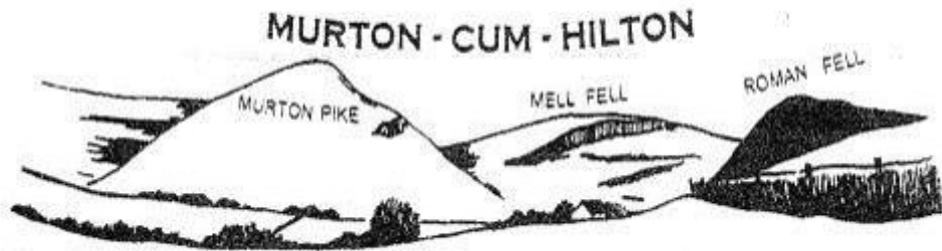


The Villager 59

A newsletter for the community of Murton and Hilton
May 2015



Editorial

Welcome to the latest Villager.

The first thing to say is that the new Institute is coming along at a pace and we are looking to hold the opening events in mid to late August. We are planning a week long celebration of the new building. The ideas so far include a gardening day, an arts and crafts exhibition, coffee and craic, a film night, and of course a party! Watch out for news of these events either in a later edition or on notice boards, by email and on the website. If you have ideas and want to see them happen then do get in touch with the Villager and we'll make sure your ideas get through to the organisers.

The second thing to say is that your ideas and views were fundamental in securing the lottery grant. The survey we all competed three years ago was very influential with the funders. So, we're

asking you once again for your views on how to move along with those ideas now that completion of the new building is in sight. Inside there is a centre fold pull out section for you to read, think about and fill in with your ideas and suggestions, not only of what you'd like to see happen at the Institute but also how you can help make it happen. Please take a moment to fill it in and someone from the Institute committee will be come back in the next week to collect your form.

After the election, we have a new parish council with two new members and renewed energy to get things done; reports inside.

We also have space for some regular features and I hope you enjoy reading of trips abroad and how medieval courts are still ruling even today.

Frank Price, Editor



High Cup Nick

Civic News

An update from the Parish Council

We have a new Parish Council and it now falls to me to write this report for The Villager to keep you abreast of the civic news.

At the Murton Parish Council AGM, the councillors were pleased to welcome two new councillors, Tina Longstaff and Debbie Hewitt, to our ranks. This is particularly worthy of note as in one fell swoop the average age of the Council has been greatly reduced! Although the majority of the councillors are from Murton, they are keen to represent the interests of all the parish. Therefore if anyone in Brackenber, Flakebridge, Langton or Coupland Beck has any points they would like to raise, please let us know.

We are fortunate to have the services of our excellent and hard-working Clerk, June Watson. She is our contact point with both Eden District Council and the County Council and she tells me that she knows the 'go to' person for road repairs, footpaths, planning etc so that we can make our voice heard.

Road repairs have been an on-going item at the last meetings of the council. I'm sure that you will agree that the state of our main road into Appleby has deteriorated markedly over recent months. This has been raised with John Banks at Highways who arranges the minor repairs quickly, but we shall keep reminding them that the road surfaces throughout the parish are constantly deteriorating. On a more positive note, the cattlegrids over Brackenber Moor will be receiving attention in the autumn when a date has been agreed with Hilton Commoners. I have heard that some potholes in Murton have been filled too.

Following the County Council's Footpath Survey last year, new signage is popping up and we have been told that the path down Murton Ghyll will be improved as money becomes available.

Garden Waste skips are no longer to be provided as Cumbria County Council Recycling Credits (which were filtered through Eden District Council) have been withdrawn as part of the cut backs. We shall be writing to both EDC and our CC councillor requesting that this be reviewed or some other system of garden waste removal be funded instead as the cost of £150.00 +VAT per skip is prohibitive to us.

The Village Green Management Plan will be reviewed in July when a walk around the greens in Hilton and Murton will be arranged. No proposals for the long term use of the Middle Green have been put forward to date. Although the Council as the registered owner is greatly restricted in what is allowed, we would welcome any ideas or plans for this area from the community in Murton. I would urge everyone to join us at the walkabout and put forward their views.

Do the slow internet speeds, experienced by virtually all of us in the parish, impact on you? The Parish Council (PC) would like to hear from anyone who finds their current internet provision inadequate.

There are plans to roll out fast Broadband across Cumbria, but we do not feature on the current roll out programme that runs until 2017. It seems therefore that if we want better Broadband we need to be pro-active. The PC are making a start by writing to our newly re-elected MP, Rory Stewart. It will help our cause if we know the scale of difficulties faced by all of us by the current very slow internet speeds. So if you find it difficult or impossible to do what you want to do on line, please let one of the Parish councillors know. Whether you are struggling to run a business, make necessary returns to government, shop, or research your latest homework project, we want to hear from you.

At their meeting on 11th May the PC agreed it would be helpful to appoint a Broadband champion. Ideally this person would take on responsibility for ascertaining the scale of the problem, looking to see what solutions have been identified by other small communities, and keeping the pressure on the council. A bit more knowledge than average about IT would also be helpful! If you would consider taking on this role, please do let Anne King, or any of the other Parish Councillors know. You can contact me at the number and e-mail address below.

Finally, we would like to thank Frank Price and Jean Allinson for their years of service to the community as councillors.

If anyone has any points to raise on these or any other issues, please let us know. The village website will be updated to give contact details. The next scheduled meeting is Monday 3rd August 2015 at Appleby Golf Club.

Barbra Govan, Chair. Email: Chair@murton.org.uk ; Tel 017683 51663

June Watson, Clerk. Email: Clerk@murton.org.uk ; Tel: 017683 52851

Anne King, E-mail: felldodderers@btinternet.com; Tel: 07767 888678

Village Green Roundup

Since the meeting about the village greens in Murton back in the summer, a great deal of work has been done to tidy up middle green. Many thanks to all of you who have worked so hard. It is good to see the green being used and looking so nice. There have been representations to the Parish Council that various items have been left on the green. The tyres have now been disposed of. The PC will have a look at the green in July, and will dispose of any items which are left on it, so please remember to take in children's toys etc when not being used. People have also expressed concerns about some stones which are piled up on the green, so the opportunity will also be taken to move these to the side of the green. The Parish Council will be providing a bench on middle green, since the green is now being used. If anyone wants to comment where this should go please do let me know. There are some old benches on the green at the moment, if the owner wants these can you please move them or we will get rid of them when the new bench is installed.

The top green continues to look nice, many thanks again to the Ormrods for their efforts on mowing the play area there.

In July we will organise a walk round of the village greens in Murton and Hilton, so everyone who is interested can come and have your say about what improvements if any you would like to see.

Anne King, T: 07767 888678, E-mail: felldodderers@btinternet.com

Defibrillators

At their meeting earlier in the year, the Parish Council agreed to fund a defibrillator for the parish. This was to be sited at the new Institute. Since then, an application for additional funds was made to Age Concern Appleby. At their meeting in April the board of ACA agreed to fund a second defibrillator. This was very welcome news and the Parish Council have expressed their warmest thanks to the board of ACA for this generous offer.

The outcome of this is that we will now be able to put a defibrillator in both Hilton and Murton. This is great news as these clever pieces of kit save lives!

The siting of the defibrillators is still under discussion but we hope that we will be able to use the old phone box in Hilton (it has taken 35 p in the last few years in call charges so it is unlikely to be missed as a phone...) and the bus shelter in Murton (if we can arrange a power supply).

The work to source and place the defibrillators will be done in conjunction with the First Responders.

As a follow-up to this, Age Concern have asked for help in running their activities locally, so if you have a spare hour or two here and there please get in touch with David Sampson on Tel : 52133.

News from the Institute

An update from the Institute Committee

Going past the Institute is a never ending surprise. The work is progressing rapidly and every week there is something new and interesting to see. This weekend saw the stone cladding appearing on the front of the building. This, along with the completed roof and oak cladding to the gables ends, really lets you see what the building will look like when complete.

What you can't see from the road, but the Institute committee were able to inspect for the first time on a recent site visit, is all the hard work also completed inside. As we go to press the first-fix wiring is complete and so too is the first fit of the plumbing. The plasterers are hard at work with great progress being made in the kitchen, store room and now the roof of the main hall.

In the coming few days (probably now completed...) the external works will be a focus on site with the block paving going down in the car parking areas.

All this is a great tribute to the hard work and efforts of Adam Knowles and his team at Eden Stone Work. It may appear that the building is going up smoothly, but it reminds me of a swan – there's a lot of fast paddling going on behind the scenes!

The photos below show the detail of the stone work at the rear of the building and the fine oak cladding going up.

We are again extremely grateful to the Big Lottery Fund for their funding of the new building. However, we do need some extra funds for fitting out and all the necessities of a village hall. Here we are also extremely grateful to the Hadfield Trust which has awarded us £3,000 towards new comfortable chairs and additional tables, and to the Frieda Scott Trust which has awarded us £2,200 towards the cost of new crockery, cutlery and kitchen equipment.

We are now turning our attention to the use of the building when complete. And we need your help again. Your responses to our survey when we were applying to the National Lottery were a huge help in demonstrating that the community had a need for the new building. Now that completion is on the horizon we need to go back to that and so in the following pages you will see a short questionnaire where we are asking for your views and ideas on how we are going to run all the events and activities that we said we'd like to see at the start of this process nearly three years ago. Please take a few moments to look over the questions and add your replies. Someone from the committee will be around in the next few days to collect your form from you.





Murton Parish – Institute Survey 2015

In this edition of the Villager you will have seen an article by the Institute Committee regarding the progress of the plans we put in place for renewing the Institute. The last time we asked for your views we asked about what you wanted to see; we believe we have acted on those ideas. Now it's time to ask you to get involved.

We need your ideas and offers of help so we can best use the new facilities we have all worked so hard to achieve. Can we ask you to please take a few minutes to fill out this survey about the way in which you wish to see Institute develop over the next few years? Someone from the institute committee will be along in the next few days to collect the questionnaire from you.

About you...

Where do you live? (Tick one)

Murton	Hilton	Brackenber	Coupland Beck	Langton	Flakebridge	Other
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

How many people of these ages in your household?

Under 16	16 – 25	25 – 45	45 - 65	Over 65
8	9	10	11	12

Murton Parish – Institute Survey 2015

About helping out at the Institute...

This is the list we asked you about last time with all the suggestions you made added to it. As you know there is only so much any of us can do so we need new volunteers to make some of these ideas happen. Some happen already (eg Coffee and Craic) but many of the new ideas will only get off the ground if we have new people involved.

Please look through the list and, like last time, tick those you'd be keen to see happen that you would come along to. Please also tick those you'd be keen to help set up or run with help from others.

	Activity	Yes I would attend	Yes I can help out
1	Activities for the elderly		
2	Activities for young children and toddlers		
3	Adult education classes		
4	After school club		
5	Art classes		
6	Book club		
7	Camera club		
8	Ceilidh nights		
9	Coffee and Craic mornings		
10	Continental style evening café		
11	Cookery classes		
12	Craft evenings or mornings		
13	Drop in café, eg similar to one in Orton Method-		
14	Film nights		
15	Functions such as weddings, parties, conferences		
16	Gardeners' club		
17	Internet / WiFi cafe		
18	Keep fit sessions		
19	Lace making and other craft classes		
20	Lectures		
21	Local history resource		
22	Local information centre for visitors passing		
23	Lunch clubs		
24	Music nights		

25	Package fellside weddings		
26	Permanent outdoor play area		
27	Photo exhibitions		
28	Post office		
29	Printer/scanner to copy old photographs of the parish		
30	Pub nights		
31	Short mat bowls		
32	Social evenings (quizzes, promises auctions)		
33	Sports clubs (eg Badminton)		
34	Suppers		
35	Table tennis		
36	Table top sale		
37	Tuition and help with internet/computers		
38	U3A branch		
39	Village store or shop		
40	Workshops		
41	Yoga / Pilates		
42	Youth groups		

Do you have any other comments to make?

Thank you for your participation, your views are very important. Your completed form will be collected over the next few days.

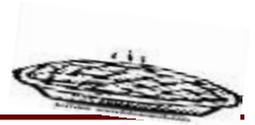
Name

Phone number

Many thanks

Murton Institute Committee

Mrs Pinafore's Cookery Corner



These lamb koftas make a wonderfully fresh dish that goes down really well at this time of year. They also lend themselves to the barbeque so if we ever see the sun give them a try!

Mr P's Lamb Kofta (with yoghurt and cumin)

Ingredients (Serves four)

For the kofta

- 2 small onions
- 1 small bunch of parsley
- 1 small bunch of mint
- 750 g lamb shoulder finely minced
- 50 g toasted pine nuts roughly chopped
- 1 ½ tsp ground cinnamon
- 1 ½ tsp ground allspice
- 1½ tsp ground black pepper
- ½ tsp grated nutmeg
- Oil to grease

For the yoghurt and cumin dressing

- 400 ml plain yoghurt
- 2 large eggs
- 25 g cumin seeds

Method

Grate the onions and squeeze out most of the liquid through a sieve. Mix the onion pulp into all the ingredients in a large bowl. Shape the mixture into fingers, balls, patties or around flat skewers, cover and chill for at least an hour or up to 12 hours. You should get 12 reasonably sized portions whichever style you choose.

Heat a grill, barbeque or frying pan to good heat, grease with a little oil and cook the koftas till well browned on the outside and cooked through to your liking (8-10 mins medium rare for me!)

Serve with flatbreads and a summer salad of your choice.

If you wish to serve with the yoghurt dressing:

While the koftas are cooking, preheat the oven to 175 degrees or 150 fan.

Place the cumin seeds in a hot dry frying pan and toss continuously over a high heat until a strong cumin aroma rises from the pan. Grind the hot seeds and add to the yoghurt, beat in the whole eggs.

Place the koftas into a well greased shallow oven dish, pour over the yoghurt dressing and bake for 20 mins or until the dressing has set and has begun to brown on top.

Serve as above.

If you have a recipe to share please drop it in to the Villager in the usual way.

Happy Cooking.

THE LAST CLAY PIPES? – A CONNECTION WITH ENGLAND'S MINING PAST

John Sibson mourns the passing of another great tradition

Your editor and I attended the Great Barmote Court at Wirksworth in Derbyshire in April. This Court is one of the oldest in the land, having been in existence for well over 700 years to administer the mining of lead in Derbyshire. All the lead in the ground there is owned by the Duchy of Lancaster and the Court administers who pays taxes and resolves disputes between miners and the Crown. It is a properly constituted Court with a jury sworn in and remaining sworn in till the next court. (I am a juryman and as such could not do ordinary jury service). The law developed in this court has been the basis for much mining law today.



Before the Court we are given bread, cheese and ale because historically many of the miners would have come long distances on horseback. After the Court (at which we rarely have any business these days!), we retire for lunch and are presented with the same clay pipes that the miners used to be given (and we used to be given the tobacco to smoke).

However, this link with the past may soon be broken, because the last clay pipe maker in England has stopped making them, so we may well be lucky enough to have the last of them – a really nice souvenir but sad that another link with the past is broken. Does anyone know of a clay pipe maker please!?

With thanks to

This edition of the Villager was sponsored by Ruth and Mike Waters and Juliet Kay. It costs us about £50 per edition to print The Villager's piggy-bank is now empty (again) so all contributions will be gratefully received. The Villager would not happen without your help and support and all donations, items and anecdotes are really welcome - especially if they have a photo attached. A big thank you to this

month's contributors not acknowledged elsewhere: Gabriel Reid, Barbara Govan, John and Carolyn Sykes, Richard & Anne King, Frances Sibson, Tina Wragg & Jules Price. Please keep the ideas flowing and pass through your pictures, news and comments for publication.

The next edition will be out in August so all copy for number 60 please by mid July

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#murtonvillager

Fellsiders—2015

Saturday May 30th

Coach booked to go to **HOLKER HALL GARDEN FESTIVAL**

09.30 Depart Hilton/Murton; 17.00 Return.

Cost to include coach and entry fee: £20 members; £23 non-members.

The ticket includes entry to the Garden Festival. Visit of the House will be £3.50 extra on the day.

We need to know numbers so please contact Frances Sibson with your money at Leagarth, Hilton. Tel. 52145

Tuesday June 9th

Trip with **Classic Coaches to Hawes**

Cost £10 return or free with your local bus pass—Departs Kirkby Stephen 10.55; Returns 16.10

Car share to KS from Hilton/Murton will be arranged.

To book, contact Tina Wragg 53642

Saturday July 11th

Trip to **BEAMISH MUSEUM**

Open to all. Bring your children or grandchildren.

Further details from Tina Wragg 53642

We would like to say a special thank you to Scott and Tricia at the Golf Club for being so welcoming and helpful in accommodating our Institute and Fellsiders meetings this year while our Institute is being rebuilt. Many thanks to you both!

It was mentioned at the last Fellsiders meeting that it is worth collecting old mobile phones for the air ambulance fund raising. Recent phones can be refurbished for use around the world, while old ones are taken to bits and the rare elements recovered. As these metals are not common and found mostly in China it is a valuable exercise to recycle them. If you have any old phones lurking in the back of a drawer please bring them round to Leagarth and leave them in the porch so we can help support the Pride of Cumbria. Bags for collecting used clothing and fabrics in aid of the air ambulance will also be available at the next community meeting.

Two weddings this spring - Barbie Govan and Frank Turnbull of Hawick were married on April 25th at Morland Hall. Barbie and Frank met while working in New Zealand and they are now living and working in Edinburgh. Stephanie Osborne and Rick Greenhow tied the knot at St John's Church Murton, on Saturday May 9th, with their reception later at the Wild Boar Inn near Windermere. Photos this time by Murton Photographic! Stephanie spent her teenage years in Murton and is now living in Kirkby Stephen. She and Rick met while at school in Appleby. Best wishes to both couples in their future married life together.

And talking of weddings there were some lovely photos on Facebook of Frank Price at his daughter Naomi's wedding in Australia last month. None of Jules though, who no doubt was behind the camera.



The potting shed

Our regular column from Tina Wragg reporting on the Garden Trail weekend

Hello to all you intrepid and patient gardeners of the fellside villages. What a topsy turvey spring we have experienced to date, a glorious Easter fortnight then WHAM!, cold winds and frosty nights, culminating in the worst frosts in early May that I have experienced in the last 17 years at the foot of the fells. A friend of mine revealed that the first ghastly frost recorded minus 5 inside her greenhouse and the following night it was minus 7. AAAAAAGH. My pieris, camillias, early azaleas, hardy fuschias, the mighty gunnera, buddlea, emerging beech hedge and herbaceous perennials have all been trashed by those wicked frosts. My tulip stems were frozen through, but when they thawed, miraculously they continued to flower. On the plus side the blossom trees have been magnificent and the wild flowers such as primroses have enjoyed an extra long season as the cold weather has not encouraged the grass to grow.

However, where ever we garden and what ever the weather there is something that we can all have some control over; the quality of a healthy soil. Healthy soil essentials include organic matter made up of both animal and vegetable materials. The organisms in soil need each other to survive and make good soil:

1 Plant material

Decaying remains of plants provide organic matter that mixes with rock particles to make soil. Roots of plants help to open up the soil, and penetrate and break up underlying rock.

2 Soil based animals

Includes small mammals, earthworms, slugs and insects. Benefits include opening up tunnels aand airspaces in soil for drainage and aeration, as well as the mixing of soil ingredients.

3 Fungi

There is a diverse range of fungi in healthy soil. Some decompose dead organic matter, while others feed on living material or attach to plant roots for the mutual benefit of the plants and fungi.

4 Bacteria

Microscopic organisms occur in many billions in every gram of soil, doing a variety of jobs, Some are free living , others inhabit nodules on plant roots.

HOW to maintain a healthy living soil

* Add well rotted garden compost or leaf mould to the surface of the soil in borders to retain moisture and provide organic matter.

*Fork through the topsoil in autumn to loosen the structure. This will maintain good aeration and drainage to keep soil organisms alive.

* Avoid deep digging that would mix subsoil with topsoil. subsoil has little organic matter.

*Sow green manures; the roots help to keep the soil open and provide organic matter to feed soil organisms.

* Avoid over application of artificial fertiliser, as they can upset the balance of the soil.

If you have a friendly horse or farmer's cow, you can't beat well rotted animal dung!

Let us hope that our weather picks up and the day and night time temperatures increase. However, if you feel a little bit of old fashioned gardening advice is needed, tune into the Beechgrove gardening programme, broadcast around 8.30 am on a Sunday morning. Filmed in Scotland the programme offers sound advice for gardening in the NORTH.

I am going to plant out my sweet peas this weekend, they have been sulking in the greenhouse, but I have been loathe to expose them to this unpredictable weather.

Happy Gardening, The Potting Shed.

St John's Church

News from Gabriel Reid, Churchwarden



On the second Sundays of the month during the summer, the service will be Evensong at 6.30pm.

The light over the gate has now been connected, which will be much appreciated when services are held on dark nights. We are most grateful for the very generous donation which enabled us to have it installed.

The Patronal Festival will be celebrated on Sunday 21st of June with a service at 6.30 pm followed by refreshments.

The Fellside Summer Concerts which take place in the 10 churches of the Heart of Eden Team begin on 31st of May and the concert in Murton is planned for Sunday 13th September at 5 pm.

At the time of going to press we are still waiting to hear from the Diocesan Chancellor regarding the proposed installing of the Walker organ.

Mr & Mrs Foggy go to.....

...Lisbon!

Mrs Foggy was worried. Mr Foggy had spent several hours on the computer and she was wondering where in the world he was planning to take her next. £299 he exclaimed! £299 flight and hotel (room only) for both of us to Lisbon – what do you think Mrs F? Mrs Foggy hesitated. It would probably be a dreadful hotel but hey – it can't be worse than camping. So always up for a challenge Mrs. F said go for it. So on a chilly day in November they set off.



Once again Mr Foggy agreed to stay over near to Liverpool Airport the night before (lured by the promise of an included breakfast). The flight was Easy Jet and they took the metro from the airport to the nearest station to the hotel (no train changes). It was raining heavily when they arrived and they got quite wet on the short walk to the hotel. The hotel was on the 4th and 5th floor of what appeared to be an office block. The room was in need of a coat of paint but to Mrs Foggy's delight there was a kettle and a fridge (soon to be filled with beers from the El Corte Inglés supermarket a stone's throw from the hotel!)

Tourist tram

Unfortunately the first three days were rather spoilt for sightseeing due to monsoon quality rain – all day and night.

Nevertheless Mr and Mrs F managed to see Geronimo's Monastery, the Belem Tower and took a tram to see the castle on the hill, (three of the "best things to do in Lisbon"). They even visited the modern art museum (during a particularly heavy shower) because it was free and Mrs F wanted to see what the loos were like! On the fourth day the weather improved slightly and the travellers took the train to Sintra, a beautiful world heritage site. Sintra was, for a long time, the residence of the Portuguese Royal family during the summer and there are several palaces and large houses. The next day they caught the train to the coast where it rained again. The couple were forced to spend a couple of hours in the John Bull pub in Cascais until finally they decided the rain was never going to stop and they made a dash for the station.



Belem Tower

Food in the restaurants near to the hotel was cheap and plentiful but the best thing was being able to buy the house wine (from a proper bottle with cork) for 5.50 Euros. The Foggys were very impressed that one of the waiters spoke five languages!

Transport in Lisbon and the suburbs was fairly cheap and simple once the Foggys had mastered the "pre-loaded ticket" system. However the centre of Lisbon is not very big and the Foggys walked most of the time.

Then back home to Cumbria where (surprise, surprise) it wasn't raining.