

The **Christmas and January Domino Drives** were enjoyed by many and a special welcome goes to our new players. We are pleased to report that we raised £197 despite the poor weather. We were very glad to see all those who braved the elements to support our local venture. Thank you to those who continue to donate prizes too.

Recycling Centre

The recycling centre is continuing to do well. We earned £133 last quarter with around 8868kg of material being recycled and we would like to thank those who bring their plastic, glass, card and tins to our site. However, despite a plea to refrain from fly tipping in the last issue of the newsletter, non-recyclable items are still being dumped. Once again, **PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE ANY POLYSTYRENE, WOOD OR GENERAL RUBBISH!** We will report fly tipping to Eden District Council.

Lowther Parish Hall Management Committee meetings are held on the **last Wednesday of the month** in the Parish Hall at 7.30pm. All members of the parish are welcome to attend. However, if you wish a specific matter to be discussed, please notify the Secretary at least 3 days beforehand so that it can be added to the agenda. Items not on the agenda cannot be discussed.

Officers of Management Committee for year 2006 - 2007

Chairman	Mrs Sara Crofts (712806)
Vice Chairman	Mr Les Watson (712658)
Treasurer	Mrs Carol Parkin (712444)
Secretary	Mrs Jean Paterson (712210)
Bookings Secretary	Mrs Joan Little (712497)

Don't forget to visit our website:
www.lowtherlink.co.uk

LOWTHERlink *Spring 2007*

Dates for your Diary:

Carpet Bowling Club – Indoor bowling takes place on **Tuesday evenings at 7pm**. The fee is £1 per session plus 25p for tea and biscuits. Come along and join us!

The **Wednesday Club** takes place on the **2nd and 4th Wednesdays** of the month from **1.30 until 3.30pm**. Please phone Joan Little (01931 712497) for further details.

Lowther Women's Institute meetings are held on the **first Wednesday** of the month in the Parish Hall at **7.15pm**. For further details contact Joan Little on 01931 712497.

Lowther Parent and Toddler Group meets on **Thursday mornings** from **10am until 12pm** during term time at the Parish Hall. Just drop in or contact Sam Porter on 017683 61766.

The **Badminton Club** is looking for new members. Please come along and join in on **Monday evenings** from **7.30pm until 9.00pm**. For details call Anne Crofts on 01931 712676.

Fun'n'Fitness takes place in the Parish Hall on **Thursday evenings** from **7pm until 8pm**. Low to mid impact exercise including aerobics, salsacise and toning to 70s and 80s music. The cost is £3 per session – please bring a mat and a towel. Contact Julie on 01768 890902 for further details.

Fundraising events for 2007: A coffee morning and a treasure hunt are planned. We will also be running a raffle with some fabulous prizes. Keep an eye on the notice boards for further details.

Lowther Bonus Ball Lottery

We'd like to say a big thank you to all those who have supported the Bonus Ball Lottery in 2006.

Winners since the beginning of January:

6 Jan	No11	N Graham	27 Jan	No36	Void
13 Jan	No4	E Dalton	4 Feb	No48	S Smith
	0				
20 Jan	No4	A Davidson			
	7				

Some spare numbers are still available. If you would like to have a go please contact John Capstick on 01931 712574.

REMEMBER - YOU HAVE TO BE IN IT TO WIN IT!

How to become an organic gardener in five steps...

1. **Use compost** to improve the soil and help plants grow.
2. **Try controlling pests** like slugs with water or beer-filled traps (cups sunk into the ground).
3. **Try smothering weeds** with porous plastic sheeting or cardboard, which blocks out the light.
4. **Attract wildlife** that feeds on pests. You can do this by **avoiding pesticides** and making sure your garden is not too tidy. This will encourage wildlife to set up home.
5. **Experiment with companion planting.** Marigolds put off pests and attract useful insects. Organic gardening books list other useful plant combinations.

These tips were provided by Friends of the Earth – visit www.foe.co.uk for further ideas to help *Save Cash and Save the Planet!*

You can also find recycling tips on the Eden Local Agenda 21 website – see www.edenla21.org.uk for details.

Sports Area

We are coming up to the start of the new season. As last year the sports area will be provided free of charge to all those living in the parish. Anyone from outside the parish is welcome to use the facility but they are asked to pay a Family Membership Fee of £15 per year. The Corporate Fee is £100 per year. For further information please contact Anne Davidson on 01931 712430.

Parish Council News

Your Parish Council held its latest meeting on 25th January 2007 when the following items were discussed:

1. Hidden street light outside the school
Action: to ask Lowther Forestry if they could trim the trees around the school house.
2. Additional notice board in Hackthorpe
Action: To ask permission to fix a new notice board in a location near to the Lowther Castle Inn.

Upcoming Parish Council Elections in May 2007

The Parish Council would like to remind parishioners that the Parish Council elections are due to take place in May. Anyone interested in becoming a Parish Councillor should submit their nomination form as soon as possible – forms are available from the Town Hall in Penrith.

Councillor Ian Bowman from Melkinthorpe has indicated that he will not stand for re-election as he is moving out of the parish. We would therefore like to thank him on behalf of the parish for his input over the last four years.
