

GREYSOUTHEN GOSSIP

**YOUR WINDOW ON GREYSOUTHEN VILLAGE,
PARISH NEWS AND LOCAL EVENTS**

GREYSOUTHEN VILLAGE SHOW & FAMILY FUN DAY SCHEDULE

AUG 31ST

08:00- 10am	Exhibitor drop off and traders set up only.
10-11am	Judging of Exhibits
11am	Opening of the Stalls & attractions to the public
12.00 Noon	Official show opening followed by BBQ and Live Music from Jackson Jane
12.30 -2pm	TUG OF WAR Demonstration from Greysouthen Young Farmers.
2.40pm- 3pm	Display/ Demonstration TBC
3- 3.30pm	Infamous RAFFLE
3.30pm-4pm	Display/Demonstration TBC
4 -5pm	Infamous RAFFLE Continues
5pm-Late	Music & Bar

MORE INFO
Facebook:-
Greysouthen
.Online

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO GET INVOLVED AND HELP VOLUNTEER
ON THE DAY PLEASE MESSAGE OUR FACEBOOK PAGE OR EMAIL
HANNAH_MCC@HOTMAIL.CO.UK

2024 SHOW CLASSES - 50P PER EXHIBIT**GROW YOUR OWN**

3 Onions
4 different herbs in a vase.
3 Potatoes
3 tomatoes
1 Cucumber
Collection of 3 different vegetables

FLOWERS

4 Flowers one colour in a Vase

3 Spikes of Sweet Peas

3 Dahlias

An arrangement in a cup and saucer

What! No flowers- An arrangement of Greenery incl Weeds

PRODUCE

A jar of Jam any variety
A Jar of Chutney or relish
3 Shortbread biscuits
3 Cupcakes
Your favourite Cake (Include a copy of your recipe)
A savory Flan/ Quiche

HANDICRAFTS

Knitted or Crochet Item
A piece of hand needlecraft (e.g. embroidery,
patchwork, cross-stitch, tapestry, quilting)
Something I made
Stuffed Toy

UNDER 5S

Flowers in an egg cup

Model with a title

Painted Pebble

A sticker picture

5-9 YEARS

A decorated Jam jar

4 Crispy Cakes on a plate

An Animal made from fruit, vegetables, nuts and seeds

10 YEARS AND OVER

3 Pieces of your favourite cake

Design a poster for our 2025 Show

Arrangement of flowers or weeds in a mug

PHOTOGRAPHY

Snow day

Wildlife

"Having Fun"

Northern Lights

MEN ONLY

A lemon drizzle cake

A limerick starting with the line "Our village is one on its own...."

Latest News From The Village Hall:

The trustees of the village hall continue to focus on the feasibility and future upgrade that the hall requires. This has involved visits to others halls in the county to look at and consider heating and insulation options.

In mid-June we were delighted to welcome the owners of the hall, the Harris family, their first visit for many years.

For those new to the village, the Harris family owned much of the land and mineral rights (coal mines) in the village in the 19th Century. They left the village in the 1950s, moving to the Brackenburgh estate near Penrith, leasing the village hall to the trustees. Together we spent some time discussing the lease and the management of the hall before walking around the village where as children they lived in the Mansion House, as the Family Coat of Arms on the two stained glass windows show. They were impressed by the village and from their online research (website and Facebook) were aware of the strong sense of community within the village from all the activities that take place. We have been assured they will visit again in the future.

Thanks must go to those people who joined us for the Bourbon Tasting and Fish and Chip supper, showing support for the hall and our chosen charity, West Cumbria Hospice at Home.

Finally, plans are well underway for the village Show on 31st August (weather permitting). Please support the event in whatever way you can. Between now and then I feel sure the events team will be requesting help, as well as raffle and tombola prizes, and will keep you informed of the plans for the day.

Village Hall Trustees.

TO MAKE A BOOKING VISIT THE GREYSOUTHEN WEBSITE OR OUR FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM PAGES.

Parish Council Updates:

A number of villagers have asked who the current members of the Parish Council are and where the minutes of our meetings can be found.

The minutes are at: <https://greysouthenparishcouncil.wordpress.com/>

The PC membership list is at: <https://greysouthenparishcouncil.wordpress.com/about/>

On the X4/X5 route change:

The meeting with Stagecoach on June 14th - attended by members of the Bridgefoot, Brigham and Greysouthen Parish Councils, along with our Cumberland Councillor Andrew Semple - did not result in any changes. The company were unable to agree to diverting the X4 through the villages along the same route as the X5 because of the extra time the righthand turn back onto the A66 would add to the schedule. They indicated that this would require the addition of a ninth bus onto the route at an annual cost of £200,000, a sum the additional passenger numbers would not cover. Subsequently, we have been able to counter Stagecoach's argument using their own timetables, which provide enough of a window to accommodate the extra time required, especially as it would only be incurred on the west-to-east leg of the route. However, further email conversations with their Area Manager for Cumbria and North Lancashire, Tom Waterhouse, have only elucidated an assurance that the company will review the route in the future. Hopefully, this will be in the autumn, when the timetable is set to change yet again. If not, at that point, we will consider how to progress the matter further, possibly by highlighting the issue with the local print media.

On the playing field funding:

Our application to the Copeland Community Fund was successful and we have been awarded almost £38,000 to purchase some new equipment. This will allow us to add three new pieces of kit to the inventory: a spiro-whirl roundabout, a crusader swing, and a 30m-long cable runway. Photos of the three additions, along with a site map showing where these will likely be installed on the field, can be found on the pages that follow.

The positions of the three new pieces of kit are provisional, but they would fit onto the site without disrupting any of the existing features such as the running track, or the netball and football pitches. Also, the cable runway has been sited as far away from the houses backing onto the field as possible to minimise any potential noise from those using the equipment and it will be orientated so the run is north to south - towards the football goal post at its foot. As the photograph on page 4 shows, the cable runway can in no way be compared to the commercial zip wire installation at Honister Pass, nor the one currently being proposed for Elterwater Quarry. Moreover, to allay any such concerns even further, a photo of the cable runway installed in the children's play area at Fitz Park, Keswick, has also been included on page 5. This is not identical with the one made by Wicksteed, but it should give you a better idea of what our one will look like and calm any genuine safety issue worries about the children falling off and injuring themselves, as they will never be more than a metre off the ground and "safety grass" matting will be installed along the entire length of the run (as it will beneath the crusader swing).

Additional photographs, diagrams and the specification sheets for each of the three playground additions can be found on the Wicksteed website at the addresses below, and there will be an open meeting to discuss the project in the Village Hall on Friday, September 6th, at 6.00pm.

The Spiro-Whirl Roundabout at:

<https://www.wicksteed.co.uk/products/playground-essentials/roundabouts/spiro-whirl-roundabout>

The Crusader Swing at:

<https://www.wicksteed.co.uk/products/playground-essentials/swings/crusader-rope-end-swing>

The Cable Runway at:

<https://www.wicksteed.co.uk/products/playground-essentials/slides-and-cable-rides/steel-cableways>

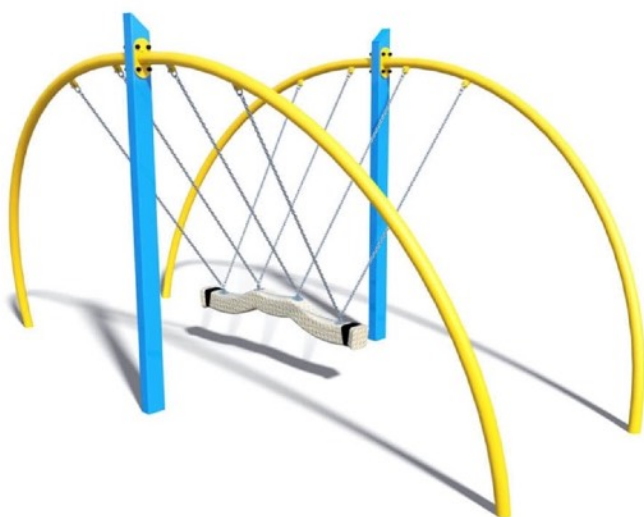


**Funded by
UK Government**





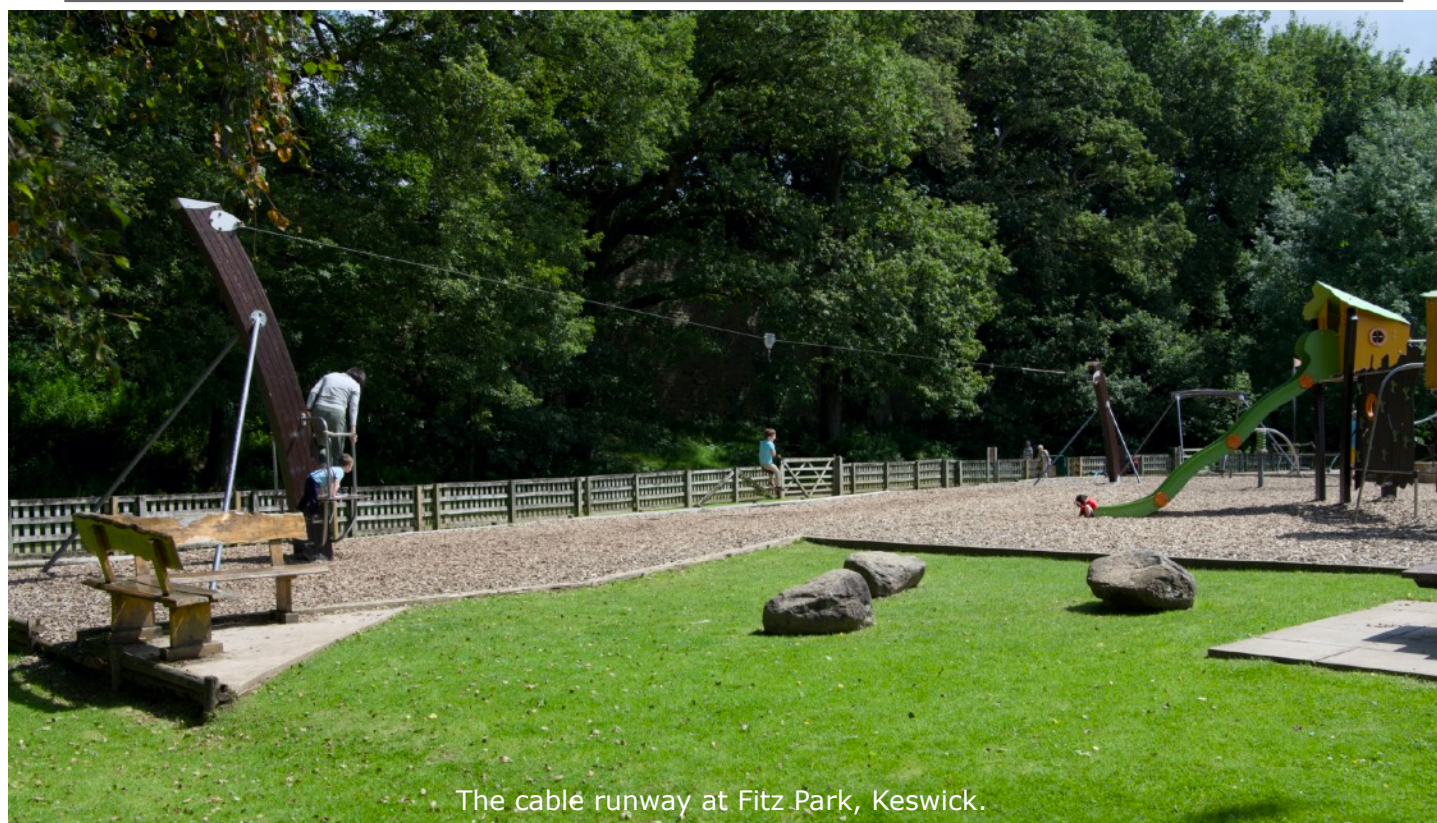
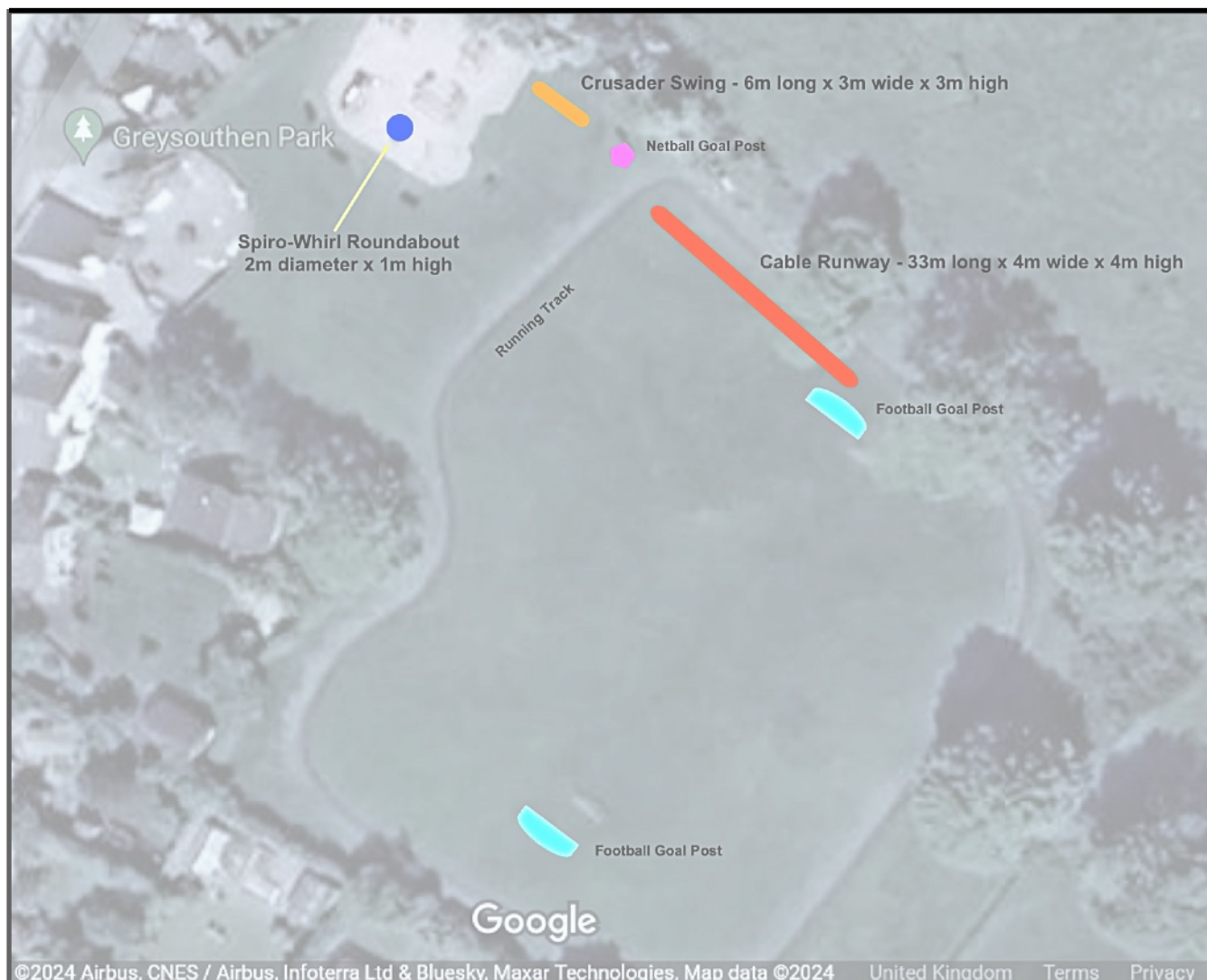
The Siro-Whirl Roundabout.



The Crusader Swing.



The 30m-long Cable Runway.



Greysouthen Climate Action Group:

A solar panel case study:

A little over a week ago we had solar panels installed on our roof and turned on... 'commissioned' being the correct terminology 😊. In that first week, it has been all we can manage to limit how often we check the app that tells us how much we've generated, how much we've used, how much we've exported to the grid and what percentage charge the battery is.

There are many reasons why we decided to go for this.

There was a sense of doing a bit for CO2 reduction. We're not the greenest of people, but we do try, and CO2 reduction does play a part in our decision making, be it food, travel or other areas of daily life. There was also a very real sense of investing now, to guard against energy price rises in the future. Recently we've seen a lowering of the energy rates, but that cannot be guaranteed long term. Also, over the 25-year period our panels are guaranteed for, we can expect to save much more than our initial outlay. Payback is estimated at around 10 years, but does vary somewhat based on usage and other factors.

I mentioned batteries a moment ago. We have two installed. They charge when the sun shines and discharge when our usage exceeds generation. It was extra cost, but it seemed a no-brainer – the amount we can expect to receive by exporting to the grid is far lower than the amount we pay for getting energy from the grid, so any energy coming from the battery is a saving.

So, what are we seeing on the app?

Well, since go-live, 97% of our electricity has come from the panels, either directly or via the batteries that charge up when generation exceeds demand. We've generated almost 200kWh, of which just under half has been exported to the grid. The weather is great as I write this, but it hasn't been all week, yet we are in the summer, so that 97% self sufficiency will take a hit as we go into the darker months.

Solar panels are not an option for everyone, but there are other approaches out there. I'd be interested to hear what others are doing or thinking of doing with the climate in mind. It might be food, travel or energy related or something completely different. Please get in touch via the Gossip to let me know.

Andy Procter.

Village Memories:



Having lived in the bland and busy outskirts of London until my 50s, to me, our lovely village resonates with a calm and contented sense of its own past. Its quirky cottages are quietly nurtured and obviously valued gateways to a previous era, enabling its residents to live in tune with the past in today's frantic world.

Central to the village is The Mansion, the somewhat ostentatiously named residence built in 1805 by the mine-owning Harris family. They also owned many of the surrounding cottages, where their employees lived. Now divided into 5 separate dwellings, The Mansion's original symbolic representation of 19th century class divisions has subsided. It does not dominate or overshadow Greysouthen; it merges with it: Georgian, Victorian and 20th Century homes melded into a comfortable whole.

Whilst it would be fascinating to delve into the 19th Century lives that shaped our village, sadly such insights are unavailable to us now. The best we can do is to seek current residents' earliest memories and celebrate them so that at least our recent past can remain with us.

Ann Donaldson and Gladys Neen have lived in the village all their lives and have vivid memories of the village in the 60s.

"A lot of the villagers worked in the Mansion" says Ann. "The houses opposite, like Barn Cottage, used to be where the tools, carts and barrows used for repairs in the cottages were kept. And there was a wonderful market garden in the grounds, before all those big houses were built. The guy that ran it, Mr. Cheeseborough, lived in The Lodge. We all bought our fruit and veg from his horse drawn cart".

Ann and Gladys both went to the village school, now a private dwelling - The Old School House on the Eaglesfield Rd. "It had two classrooms, an infants room and a bigger room for the older children. There were 3 teachers and about 30 or 40 kids altogether - all from the village or outlying farms. Some of them walked a couple of miles to get to the school. One of the teachers, Mrs Ostle, lived in the village as well - in the bungalow on the corner of the Eaglesfield Rd."

Ann turns to Gladys. "And then did we have a Miss Watson?"

Gladys nods. "And Mr. Hebson - he lived in the School House - next to the village hall. It's got a blue barn door now. He was Headmaster for years and years. There were 3 headmasters in total at the school. I remember also that we used to run/walk to Hardy Gate (near Bridgefoot) to get the bus to Workington to go swimming and then bus back home. Everybody knew everyone else - and the parents too. We grew up together".

Ann continues with a smile. "I also recall that my dad could have bought 26 Main St - for £100! He said it was daylight robbery! £100!! So that's when we got a council house in Went Meadows. That's also when I got my first bathroom - at 20 Went Meadows! I was 17. Cos before, we'd just had a tin bath from the washhouse!"



The western aspect of The Mansion.

That old washhouse, which once provided hot water for laundry and bathing for the village, still stands at the bottom of Chapel Terrace, sturdy, well maintained and in daily use as a workshop.

"There was a set pot in the washhouse" explains Gladys. "That's a thing that you filled with water and put a fire underneath to heat the water for your bath" She laughs. "I'd be married, I'd be 21 before I had a bathroom!"

"We had a village carnival too," continues Ann. "The floats used to be paraded through the village. We all used to stand there waiting to be picked as carnival queen! We used to do village pantomimes too. At one time there was an old folks afternoon tea, up above the pub, The Punch Bowl, where Went House Court is now. There used to be a big hall where the flats now are – called The Albert Hall, where the old folks went for tea. Then there would be a concert and then a dance. It went on till midnight. There were young farmers dances too. It was said that it had the best sprung floor for dancing in the area!"

"I also recall that the houses on Main St didn't have numbers, and there were a few families in the village with the same name" says Ann. "Someone had a fairly big win on the pools, but another family with the same name got the cheque! They moved out of the village soon after. That's how we got numbers on Main St!" Ann and Gladys both laugh.

A little later, in 1971, Joan Postlethwaite, long-time doyenne of the Parish Council and an ex local estate agent, moved into the village as a newly married young woman. By then the Harrises had sold The Mansion (1965) to a Mr and Mrs Cribb and moved to Penrith.

"Agriculture was still central to village life then" says Joan. "Farms came right up to Main St, where Fletcher's Croft now is, for example, and where the new terraces are. There was open countryside past the Tattie House. Allison's Farm was where Barnyard Court is now. They used to walk their cattle up Main St to be milked twice every day. The road was constantly splattered!

"Once the cows got through my driveway gate (which was there then) and ate all my plants. I was not amused!



The Village Shop



The Punch Bowl Inn

The Post Office



"There was very little traffic through the village, but we had three buses per day" says Joan. "We had a shop at what is now 5 Main St and a Co-Op at 37. There was a driveway at 37 with a building at the back, where Eldred Atkinson used to butcher his meat. He used to drive around the village on a Saturday night and everybody bought their Sunday dinner joint off him. He was a character! He used to say that he knew where to park his van when it hit the wall! There were lots of travelling shops at that time, Billy Bowman who had the music shop in Cockermouth and who sadly recently died, used to come in with his mobile grocery shop – and there was a fish van – and an ice-cream van can round regularly. You didn't need to go out of the village at all really.

"In the summer, we used to run the fund raising Strawberry Fete in the Mansion Gardens," Joan continues. "People came from all over Cockermouth for the deserts that were sold – they were superb. And people wanted to see the Mansion. I said that to Mrs Cribb and she said, "Well, show them round, Joan!" So, I said to myself "OK, now I'm running a trip on foot round The Mansion! I showed them the wonderful big entrance hall with all the bells on the wall and big doors out into the garden. There was a library on the left and a huge, big kitchen off to the right. The money rolled in!"

Of the wealthy Harrises, Joan reports, "they owned most of the village at one time. They donated the playing field to the village. When cottages they owned became vacant they were sold off. I was an estate agent and handled many of those sales. Because of the mining history in this area, many surveyors would insist on mining reports in great detail, in case of subsidence. But I don't remember there every being any problems of that sort.

"Mr and Mrs Cribb were very generous towards the village, opening up the grounds for fetes and children's parties" continues Joan. "Mr Cribb used to say that there were 200 varieties of daffodil growing in the grounds, there were thousands of them. He let us pick them and bundle them up into bunches to sell in Cockermouth for charity."

But the Cribbs eventually found the upkeep of the Mansion too much for them. "They sold it to a builder who subsequently also bought the pub, which was the social hub of the village, to convert into flats," says Joan. "The two bottom floor flats were made for the Cribbs and their son. I think the same builder also did the work on The Mansion – you know, dividing it up into the five separate dwellings that it now is. And various plots in the large grounds were sold off for new houses."

Another significant change was the closure of the school.

"We were sad about it – because I don't think the children were ready to move on to bigger schools where they didn't know anyone," says Gladys. "They were village kids, they all looked out for one another. They knew they could go anywhere in the village and be with other children that they knew. The parents all know each other too, so if there were any problems, someone broke a window, say, the parents would talk to each other and sort it out. There were very few problems. We could go out and leave our front doors open – when I lived with mum and dad, I don't ever remember our front door being locked."

"The village seemed to be more community oriented then" Ann continues. "In my grandmother's time there was chapel every Sunday night (at the top of Chapel Terrace; it's a house now). That's where the older people met, at the chapel. And the fellas met at the pub and the kids met at the school. But now we have neither chapel, pub nor school."

But change is cyclical, and life goes on.

"There was an influx of newlyweds and I remember that village life was very lively in the 70s" says Joan. "A few of us had babies at around the same time and we used to push prams round The Moor together every morning. It helped to get the babies to sleep and gave us some exercise. There were lots of children, so we ran a play school and a youth club in the Village Hall on Friday nights. We used to go down to the Cash and Carry to get crisps and lemonade. We played badminton with the youth club members and a club was started. The Women's Institute had a rounders team and a darts team – so we weren't fuddy-duddy old ladies just baking cakes! We took it in turns to run the play school so the kids could all mingle before they went to Paddle School."

There is pride in Joan's voice.

"And now we're retired and still living here" concludes Ann with a small sigh. "We built this bungalow on the plot where the Quaker Meeting House was. It was derelict and wanted a new roof. The fella that owned it lived on the Dean Rd and we bought it off him. But we could only build where the actual building was – the graveyard had to be grass. The earliest grave would have been about 100 years old. We had to bury the headstones where the graves were and then make the garden on top."

The mood among us now is part solemn and respectful and part whimsical.

I survey the pretty, well cared-for garden with new eyes. It's like a comforting blanket protecting those ancient Greysouthen graves.

Change is indeed cyclical, and life does go on, with the memories of each generation binding securely to what has gone before.

Gwenda Ward, Oct 2023.



Main Street (looking south)



Main Street (looking towards Town End)

Greysouthen c. 1965 - photos from the Women's Institute Historical Village Records, maintained by Janette Pollitt and Carol Elliott.

Town End



PADDLE SCHOOL SUMMER HOLIDAY CLUB

When

Monday - Friday
8.30am - 4.00pm
29th July - 23rd August
£30 per child per day

Address

Eaglesfield Paddle School
Eaglesfield
Cockermouth
CA13 0QY

Activities

Arts & crafts, outdoor activities, sports & games

Contact Us

holidayclub@eaglesfieldpaddle.cumbria.sch.uk