

THE VILLAGER

Editorial:

Welcome to the latest edition of the Villager. Apologies that this issue is a few weeks late, but I hope you think better late than never! It looks as if Appleby is recovering from the floods, with most businesses now open, and as I write this we brace ourselves for the next major event - the invasion that is Fair Week.

Once again thanks to all those who have contributed, but please keep your contributions coming.

The Parish Council have agreed to sponsor one edition of The Villager, and I will pay for this one, but I am in urgent need of funds for future editions. At current prices the cost is £48 for an 8 page edition or £75 for 12 pages. Any donation will be appreciated, but perhaps neighbours might like to get together & sponsor an edition. I look forward to the money flooding in!

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Institute News:

COMMUNITY LUNCHES The lunches have proved popular and numbers are generally around 30 – 35. It is good to see regulars diners coming up from Appleby to meet up for lunch and a natter. The menu remains as 2 choices of soup and a roll plus dessert and teas and coffees with refills as wished.

Next Lunch dates: Tuesday June 14th
Tuesday July 12th

It has yet to be decided whether there will be a lunch in August, so notice will go up on the boards and emailed round.

SUMMER BBQ Saturday June 11th At the Institute starting 4pm onwards. For all the family.

Yes, there is an area to the side of the storeroom which was levelled and gravelled especially so we can use the BBQs there.

Please bring your own meats, sausages etc to cook, while Buns, sauces soft drinks etc will be provided. All offers of desserts and salads will be very welcome. BYOB as usual. A small donation of £1 per person to cover expenses will be welcome.

There will be space in the field behind for games of footie or cricket thanks to Mike Schug who has offered to mow a clear patch out there.

COFFEE & CRAIC Saturday June 18th 10 – noon. Bacon butties or cake with coffee/tea £2.50

Sales tables and the raffle. This is always a good time to chat and catch up with local news and raises money for Institute funds.

Following on that same afternoon Mandy Oliver who gave the talk about bumble bees will do a bee survey in one of our gardens, maybe in the wild flower meadow at Gastle Barn in Murton, (with the owners approval of course!) or in another garden depending on what

is flowering at the time. It is hoped to include some bee activity with children. More details will be circulated to families who might be interested.

WILD FLOWERS The top green at Hilton has been planted with 260 plug plants of different wild flower varieties, again thanks to Mandy Oliver, the Nectarwork Project Officer for the North Pennines AONB who also provided the plants. For the botanists among us, varieties included devilsbit scabious, autumn hawkbit, betony, red clover, self heal, ragged robin, sneezewort and many more. Thank you to all those at the top of Hilton who helped with the planting. A back breaking task!

New **PLANTERS** have been purchased for outside the Institute and Tina Wragg has been raising summer bedding plants that are nearly ready to go out there. Tina and Dorothy Macfaddean have also been tidying up the side borders to the car parking which were looking very scrawny and have now been planted with perennials that should finish off the look to the front of our building.

COMMITTEE MEETING : The next meeting of the Institute Committee will be Tuesday July 5th 7.30pm in the meeting room.

FELLSIDERS NEWS:

The Craft Fair in April show cased the amazing variety of talents that we have in our community. In all there were 39 different exhibitors, of all ages. Thank you to everyone who made this such a success and to the helpers in the kitchen serving the teas. Congratulations to all involved. The weekend made £470 for the Institute. The talk on May 4th was a gem of information about Bumble Bees and hence the follow up activity after next Coffee & Craic.

Wednesday June 15th the June Meeting is a bus trip on to Thornton Hall Garden, open on that day.

Coach £10 Entrance £6. Departing Hilton 10am .

Look at posters on the notice boards for pick up times from other points.

The 33 seater coach is filling up fast! Contact Tina 53642

Saturday July 9th coach to Durham City £10 coach only. Free day to explore the Cathedral and City as you wish. Contact Tina 53642

INSTITUTE AGM:

The Murton Village Institute committee held its AGM on Tuesday 5th April. At the meeting, John Sibson stood down as Chair following several years of sterling work, not least in providing the momentum and enthusiasm to replace the old building with the fantastic facility we have today. All of our thanks go to John, who remains on the committee. Mike Schug bravely stepped into the fray as Chair and was welcomed by all. Other officers remained as previous: Treasurer – Hazel Chappelhow; Secretary – Jules Price; Events manager – Frances Sibson; Building manager – Frank Price. All of the existing committee members were re-elected to serve another year along with Jackie Watkinson who was warmly thanked for volunteering.

Other things of note from the meeting are:

Clare Patterson is co-ordinating the production of a wall hanging for the main hall, of a fellside scene. The hanging has been divided into panels, which are being created by keen needleworkers from around the community. There are a few panels left, so if you can sew and would like to get involved, do get in touch.

Brian Moncaster told the meeting that the First Responders would like to install a defibrillator at the Institute. This very kind offer was gratefully accepted and the defibrillator is now installed behind the desk in the foyer – let's hope we never have to use it. Heart-start sessions have been held in the past and will be run again in the future. In the unlikely event that you need to use the defibrillator, remove it from its casing, and follow the pre-recorded instructions.

A VOTE OF THANKS FROM THE OUTGOING INSTITUTE CHAIRMAN:

As I pass over the Chairmanship of the Institute to the capable hands of Mike Schug and retire to the back benches of the committee, I would like to thank everyone who has assisted me during my time in the office.

My beginning was not in happy circumstances, as I took it on after the loss of Bob Chappelhow, who had looked after the old Institute and kept it going far longer than it would otherwise have lasted without his constant attention to its wellbeing.

Sadly it wasn't just the fabric of the building that finally caught up with us, but a combination of all sorts of modern electrical, catering and other regulations, and indeed people's increasing comfort expectations.

I am sure that all those who were present at the Committee meeting when we tried to tot up the cost of what needed to be done to the old building will remember the grinding of teeth and wringing of hands, as it was all well beyond our reach.

The subsequent exploration of other newly replaced or rebuilt village halls and enquiries about their experiences led us to explore available grant help, and from that came our pursuit of, and eventual success in being awarded National Lottery funding.

A big thanks to Frank Price for his guidance, work and tenacity in making the Lottery bid, and for his subsequent acceptance of the huge workload that being our representative in the management of the building project entailed. Frank, together with Adam Knowles formed a great team and the beautiful building that we now have is a testament to their work and commitment to the project.

Our comfort from the attractive furnishings within the new Institute and our excellent kitchen are also a result of much work by the ladies and I must thank Barbara Govan and my wife Frances for their efforts in obtaining extra grant funding for those things and for designing and purchasing so well.

A special big thanks to Hazel Chappelhow who, throughout my time as Chairman and through this major project, has managed and looked after our finances, insurances and bookings quietly, efficiently and reliably and always with good humour.

Finally thanks to all the committee members who have helped me. I think we are all delighted to see how much more the new building is being used and how so many people are benefitting from its existence, and still coming up with new ideas .

I now hope as many as possible can support Mike and his team to develop and encourage the next generation to ensure that the Institute continues to play its role in promoting community welfare fun and cohesion.

Not many years now to the Institute Centenary – seven? - think of that!

John Sibson

INSTITUTE PUBLICITY:

As many of you are aware, in an effort to reduce the amount of shoe leather needed to advertise events at the Institute, we have committed an email distribution list. We have around 80 addresses on the list which we use to advise all of our events including Coffee & Vraic, quiz nights and film nights. If you do not get these emails & would like to receive them please contact me at: jules@hiltonworkshops.co.uk

Otterwatch

Thank you to Keith Jagger of Coupland Beck for sending in some photos of otter prints. These were seen on the side of Hilton Beck just before Coupland Bridge.



Five claw marks clearly visible around the pad suggest that this print is from an otter



More difficult to tell on this picture as the prints are obscuring each other. However, only 4 claw marks clearly visible around the pad so more likely to be a dog or a fox.

Jules Price.

VILLAGE GREEN ROUNDUP

First of all can I start by thanking the volunteers who care for our village greens in both villages. You make a much appreciated contribution to the village environment. In addition to much work that has been done in the past a number of people helped mow and plant Hilton top green with wild flower plants provided by the North Pennines AONB pollinator project. Ongoing work will be needed to mow the green in late summer; it will

be good if one of the Commoners can make use of the hay, otherwise the green will need to be cut and the cuttings disposed of. A further cut will be needed in early spring, and then hopefully we will see some of the plants we have put in flowering.

The annual walk round the village greens will be on Sunday August 7th; in Murton at 11.00am and in Hilton at 2.00 pm. Please do come along, I will of course send out a reminder about the dates nearer the time. In the meantime if you have any suggestions or ideas about the greens do contact me at any time.

And let us all hope this wonderful weather carries on so we can enjoy the greens and our wonderful countryside to the full!

Anne King

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Civic News May 2016

After the long wet and windy winter and spring, the councillors decided to invite representatives of Cumbria and Transport to speak at our Annual Meeting this year. Almost immediately we noticed a difference as items raised at the meeting were addressed. The trees lining the road to Appleby were trimmed, pot holes identified and filled, and plans made to prevent river erosion under the road. Work on the cattle grids on Brackenber Moor which was started last autumn will recommence any time. We have pointed out to John Banks, our Network Engineer, that the road surface around the grids has been badly eroded.

The most surprising result of the annual meeting was an unexpected suggestion from John Banks that it might be possible to widen Hilton Bridge. Councillors approved the idea in principle at our May meeting, and we await developments. Such a project will mean the closure of the bridge for approximately a month, probably during the summer months of 2017 so it won't affect the running of the school bus. However there will be some inconvenience to the farmers and the residents of Hilton so we hope the benefits will outweigh the inconvenience! If you have an opinion regarding this, please tell the parish councillors as we shall be discussing it again at our August meeting.

As you may have noticed, we now have defibrillators in both the villages. Thanks are due to Brian Moncaster, Eileen Ormrod and the members of Hilton and Murton with Appleby First Responders Group for making all the arrangements and helping to fund this essential life-saving equipment. With a defibrillator at the Hall as well, we must be the best prepared parish in the area – I hope that this is preventative but we can now be confident that we are ready for any emergency.

Finally Cllr King and her group of volunteers have prepared and planted the wild flower and wetland plant meadow on Hilton top Green with the help of Mandy Oliver of the North Penning AONB. As the top Green in Murton has very dense grass growth, it is proposed to plant a band of yellow rattle along the side the road to improve it.

The next meeting of the Parish Council is on Monday 1st August at 7.30pm in Murton Institute. You will be very welcome if you come along.

Barbara Govan, Chair Murton Parish Council.

Four Lifesaving Defibrillators for the Parish

Many readers will know that Hilton has recently seen the installation of a Public Access Defibrillator (C-PAD) into an unusual location: the old telephone box. Once BT had decided to withdraw the public telephone service from the village, work started on the conversion. Initiated by Frank Price, in his then role as Chairman of the Parish Council, the project involved BT, the North West Ambulance Service (NWAS), the Community Heartbeat Trust, who supplied the system through Green Urban Technologies of Penrith, and the Murton cum Hilton and Appleby Community First Responder team (CFR). The box has been repainted in the original phone box red colour with paint supplied by the Dulux Paint Centre in Carlisle. The whole cost of the project has been generously funded by Age Concern Appleby, whose involvement with the CFR team dates back to 2003 when they provided the very first defibrillators for the team on its formation . This is the latest installation in the area, co-ordinated by CFR team members, which started with units fitted in Appleby town centre (two of which were also provided by Age Concern).

The Murton C-PAD is now, finally, up and running with the system being provided by the British Heart Foundation again using Green Urban as the supplier. The delay has been due to the difficulty in obtaining a suitable electricity supply to keep the cabinet warm in the winter months. We are very much indebted to the Clawson family at Bridge House for their assistance by allowing the cabinet to be fixed to the wall of their property. The two C-PAD's are available 24/7 and are recorded in the NWAS control room system. Also recorded and available for public use, is the defibrillator at the Golf Club where access is normally limited to their opening hours – 0745 to dusk. **It is essential that if any of the units need to be used, the ambulance service must be telephoned first so that an ambulance can be immediately sent.** Anyone doing so will be advised of the simple procedure to be followed to access the defibrillator and advice on how to help the patient. The CFR team has also provided a defibrillator to the village hall. It is situated inside the building in the entrance foyer and will be available for immediate use whenever the hall is occupied.

Discussions are taking place with the Parish Council with a view to them adopting the C-PAD sites at Murton and Hilton in order to ensure continuity in the coming years.

Defibrillators can and do save lives. When someone suffers a cardiac arrest the sooner action is taken the more chance there is of a successful outcome. The CFR team conducted many 'Heartstart' training sessions in and around Appleby in 2015. As part of their ongoing programme and as an introduction to our two new C-PAD sites, sessions were held in March 2016, at our new village hall, when 22 members of the community attended and learned valuable life saving skills.



Opening of the C-PAD at Hilton. Left to right: David Sampson (Age Concern), Brian Moncaster (Chairman CFR Team), Laura Watson (NWAS) & Frank Price.

St John's Church:

Our Patronal Festival will be celebrated with a Service on June 26th at 6.30, followed by refreshments in the Institute. It would be lovely to have a full church for the occasion. More volunteers to decorate the church with flowers would be most welcome, so if anyone would like to contribute with an arrangement or donate some flowers please contact me on 017683 52399. During the summer months Evensong is sung on the 2nd Sunday of the month instead of the 9.15 Service. On the 5th Sunday in May we will be having a joint Service with St Lawrence's at 10.30 at St John's.

In the last edition of The Villager I reported the very generous donation by Julia Cawson of 50 cushions for the church, and asked for people to either cover them or donate the material. Julia has already covered a number of them but there are still plenty more, so please contact me if you would be able to help.

Gabriel Reid (Churchwarden)

THE POTTING SHED: Tina Wragg

Hello to all my gardening friends. What a glorious Spring we have enjoyed, mild, not too wet and bursts of brilliant sunshine. The daffodils have lasted for longer than I can remember and the tulips have thrilled me with their later colour. The trees have sprung into fabulous leaf with the blossom trees almost bowed double with the weight of their marshmallow blooms. My rhododendrons and azaleas leave me breathless with the intensity of their jewel like colours. In case you haven't guessed, I LOVE SPRING.

I have been aware, as I have strolled around my flower beds that there has been a great deal of activity from the bumble bee community. After the fascinating talk given by Mandy Oliver who is Nectar works Community officer from the NPAONB and armed with my bumble bee identification chart, I am thrilled to report that there are carder bees , large and small bumble bees, white and buff tail bumblebees and I saw a spectacular red tailed Queen bee. She was huge!! I also have honey bees visiting on sunny days. Mandy will be returning on June 18th for the next coffee an craic, when she will lead a bee survey walk in Murton and Hilton.

Bumble bees are under threat in the country side but we can all do our bit in our own gardens to encourage bees and other pollinators to visit and feed and subsequently pollinate our fruit trees, and vegetable patches. When the Queen emerges from hibernation in early spring she needs to feed on nectar rich flowers to rebuild her energy stores before making her nest. nectar rich flowers in spring include bluebell, bugle, ceonothus, comfrey, crocus, dicentra, pulmonaria, mahonia, pireis, pussy willow, winter flowering viburnham and forget me nots. Many of us have these in our gardens already, but if you can plant in drifts, it is easier for the bees to feed in a small ares.

In early summer some of the favourite nectar rich plants are giant alliums, aquilegia, borage, campanula, catmint, cotoneaster, hardy geraniums(cranesbill) globe thistle, snapdragon, sweet pea , thyme and other flowering herbs. Bees like open flower heads rather than fussy double cabbage type blooms.

Late summer is a busy time for a bumble bee nest when the males leave in search of queens from other nests with whom they hope to mate. This takes a great deal of energy. Late summer flowers that are rich in nectar are buddleia,cornflower, cosmos,echinacea,foxglove, honeysuckle, lavender,lupins, sedum and verbena.

Most of our bedding plants that we plant out at the end of May are no use whatsoever in providing nectar for our bumble bees. With one or two little tweeks we can still have our hanging baskets and troughs, but by introducing a few nectar rich plants we will enjoy a colourful show and keep our important pollinators in good health.

Let us hope we see many more sunshine days this summer after last years depressing deluge. I am looking forward to several visits to magnificent gardens in the Eden valley and County Durham. Enjoy your gardens,whatever the weather.! And take note of all the bees and other insects in your flower beds.

Join us for

A Royal Afternoon Tea

Saturday 23rd July 2016

To be held at

The Murton Institute

Come anytime between 2.00 pm and 3.30 pm to enjoy the occasion and help raise funds for the newly built Institute.

Afternoon Tea to include: a selection of sandwiches and cakes, scones with jam and cream plus endless tea or coffee.

To be followed at 4.00pm by a Sing Along with some of favourites from the past

Price £6.00

We would be grateful if anyone could help us make some cakes or scones. For more information regarding cakes and scones, and for tickets please ring Anne Bell on 51547, or email b.annebell@btinternet.com or email Susan Moncaster at susan.moncaster1@mypostoffice.co.uk

HATCHES, MATCHES & DESPATCHES:

It has been suggested that The Villager record those who come to live in the parish, those who leave and those who get married. Unfortunately I am very new to the parish & may not get to hear of the events, or know the people involved. Please feel free to keep me informed and, if possible let me have a few words about those involved. Thanks to Carolyn Sykes for the following:

We regret to announce the death on February 14th of Clifford Lingard who was born in Barrow but at the age of 10 was evacuated to Hilton where he lived for four years with Col Tarn and family at Hilton Farm. He described his time at Hilton as the "best years of his life". An article about him appeared in Edition 51 (August 2012) of the Villager.

I am also aware of the sad passing of Bryan Hogg (Murton) & Jo Robinson (Hilton) and our thoughts are with their family & friends.