to make a poppy head to maryportwomeninwar.com for the pattern.



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OWL BE SEEING YA!

Foundation Stage children are grateful to Mike Morrison for sharing his beautiful Barn Owl, Whisper with us. Nursery have been reading the book, Owl Babies, so this fits in nicely!

Maryport Primary School



CHECK MATE!

We are thankful for being able to hold our afterschool clubs again. Our children are already learning new skills. Who knows? You may be looking at a future Grand Master!

Netherton Infant School



WATER BOTTLES

We are grateful to Little Changes who gave all our children reusable water bottles so that we can stay hydrated and make better choices towards maintaining a healthier lifestyle!

Netherton Infant School.



NEW MINIBUS FOR SCHOOL

Staff and pupils at Netherhall School were delighted to take out the school's new minibus for its first official outing. Students from the School Bike Club went to Carlisle to watch the Tour of Britain depart. It is great to be able to access enriching events for our students with this fantastic new transport.



NEW MURAL

A huge thank you to one of our parents who designed a new mural for our playground. The children joined in and helped with some of the painting. We are very thankful for this as it has really brightened up our outside area and it incorporates all aspects of our learning.

Ellenborough & Ewanrigg Infant School



ART PRIZE

Recently, some of our school children entered an art competition for the North Lakes Foodbank to design a birthday card that Foodbank volunteers would receive. We were ecstatic to hear Lola Gilmore a Y6 pupil was one of the winners. She has received a goodie bag with lots of art materials worth £20 for herself and won the school £100 to purchase art materials.

Thank you so much to North Lakes Foodbank for giving our children the opportunity to be creative. A fabulous competition.

Ewanrigg Junior School.



ANIMAL ENCOUNTER

Whether they have tails or scales, whether they run, crawl or slither, we are so grateful for our animal friends. A huge thanks to Pet Encounter Cumbria, who brought their animals to show the pupils at Ellenborough and Ewanrigg Infant School. Our children enjoyed learning about the animals and also getting to touch and hold them.



LAUNCH YOURSELF

Y9 students from Netherhall School have taken vital steps towards their future careers by taking part in an innovative development programme called 'Launch Yourself.'

The group have been working on their confidence, communication and leadership skills with Andrew Bernard from the Centre for Leadership Performance.

Meeting weekly and sharing valuable hints and tips, the students learned how to present a topic to the rest of the group.

Miss Bateson, Careers and Pastoral Lead for the school said, "The programme is really starting to bear fruit as quiet and previously self-conscious students are beginning to open up and speak about their skills and aspirations."

The Centre for Leadership Performance partner with employers and educators to co-create innovative leadership programmes to inspire and develop young people and build capability within local businesses.



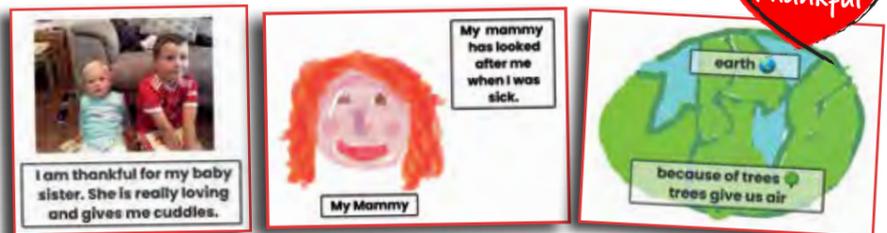
LEAVERS' PROM

We are so grateful that after a few unavoidable delays we were finally able to celebrate our 'leavers' with a special prom. The children enjoyed a party, a ride in a limo and achievement certificates for all the work they had done. They will all be missed. Good luck for the next stage in their journey.

Ellenborough & Ewanrigg Infant School



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www.senhousemuseum.co.uk



Maryport
Church of England Primary School
 Tel: 01900 812299
www.maryport.cumbria.sch.uk



At Maryport Church of England Primary School, our mission is to create a happy, safe, successful learning environment which will clearly reflect Christian values enabling our pupils to develop their unique potential and a love of learning which promotes aspirations and prepares them well to live life in all its fullness.

Our vision for when they leave Maryport Church of England Primary School is for our children to:

- Be independent learners
- Have high levels of self esteem
- Live by Christian values
- Be tolerant and respectful of others' ideas, cultures and faiths
- Be happy and confident in what they can achieve
- Be the best they can be

Our Aims:

- We aim to provide a warm, friendly environment where the children feel secure and valued. As a Church of England school, we uphold Christian values whilst embracing the diversity of other religions and ways of life.

- We aim to provide a rich, creative, stimulating curriculum that will enable each child to reach their full potential and nurture their interests, talents and skills. We want pupils to develop lively, enquiring minds with the ability to question, discuss and formulate ideas and to become independent learners.
- We aim to give our children a wide range of experiences in and out of the classroom, which will extend their understanding of themselves and the world they live in.
- We encourage children to show consideration and respect for other members of the school and wider community and to develop a sense of responsibility for themselves, for others and for the environment.
- We aim to provide opportunities for spiritual growth and development through collective worship, times for reflection and opportunities to pray.
- We seek to establish and effective partnership between home and school, church and community for the wellbeing of the children and the success of the school.

Our Values:

The schools values seek to underpin the Christian belief that we are all God's people and that we all matter. These values are at the heart of everything we do and run through our whole ethos, curriculum and school life to ensure pupils leave Maryport Church of England Primary School as happy, secure, caring and responsible citizens.

Courage, Peace, Perseverance, Friendship, Compassion, Truth, Hope, Responsibility, Thankfulness, Forgiveness, Respect, Trust.

For further information on what we offer, or to arrange a school visit, please telephone 01900 812299 or visit our Facebook page or website:
www.maryport.cumbria.sch.uk

Places now available in our Reception class from September 2022 and Nursery/Two year olds for the term after the children turn 2 or 3



'Teach children to choose the right path and when they are older they will remain on it.'

Proverbs 22:6

The school's values seek to underpin the Christian belief that we are all God's people and that we all matter





A HUGE THANK YOU TO MRS DAWSON



Ewanrigg Junior School says goodbye to Mrs Kay Dawson, Learning Mentor, upon her retirement. Headteacher Miss Craig writes:

"When I became Head 17 years ago I knew immediately that Kay and I had the same values concerning vulnerable children. I have watched this

Kay quickly became a great support of mine at school and then as equally quickly became one of the best friends a person could ever wish for. Loyal, dedicated, hard working, ever giving, ever caring, generous, kind and always self-sacrificial Kay spends every single minute of every day giving to those around her - the children, the staff, her friends and family.

Even in this, her retiring year, Kay is still giving. A volunteer first aid trainer for Guides and a warden at the Covid vaccination centre, giving of herself for the sake of others all the while working full time at EJS supporting families through lockdown with weekly welfare calls and the home delivery of digital devices.

Kay is the epitome of a community hero and has been for over 50 years. I am privileged and proud to call her my dear friend, who I will miss intently. Maryport's loss is Fochaber's gain - and they are gaining a very, very rare jewel of humanity."

We all wish Kay well for her future.

NEW SQUIRRELS GROUP LAUNCHED

2nd Maryport Scout Group is one of the first places in the UK, where children aged 4-6 can join a Squirrel's Drey, which is an Early Years Scout Section in the existing Scouting family of Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, and Explorers.

Squirrels will give young children the chance to make friends, have fun outdoors, learn new things and earn badges through fun activities. Children wear a red sweatshirt uniform and the group's scarf.

Just like all our sections, Squirrels helps young people gain skills for life – with a focus on the outdoors. There will be a very high demand for places in this Drey so please send your child's name, date of birth and address to: maryportsquirrels@yahoo.com as soon as you read this. Don't wait until they are 4 years old, as they will not get a place in time. The leader will contact you with further details about time and location.



BEAVERS GO FOR GOLD

Beavers recently had their own Olympic Games, not in Japan, but Maryport!

Events included tossing the caber, shot-put, high speed skipping, keep it uppie, 3 legged race, hoopla hooping endurance, a long stand and lots of other fun events.

We have also had a sand castle building evening, a 5 a Side football tournament on the docks, a hike along the Promenade and a banana evening.

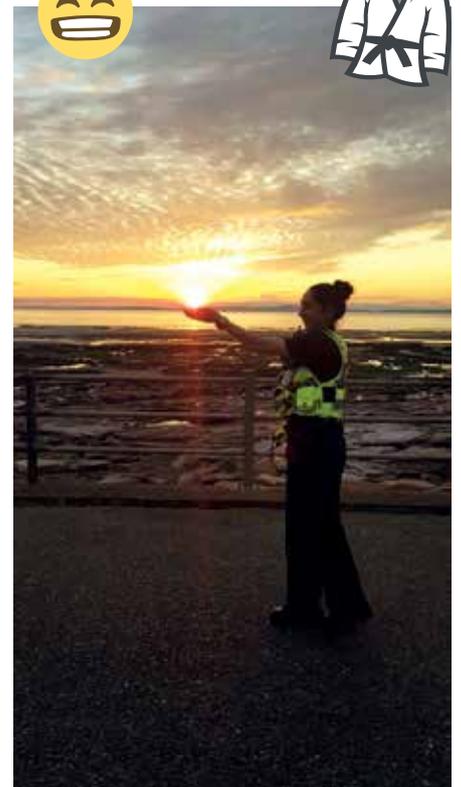


Beavers is for boys and girls aged 6-8 years. If you would like to join us, then email maryportbeavers@yahoo.co.uk for more information. If you would like to join our successful leadership team, please get in touch. Prospective leaders will need to have an enhanced DBS check and will be offered appropriate training.

ABOVE AND BEYOND

"We are thankful for the beautiful place we live in, those who serve our community and those who go the extra mile to invest in our local children's future."

Parents of Yokai Kami Karate Club



A huge thank you to all the schools and groups that contribute to Maryport Matters throughout the year!

We really couldn't do it without you!



HOME GROUP CUSTOMER AND VOLUNTEER AWARDS 2021

Home Group recently announced winners of their national awards, with residents of Ewanrigg collectively clocking up a staggering four wins! Home Group staff worked hard to bring glitz and glamour to Ewanrigg Community Centre which was transformed for an afternoon of award giving due to Covid preventing a national event from taking place.

Home Group say they are thankful to all their customers and volunteers working in the area to make it a better place and were glad to be able to recognise the contribution of the following winners.

For producing the first Home Group Customer Report:
Karen, Dee & Sheila

Karen, Dee & Sheila used their own initiative to create a customer focused summary of Home Groups achievements in 2020 that also looks at improvements we still need to make.

Leading change in youth mental health across Cumbria and beyond: Rebecca Woods

Since first coming to Ewanrigg Community Centre seven years ago, Rebecca has grown in confidence. She has been part of

setting up the 'We Will Group' made up of young people leading change in youth mental health. She's chaired a meeting at the Houses of Parliament and even met Prince Harry!

Exceptional people making an extraordinary difference to their community: ENTRA members, Sharon, Margaret, Dot, Carole, Mary and Julia.

Ewanrigg Community Centre has been closed due to Covid but this didn't stop volunteers from transforming their building! Securing £27,000 of funding, their care, passion and energy for their community is immense bringing partners together to address social isolation through projects such as 'Bags of Hope' reaching 1,000 Maryport residents.

Bill Barnes Special Recognition Award:

"Home Group are incredibly grateful for the work Bill did in his community. The lasting impact he has made is a shining example of impassioned community spirit and we wanted to honour this for Bill, his family, and his friends by introducing a new Customer Choice Award, named after Bill. The winner of this national award each year will be chosen by our customer panel."





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NEWS BY NETHERTON

Pupils from Y1&2 at Netherton Infant School have created their very own newspaper to document and celebrate their annual book week. Children turned their hand to photography and journalism, interviewing their fellow pupils and special visitors to report on the week's themed activities.



The children took a trip to the library to become members, they were visited by poet Andy Tooze and author Rachel Suddart, as well as Blue the dinosaur. The children also tried out lots of new foods after reading a Charlie and Lola book called 'I will never ever eat a tomato', decorated their own gingerbread men, had a tiger's tea party and brought in their favourite stories to share with their class.



I wonder if they'd like to help us with the next edition of Maryport Matters?!



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MARYPORT MUSINGS

NEW USE FOR ICONIC LANDMARK



With more normality returning to everyday life, we can look forward with optimism to the advancement of various initiatives that are planned for the regeneration and redevelopment of Maryport.

Of great importance is the conversion of Christ Church on North Quay into a museum and gallery, incorporating a platform offering views over the Solway coast. Plans by a London businessman to turn it into a nightclub were rejected by local councillors, and in September last year the red sandstone structure was given Grade II listed building status – it being of both architectural and historic interest.

The church opened in 1872 and was variously known as the New Church, the Free Church and the Mission Church, before being established as Christ Church in 1879. Even so, at times it was referred to as the Sailors' or Mariners' Church because of its harbourside location and its spire being a distinctive landmark for shipping on the Solway.

The church features in several paintings by L.S. Lowry, who became a regular visitor to the town after meeting Aspatria-born artist Sheila Fell. Fell's painting, 'Maryport', which features Christ Church and the harbour, was bought by the Tate Gallery in 1965. Local artist Percy Kelly painted 'From the Settlement' from a similar viewpoint.

As well as all the other proposals to capitalise on Maryport's unique heritage, the planned cultural programme made a very successful start with the Taste of the Sea Festival in August. Hosting major attractions has never been a problem for Maryport – from two performances drawing crowds of over 15,000 in 1904 to see Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show near Camp Road, through to top sixties pop stars like Manfred Mann and The Hollies playing the Palace Ballroom. And then the many famous acts performing at the Blues Festival. Who would ever have thought we would see Chuck Berry duck-walking in Maryport?

By Tom Little

Left Image courtesy of Liz Percival



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MARY PORT: Being Thankful

As I was writing this column, I received a call from the Dales to let me know that my great aunt was probably looking at her "end of life" scenario and they felt that, if we could pass a lateral flow test and follow strict protocols, it was important that we spend some time with her.



I realise how lucky we were; that many families have had that kind of phone call from the care home in the last 18 months and not been allowed to go in. And mindful that this edition is all about thankfulness, I want to be thankful for her being such a huge part of my life.

Born in 1926, she grew up in a world before the welfare state. She knew about what plants to pick from walks down the beck and how to turn them into delicious accompaniments. She went foraging for wild berries every year right up to her 90s when we were begging her not to. She made jams, chutneys and biscuits for everyone we knew. She knew how to feed a family on fresh air.

She lived through WW2, grew up with evacuees and stayed in touch with them for decades after they returned home. She worked as a machinist in shoe factories, was active in the local Methodist Chapel and nursed her husband through cancer. When I grew up and moved away to university, she made me a sewing box from a large ice cream tub. I still use it today. She wrote to me regularly and she stored my favourite teddy bear, Betsy, away in her wardrobe.

When I returned home, years later, with my daughter, Betsy was reinstated as the beloved bedtime companion and still has pride of place in my, now teenage girl's bedroom. My daughter benefitted from being collected from school by my aunt, who enjoyed the school gate chatter with other Mums far more than I ever could.

She was a connection to another age, to generations past, a reminder of the importance of family and community, a source of laughter and joy and love. In short, she was an anchor in my life, a reminder of where I came from and what was important. In a world where extended family is increasingly rare, I am enormously thankful for her presence in our lives for so long.

Mary Port



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SEA CADETS' SUCCESS

At the North West Area Sea Cadet Regatta in September near Liverpool, five Maryport Solway Sea cadets won medals in their respective events. This was a direct result of their dedication as they returned to the water post-lockdown, as well as the financial support from the local community, ensuring the Unit could open safely with new equipment. A huge thanks to the Maryport community (via Allerdale and Lakeland lottery), Maryport Round Table, Maryport Rotary and Dobies Charitable Trust for their donations and funding. On behalf of the cadets and all at TS Caesar, thank you for investing in the Cadets' future waterborne learning, adventure, physical and mental health.

Results from the NW Regatta: Matthew won Silver in the Pico class; Abbey and Jin won Gold in the Quest class; Zak won silver in the Zest class and Joseph won Bronze in the Pico class.



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POETRY BOOK LAUNCH

Maryport poet Kelly Davis has joined forces with Kendal poet Kerry Darbishire to write a poetry collection called *Glory Days*, on the theme of motherhood. The book pays tribute to Kelly and Kerry's remarkable mothers, as well as exploring their own experiences. *Glory Days* is being published by Grey Hen Press and will be launched at Studio Pixel, 52 Senhouse Street, on Sunday 21st November at 1.30pm. The event is free entry and open to all. Kelly and Kerry will read some of their poems. Signed copies of the book (priced £4) will be available. Come and enjoy delicious hot drinks and home-baked cookies while listening to some inspiring poetry. See www.kellydavis.co.uk/ for further details.



POETRY CORNER with Kelly Davis

Grateful

Inspired by 'For Tess' by Raymond Carver

And you might be rinsing a glass
or tasting a mouthful of scrambled egg
or walking a familiar path,
you might hear a blackbird's song
or just the wind in the trees –
and remember.

And you might get caught in torrential rain
with the cold soaking through your jeans,
you might get home and peel them off
and feel half-dead until
your flesh tingles back to life –
and remember.

And the phone might keep ringing
but it's only cold callers
and you get distracted and
the day's vanished –
and you remember

you're both still here
on this Earth
together.

Kelly Davis lives in Maryport, West Cumbria, and works as a freelance editor.
www.kellydavis.co.uk

LOWRYMANIA HITS TOWN

Last year Sotheby's London auction of a Lowry Christchurch sketch sparked national media interest in Maryport. This prompted Netherton Head Lynn Millington to organise a Lowry schools' project with artist John Mcnamee. The wonderful work has been displayed in local shop windows. Maryport Town Council are keen to look at signage for a Lowry Art Trail and are reprinting the Lowry Shipping Brow postcard once singled out for praise by writer Hunter Davies in his Cumbria Life Magazine column.



Our local Castle Hill History group was delighted to welcome a guest speaker in September with a Lowry connection. Gaynor Arrowsmith, great niece of Geoffrey Bennett, was in Maryport to research her relative's friendship with the artist LS Lowry. The two met in Manchester when Lowry visited his cousin who worked in the same bank as Mr Bennett. Geoffrey was appointed as bank manager in Maryport in 1953 and Lowry's visit resulted in a number of pictures of Maryport including the Shipping Brow image.

Geoffrey's wife Alice was an active community member of St Marys Church as well as a local councillor on the local Urban District Council. She was a fine mezzo-soprano singer and gave a concert in 1955 at the Settlement in aid of an elderly residential home.

If you would like more details about the Castle Hill Local History group please contact David Malcom davidj.malcolm@btpenworld.com and if you have any information about Mr and Mrs Bennett's time in Maryport please let David know.

OPEN STUDIO SUCCESS

Well done to artist Jackie Ostle, who took part in the Open Studios & Art Trail event in September, organised by Eden Valley Artistic Network. Jackie exhibited at The Settlement, representing Maryport and firmly getting it on the map!



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FESTIVAL SUCCESS

HUG A MUG and Maryport Matters had a great time out and about at the Taste of the Sea festival. This is what event organisers, Allerdale Borough Council had to say...

"Thanks to the people of Maryport for supporting Taste Cumbria – Taste of The Sea Festival.

Our Audience Survey reported that over 90% of visitors rated the event very good or good. The majority of people gave positive feedback, saying it was great to see the town busy, that they want to see more events, and that it had made them stay longer in town. We had some very happy vendors too.

The total economic impact is estimated at around half a million pounds to the local economy. Return on investment (ROI) is calculated at £11.11, so for each pound invested over £11 was generated for the local economy, which is really impressive for an inaugural event.

Between now and April 2024, over £14m will be spent on 12 schemes. We are working in partnership with BEC to convert the former Carlton Cinema into a Community Hub. Other plans include an upgrade of the Heron Foods Store and improvements for key buildings on Crosby Street, the Maryport Maritime Museum is to be relocated to the former Christchurch and the former museum building will be turned into an art gallery. More heritage events are happening soon."



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