



KESWICK TOWN COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

2014/15

Welcome to the Town Council's Annual Report for 2014/15

This report gives information about the Town Council, the money it spends and the activities it carries out and also includes reports from Council representatives on voluntary organisations in the town.

A complete list of all Town Councillors is included on the next page of the report, where you will also find details of how to contact them.

**Catherine Howe
Administration & Finance Officer
April 2015**

Contact Details

YOU CAN CONTACT YOUR COUNCILLORS DIRECT OR VIA

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The offices are normally open as follows: -

Monday to Friday
9.30am –1.00pm

Cllr David S Burn	The Bungalow, Ashtree Avenue, Keswick, CA12 5PF	017687 80371
Cllr R Martin Jordan	Braeside, The Heads, Keswick CA12 5ER	017687 71249
Cllr Denstone Kemp	1 Vicarage Hill, Keswick CA12 5QB	017687 73490
Cllr Susan Leighton	5 Ratcliffe Place, Keswick, CA12 4DZ	017687 75195
Cllr Andrew Lysser	Apartment 2, Gatesgarth, Braithwaite CA12 5RY	017687 78833
Cllr Tony Lywood	Shu-Le-Crow, 7 Penrith Road, Keswick, CA12 4HF	017687 75253
Cllr D Miller	Linthwaite, Manor Brow, Keswick CA12 4AP	017687 72295
Cllr M Pugmire	6 Brandlehow Crescent, Keswick CA12 4JE	017687 73409
Cllr Keith M G Taylor	29 Castlehead Close, Keswick, CA12 4DJ	017687 73908
Cllr Lorraine Taylor	Glamara, Halls Mead, Keswick CA12 4BE	017687 72034
Cllr Paul Titley	West View Guest House, The Heads, Keswick, CA12 5ES	017687 73638

THE COUNCIL

The Town Council consists of 12 voluntary Councillors who receive no remuneration. They are appointed through election or co-option and can serve for a period of up to four years before having to be re-elected. The Town Council is the sole trustee for both Hope and Fitz Parks and the Townsfield Charitable Trusts.

The Council employs one full time and two part time members of staff (in addition to five gardening and maintenance staff employed in Keswick parks):

Mrs Lynda Walker, Town Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer
Miss Catherine Howe, Administration and Finance Officer
Mrs Wendy Lerigo, Administration & Finance Assistant

The Council meets 12 times per year, normally on the third Thursday of each month and holds its Annual Meeting during May. It also meets separately in its capacity as Trustee of the Hope Park, Fitz Park and Townsfield Charitable Trusts 6 times per year with an Annual Trust meeting, also during May. All meetings are advertised on the Council's website www.keswicktowncouncil.gov.uk and on the noticeboard situated at the front of the Council offices.

The public are welcome to attend meetings and to ask questions or make comments during the public forum.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2014-15

Councillor Lorraine Taylor – Town Mayor

This has been a year of highs and lows for the town council. The sad loss of Cllr David Etherden and three former Mayors of the Town, Maysie McCambridge, Stephen Hogarth and Mavis Clark, who all worked hard for the benefit of the town and will be missed by many.

Keswick Town Council continues to work with local authorities on issues such as parking, improvements of the toilet facilities and the general town centre management. The poor condition of the Toilets continues to be of concern and receives complaints from both residents and visitors in the town, work continues with Allerdale to look at ways to improve these facilities. There are concerns about future services delivered by our Borough and County authorities in view of budget cuts and how this will effect the Town and the council will continue to see that Keswick gets the services it needs.

Due to the success of the Christmas Lights Switch-on, Scruffs and the Keswick Festival, an Events group has been formed to deliver local events alongside the long established festivals and events taking place in Keswick each year, which attract many visitors to the town. Keswick's popularity and nationwide recognition has resulted in the Town been voted the Best Large Outdoor Market in the UK, the No.1 friendliest place to live and 1st place in the National Dog Friendly Town award.

A good summer has brought many visitors to Keswick, which continues to offer a variety of activities making it a leading destination in the Lake District. Keswick Tourism Association does an excellent job of promoting events, accommodation and activities and highlights what's on offer in and around the Keswick area. There continues to be investment in new and old attractions in the town, the completion of a major refurbishment of Keswick Museum and Art Gallery, with its award winning Cafe West provide a first class facility for exhibitions and has added to the attractions in the Fitz Park area. Work has now started on the former Tea Gardens and is due open later in the year. Behind the scenes Keswick benefits from the work of the Keswick in Bloom volunteers, making the town look attractive with floral displays and encourage residents and businesses to bring colour to outdoor spaces.

2014 marked the 100 year anniversary of the start of the First World War and a number of events have been held through the year to show our gratitude and respect for those who fought, many giving their life, for their country. Particularly moving was the Remembrance Service at the Cenotaph with the local school children taking part, thank you to all those involved in the organisation and participation of this event.

Superfast broad band went live in Keswick July 2014, this technology is an essential for attracting new businesses that will bring diversity to our town and allow our established businesses to compete in a broader market. The way we use the Internet in our homes has also changed with more smart devices and on-demand TV viewing.

So far the take up has only been 10% in the town, which is very low and Connecting Cumbria will.

Affordable housing continues to be a focus for the Town Council. The completion of Greta Gardens over 55's development will provide 69 apartments for rent and purchase in full or part share. There have been concerns raised by the council over the affordability of the scheme, but the extra care facilities are much needed for the town. An asset transfer by Allerdale Borough Council of the former toilet block at Banks Court to Keswick Community Housing Trust for £1, allows an affordable development of 4 one bed flats to go ahead, to be completed late August. The new development at Calvert Way to provide 45 affordable homes and 10 with local occupancy clauses, will be the biggest development in recent years in Keswick. This will be a joint venture between Impact HA, KCHT and Atkinson's Building Contractors Ltd. These homes will greatly reduce the housing need in Keswick.

The setting up of a Keswick branch of Allerdale Credit Union by volunteers offers an alternative to high interest Pay Day loans and thanks to the sponsorship by Keswick Bikes and match funding by the Friends of St Herbert's School, a saving scheme has been set up for 190 pupils of St Herbert's School. This is just one example of a number of community led schemes that have a positive impact on Keswick, we are fortunate that we live in a town with a strong community spirit.

CHARITABLE TRUST CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2014-15

Councillor Martin Pugmire – Trust Chairman

This has been a year of financial stability, not hurt by some decent weather. The arrangements whereby the Town Council is hands-off with regard to refreshments and games provision in the parks has operated well.

The Café West in Lower Fitz has come into operation for the first time, and with notable success. The children's play area and the all-weather sports provision are now complemented by the café and toilet provision provided by the redeveloped museum. Having both parks served by successful cafes provides an encouraging and stable model for the future. All this seems to be working really well, and is increasing numbers using Fitz.

Indeed, both Fitz Parks are being used well, even in winter. The new BMX track is in full operation, and sports areas are being used well. It is good to see the all-weather provision being used so much during the school holidays.

It is believed that financial support to Fitz Park offered by Allerdale to assist in provision of maintenance costs will continue an arrangement that in part reflects the fact that Keswick runs its own parks, while other towns in Allerdale do not. However, an election is imminent and certainty must await the new administration at Allerdale, however composed.

As regards the garden provision and general upkeep of the parks, the staff must be complemented. Frequent comments are made about the quality of the gardening displays, especially in the formal gardens off Lake Road. Visitors really do appreciate the quality of the experience offered by our gardens. Many thanks are due to the Parks Manager and his staff.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Catherine Howe – Administration & Finance Officer

GENERAL FUND SUMMARY

1st April 2014 – 31st March 2015

Expenditure

	£
General Administration (inc salaries)	57,029
Mayors Allowance	2,000
Grants awarded	15,000
Christmas Lights	20,000
War Memorial	1,325
Townsfeld	1,021
Open Spaces	1,000
Fitz Park	90,265
Floral Displays	6,592
Town Celebrations	7,038
Allotments	496
Advertising	235
Audit fee	1,600
Youth Citizenship Projects	500
Contribution to Local Housing	6,602
Total	210,703

Income

	£
Precept and grants from Allerdale BC	223,422
Interest	79
Rent	11,000
Event banner advertising space	1,521
Allotment income	600
Town Events Income	4,889
Market Town & Christmas lights contributions	10,300
Total	251,811

NB: Figures quoted are subject to prepayment/accruals adjustments and audit.

Interested parties and local electors are able to exercise their right to inspect the financial records before the annual audit takes place. The records will be made available from 22 June to 17 July 2015 for this purpose.

GRANTS

Each year the Town Council makes financial contributions to local organisations which provide valuable services that bring benefit to the local community. Grants were made to the following organisations during 2014/15:

Cumbria SPAA Foundation (Allerdale PARCS Scheme)	75
Citizens Advice Bureau Keswick	500
The Great North Air Ambulance	954
Greta Preschool	500
Keswick Carer's Forum	276
Keswick Cricket Club	500
Keswick In Bloom	3000
Keswick Museum & Art Gallery Management Ltd	1000
1st Keswick Scout Group	1500
Keswick & District Voluntary Car Scheme	300
Keswick Tourism Association	750
Keswick Youth Club	1745
St Johns Ambulance	400
Theatre by the Lake	3500
Total	15000

The Council also made a financial contribution of £8,000 to Keswick Community Housing Trust as a contribution to Local Housing.

REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

The Council appoints members as representatives on various outside bodies. This helps to ensure good working relationships with local organisations. The following reports have been submitted by the nominated representatives.

CUMBRIA THEATRE TRUST

Council Representative – Councillor Martin Pugmire

The Theatre by the Lake's trust receives a small proportion of its income from the Arts Council, and though also given much appreciated financial support by this council it relies on its box-office receipts, combined with charitable giving by individuals, to provide a high proportion of its necessary income. 2014-15 was the last full financial year before the redevelopment of the Lakeside Cafe site begins to bring in its income, which is expected to make a significant difference to the financial situation. Due in large measure to the recession, the result has been a year of some belt-tightening. However, the Christmas 2014 show was a financial success, and of course the Tea-gardens site will come into use in autumn 2015.

Much has been achieved in non-financial terms. The work with young people and on the Coast went well, and the touring of a small scale production last Easter was a great artistic success, hopefully to be repeated with this year's equivalent. Several productions have won very considerable praise. It would be fair to say that the financial future is under firm control, and the artistic achievement very considerable.

In the opinion of your appointee on the Theatre's Board, the organisation is run in a strikingly professional way, by a dedicated team.

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE JOINT MANAGEMENT ADVISORY GROUP

Council Representative – Councillor Martin Jordan

Below is a summary report from the Tourist Information Centre at Keswick.

Visitor Numbers	289,899
Accommodation bookings	£80,000 for local businesses

A tough year for the centre with the National Park restructuring. Although there were some hiccoughs after October when the centre was closed for a day the National Park remain committed to having an Information Centre in Keswick. We have been able to recruit three new team members; Alexander Black, Christine Green and Barbara Greenwood and with the return of some familiar faces as casuals we have been able to keep the centre open. We are currently recruiting more staff

for the summer season and have several applications for this. We will continue to deliver all the services that we have in the past and as far as we understand we are in the Moot Hall until 2026.

We hope to develop closer working relationships with our partners including Keswick Town Council in the future. Andrew Robbins, Keswick Tourist Information, would like to thank Keswick Town Council for the support they have shown to Keswick TIC.

KESWICK TOURISM ASSOCIATION

Council Representative – Councillor Duncan Miller

I would advise that Judy Sharpe of Amble House Guest House has now been appointed the new Chair of KTA. Judy who runs Amble House with her husband Richard has been a member of KTA for the past 18 years. She leads a twelve strong Board of Directors which include the recently appointed Gnash Baxter from the King Kong Climbing Centre and Sue Mackay, curator of Keswick Museum.

KTA's website has had a recent upgrade and is brighter, bigger and more bookable than ever before. A most important feature of this development is that it is 'responsive' to and functions equally as well on tablets and mobiles. The new site is far more precise and detailed in its search results which can only be good for the prospective customer. www.keswick.org is already receiving almost 70,000 sessions per month – sessions that Big Cumbria called 'phenomenal'.

KTA has recently coordinated 'English Tourism Week' which had the purpose of encouraging local people to find out what adventure activities are available on their 'doorstep'.

Membership of KTA continues to be strong in all sectors of the tourism industry which is the envy of similar organisations throughout the country.

Linda Furniss, Tourism Manager reports that Keswick has featured on TV in each of the past four months. KTA works hard to maintain this profile which does not happen by chance. The power of the media can certainly prompt both new and old customers to book accommodation or day visit the area.

Finally I just wanted to emphasize that the role of the former JMAG (KTA, KTC, Allerdale B.C. and LDNPA) will continue at twice yearly meetings called by KTA in May and October. Please pass on any concerns regarding the TIC to myself so I can raise them at the said meetings.

I am delighted, as a former Chairman, that KTA continues to attract visitors to the area and creates such good P.R. through dedication and hard work.

KESWICK YOUTH CLUB

Council Representative – Councillor Lorraine Taylor

Keswick Youth Club were deeply saddened by the loss of two much respected trustees this year. Maysie McCambridge who along with her husband Tom started the Youth Club in 1948 moving to the Old Mill site in 1966. Maysie continued to be an active part of the committee until a few months before her death. The sudden death of David Etherden, secretary for the Youth Club, and who was working hard to take the Youth Club forward with plans for a possible joint venture to provide a purpose built facility and new home for the club. These plans were in the early stages of development and the Trustees have formed a working group to carry on this work.

The present situation on the sale of The Old Mill site is that an offer has been accepted and the sale is progressing subject to planning permission. With the completion of the sale of the site it is hoped to have a purposes built Youth Club building and through David's work with a benefactor who has a strong local connection with the town, funding of £10,000 have been made available for architects plans to be drawn up and support in writing a business plan to attract further funding. The plans for the new facilities will include a large activity area, a cafe type area for relaxing and smaller spaces for one to one support.

Throughout this time the Trustees have tried to maintain a regular Youth Club presence in the town by holding evenings in various venues. There has been a regular Tuesday night Youth Club at the Southey Street Methodist centre which Mark and Heather Stainton run with support from Phil Roberts and Young Cumbria. The work that these volunteer do with the young people in the town is invaluable providing a safe place for young people of Keswick to meet. The Trustees look forward to having a permanent new home for the club to meet the needs of the young people of Keswick.

KESWICK AND DISTRICT FAIR TRADE CAMPAIGN

Council Representative – Councillor Susan Leighton

Keswick and District Fair Trade Campaign has had another busy year. In April 2014 Tadesse Meskela, General Manager of the Oromia Coffee Farmers Cooperative Union in Ethiopia (in the UK for the London Coffee Festival) visited Keswick. Tadesse brought news that the crippling debt which the Coffee Cooperative incurred during the coffee crisis at the beginning of the last decade has been repaid to the bank. This was in the order of £250,000, an enormous sum for a poor community. This has only been possible through a massive increase in cooperative membership in recent years, as farmers are seeing the many benefits of joining, of which Fairtrade is one of the most important. Tadesse was full of praise

for the role of Keswick Rotarians, supported by the Fair Trade Campaign, in contributing to developments in Choche, through the micro-finance and coffee upgrading projects, and the donation of 30 computers for Choche's new high school. He also spoke of the growing confidence of the community in managing its own affairs.

In May the Campaign held their Annual General Meeting and in June their annual Strawberry Tea at Grange which raised £750 for the Campaign's funds. In September they had a tea and coffee stall at Keswick Agricultural Show and in December a stall at the Victorian Fayre.

In November, Campaign members Jill and Joe Human, together with John Howell (Rotary Club of Keswick) and Patricia his wife, spent time in Choche. They saw much development and considerable economic and social change since the first visit which Jill and Joe made in 2006. They believe that the contributions of Keswick Rotary, the Rotary Foundation and investments of the Fairtrade premium have had considerable impact on Choche's development.

Results of the 'Million Birr Project' set up by Rotary in 2013 have been that over 100 farmers have taken loans and planted nearly a quarter of a million high-yielding coffee bushes over 150 hectares of their land. By gradually stumping (coppicing) old bushes or replacing with new higher yielding varieties, they are able to retain coffee income from old bushes whilst the new bushes mature. Sixty six women have started or expanded their businesses. One woman has tripled her income and another has already saved four times the loan and employed an assistant. Twenty one young men are growing about 150,000 coffee seedlings to sell to the farmers and fattening some healthy looking oxen.

Recent investments from the Fairtrade premium include a new computer lab at the High School in Choche, a new kindergarten in the nearby settlement of Bulbuloo and a new road and electricity supply to the remote community of Andode. Large investments are now possible because so many more farmers are now selling their coffee to the Cooperative and it being sold on international markets at a Fairtrade price. Coop membership has rocketed in recent years, from a low of under 200 to well over 1000.

In 2013, Fairtrade sales nationally were £1.7bn (up 12% on the year before). These sales generated £26m (almost 40% of the global total) in Fairtrade premiums. The estimated sales for 2014 show a slight fall to £1.67m due to the toughness of the UK retail market.

KESWICK IN BLOOM

Council Representative – Councillor Susan Leighton

The Keswick in Bloom group aims to keep the planters, flower mangers, plant towers and the many flower beds which are dotted around the town, looking attractive.

Members of KIB each have responsibility to oversee a particular area, and work hard to keep the area looking good.

The extensive work on the flower bed by the Lake Road Underpass is almost complete. New trees and shrubs have been planted and mulch applied to keep the weeds down.

2014 was the 50th Anniversary of Britain in Bloom and the Sunflower Seeds which were sown by the Brownies did very well, and the Keswick in Bloom displays focussed on the colours Gold and Yellow.

In 2015 KIB are aiming for a display of mixed colours throughout the summer, and are again entering Keswick in the Cumbria in Bloom Competition.

This year we have had a good display of colour already as the spring displays of miniature Daffodils and Polyanthus have done very well.

The summer Annual Keswick in Bloom competition involves some of the Committee walking round the town looking at all the front gardens, which may provide an incentive to keep these publically seen areas looking nice. Those enthusiastic gardeners who have 'secret' gardens are also able to apply to be judged. Businesses and hotels are judged in a category of their own, and many do a good floral display to attract customers. Each of these elements add to the ongoing effort made by the hard working KIB team.

All the work done gives an attractive look to the town which locals and visitors appreciate.

KESWICK FLOOD AND EMERGENCY RECOVERY GROUP

Council Representative – Councillor Martin Pugmire

This group, which is charged with keeping in hand organisation for any kind of emergency that might befall the town, remains operational. Crucially, it has part-time professional support. The group works with the Flood Action Group, and with professional emergency services.

It is believed that our most obvious potential emergency, flooding, is now much less likely to occur, but it must be remembered that other events, such as heavy snowfall, might make demands on local volunteer systems.

FITZ PARK SPORTS PAVILION

Council Representative – Councillor Keith Taylor

Chairman	D Beebe
Secretary	P Pridmore
Minutes Secretary	L Richardson
Treasurer	P Pridmore
Club Representatives:	Cricket – K Richardson
	Athletics – S Harwood
Town Council Representative K Taylor	

The Clubs

Cricket

Comprises 3 senior teams, a midweek X1 and junior teams at levels of U11, U13 and U15. The club employs a senior professional who, together with a number of senior club members who have gained their Levels 1 or 2 coaching qualifications, are actively involved in the coaching of the junior section throughout the year. A junior committee helps administer this thriving section of the club, County and local finals are now a regular fixture at Fitz Park.

Athletics

The club has a junior section. The pavilion is the base for numerous local races, also a number of national races. The Latrigg race is held each year as part of the Keswick Mountain Festival. Future proposals already being explored are lights around the footpath around Lower Fitz Park to aid training.

General Funding

Each of the remaining two user groups contributes a regular monthly amount towards the running costs and general upkeep of the facility. Monthly income of £200 helps pay the insurance, water, electricity and some general repairs.

Overall Review

The pavilion facility is now 22 years old and continues to be well utilised throughout the year by the remaining user groups and a small number of outside organisations (e.g. Junior Schools cross country). The individual clubs of the user groups continue to flourish with high membership at both senior and junior levels providing vital recreational and social opportunities for people within the area. The clubs continue to maintain, to a high standard, a large area of Lower Fitz Park. Areas of conflict between the user groups are minimal due mainly to the close liaison of the club representatives. As the building ages, areas of 'wear and tear' are being assessed by a 'fabric committee' and funds targeted towards renovations where required.

KESWICK FLOOD ACTION GROUP

Council Representatives – Councillor Paul Titley & Councillor Keith Taylor

(Report submitted by Councillor Paul Titley)

Elliott Park: Whilst the new United Utilities sewage scheme has greatly reduced the risk of foul water flooding, CCC's construction of the new underground pump system for this area, originally planned to commence in January 2015, has been delayed. It is now due to start in June. It is unfortunate that there will be construction in the area through summer but the Group hope that local people will bear with any disruption for the long term gains of having two underground pumps working automatically to deal with any additional surface water flooding which may occur in the area. Site investigations have been carried out and some trees removed and CCC have assured KFAG that the new pump system will be operational before the wetter winter months.

Penrith Road: CCC have commissioned a more detailed investigation into the likely surface water flood risk for the area between Ambleside Road and Penrith Road, including whether the town's drainage system is adequate for 1:75 year storm. KFAG expects to be advised what CCC preferred solution will be in June this year. The option chosen will then go for approval and allocation of funding so future plans remain uncertain beyond this stage.

For the time being the area relies on the mobile pumps which were delivered to Keswick last summer. Recent press reports regarding the possible amalgamation of the fire station and ambulance station have caused concern – in particular that there would still be space to house the mobile pump for the foreseeable future.

United Utilities: The weather over the last 12 months has not caused many concerns but KFAG are grateful for UU's cooperation in operating Thirlmere to the agreed trigger levels in order to provide storm space in the reservoir. Keswick will suffer considerable disruption from the laying of the proposed pipeline to West Cumbria, both through and near the town. KFAG had hoped that, as part of the project, UU would incorporate some additional engineering to ensure that greater controlled releases of water can be made from Thirlmere for flood alleviation purposes. Sadly it seems our community will receive no such benefits from the project.

Drains: Thanks to good communication between KFAG members and CCC any problems have been swiftly and effectively dealt with.

Sand bags: Keswick Lions very generously helped fund – and fill – two new extra stores of sandbags so the town is well prepared with supplies for the time being.

COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

Catherine Howe – Administration & Finance Officer

The Town Councils five year Business Plan adopted in September 2013 is being monitored on a regular basis. The plan provides a framework for the Council's ongoing and new activities and contains much information about the Council's role and responsibilities.

The Town Council's website that was developed last year has proved to be an important information and communication device and can be viewed at www.keswicktowncouncil.gov.uk. This will be developed further as time goes on.

Once again the Christmas lighting provision in the Market Square received many compliments and the Christmas Lights Switch On event proved very popular with both locals and visitors to the Town. Keswick Town Council was given a grant of £10,000 from Allerdale Borough Council's market towns budget and Councillors agreed that £8,000 of this be restricted to the provision of Christmas lighting in the shopping streets outside the Market Square area. Thanks should be given to the many individuals, volunteers, local schools, local organisations and businesses who help make this event possible each year.

The remainder of the grant from Allerdale Borough Council (£2,000) was kept in provisions for street furniture repairs in the Market Square and improved signage.

The Council continues to maintain the War Memorial, the Townsfield and other open spaces in the town and manages a small allotment site at the Hawthorns, Penrith Road. Floral displays were provided around the town in conjunction with Keswick in Bloom.

The Council meets every two months in its capacity as Sole Trustee of Keswick Parks Charitable Trusts to ensure the provision and maintenance of public parks and recreation grounds for use of Keswick's residents and visitors. The major part of the Town Council's expenditure supports Fitz Park, which is home to a number of sporting organisations and has a destination play area and Community Sports Area together with a small car park. The BMX Pump track opened in December 2014 following the initiative of local youngsters who carried out fundraising, and with the support of the charity Groundwork, has proved a popular addition to facilities in Fitz Park. Allerdale Borough Council provided a grant of £20,000 towards the maintenance costs of Fitz Park, this grant will continue in future years and helps towards the annual deficit amounting to almost £100,000 each year.

The Town Council advised Allerdale Borough Council, in February 2015, that they would not be putting in an expression of interest to acquire the Moot Hall and to allow the Battersby Charity to continue with their possible acquisition of the hall for community use.

At their monthly meeting in March 2015 the Town Council resolved to advise Allerdale Borough Council that they would not be interested in taking over Bell Close toilets via Capital asset Transfer. It is hoped that this will allow any local consortium to contact Allerdale Borough Council to take over the running and management of Bell Close toilets.

The Town Council has continued to remain active in the Derwent 7 Parishes cluster with representation on the sub groups and the Steering Committee. Representatives have also attended partnership meetings with the Borough and County Councils and the Lake District National Park Authority.

The Council once again organised and funded a Midsummer Festival which took place on Sunday 29th June in the Market Square and will repeat this event on 28th June 2015. The 2014 Keswick Festival included the first year of Keswick Scruffs which took place in Fitz Park on Sunday 22nd June this was made possible with the help of many local businesses, organisations and individuals. The event included a scruffy dog show, dog agility, Cumbrian Police dog, sheepdog, search and rescue dog and paragliding demonstrations as well as a duck race on the River Greta.

In 2015 the week-long Keswick Festival will include Scruffs, St Herbert's School Plays, Keswick School I-perform, Proms in the Park, Live Bands and markets.

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