
THE VILLAGER

Editorial:

Welcome to the latest edition of the Villager. My thanks to all those who have contributed to this edition. Please keep your text flowing.

The following views are mine, but that is surely the nature of an editorial! I am grateful to Peter Davis who has tried to address the problems of inadequate internet speeds in our parish but it seems that we are getting nowhere. Our MP has had nothing constructive to contribute, and BT are deaf to our needs. We are outside the coverage of Dufton net & Lowthornet. It seems that whilst the Government recognises the need for people to have water & electricity, they do not recognise a universal entitlement to broadband speeds which enable those of us in the 5% of the UK not currently living within any roll out area to access the internet with sufficient speed, for our children to do their studies, whilst we conduct our businesses and/or access films or TV. When the issue was first raised in The Villager the percentage of readers responding was well below 50% so any continued political protest or complaint to BT is sure to fail as the majority are clearly content with their current service. For those of us who wish to continue to explore alternatives I have come across the following option successfully adopted by one of our number in Murton. It will cost you an up front fee in the region of £1,000, but you may feel that is worth paying - particularly if you can claim the cost as a business expense!

The following is an extract from a letter from the supplier to one satisfied customer. 4G Broadband accesses the internet via EE's 4G network giving you download speeds of up to 40 MB. As the EE mobile network now covers over 90% of the country it is now accessible in lots of rural locations. To access this super-fast internet, Taylored Technology will install an external antenna which connects to a 4G modem that will allow both wired and WIFI access. The installation and equipment will be supplied by Taylored Technology and the data provided by EE. The data is purchased on either a 30 day rolling contract or a 24 month contract, the available packages currently are :

30 Day Rolling Contract: 15GB at £20 a month, or 25GB at £30 a month, or

24 Month Contract: 25GB at £28 a month, or 50GB at £55.00 a month.

A typical installation will cost £799.00 which will include the antenna, modem, installation and configuration. To use this system an interface will need to be purchased at a cost of £54.00 and Taylored Technology can configure the service for a cost of £108.00. Before we proceed with any installation we will perform a free 4G survey to determine if you can get a 4G service and the expected speed - if you wish to proceed please contact us to arrange an appointment. More information can be found on the internet at www.tayloredtechnology.com and our [Facebook page](#).

I hope some of you find this helpful & look forward to hearing whether this works for you or of any other alternatives which might help us join the 21st century - albeit a bit late!

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LATEST NEWS FROM THE INSTITUTE

BBQ

In the time since the last Villager we have had the Summer BBQ, trying out for the first time the new layout outside the hall. It wasn't the warmest of evenings – as only to be expected – but with the tables inside near the doors and then doors open it was easy to stroll in and out and enjoy the evening.

Thanks as always to Marian & Alistair for taking on the cooking of all the meats brought along by folk. A great selection of salads and desserts all made for a substantial supper. All in all about 50 came along and it was great to see the boys, and girls too, out there playing cricket. The small profit made went to Institute funds.

A ROYAL AFTERNOON TEA

was held at the end of July, organised by Anne Bell and Sue Moncaster and helped by Linda Lowthian and Rosemary Mandale. The Hall looked amazing with each table set up with different sets of flowered china and pretty red white and blue flowers in the table arrangements. Our Tea came on a three tier cake stand and included a variety of sandwiches, quiches, cakes, and on the top tier the cream tea with scones and jam. Quite a spread! If you were not able to come along that day you missed a memorable feast. Thank you to Anne & Sue and Co for all your hard work both beforehand and on the day.

The afternoon made £275 for the Institute.

Comments made have been 'let's make this an annual summer event – as an anniversary celebration of the opening of our new Institute.'

Are there any folk interested in taking that on next year??....

COFFEE & CRAIC in June. The Bee Lady, Mandy Oliver, -from the N Pennines AONB made another visit to Murton to organise bee activities for the children - Craft work on a bee theme, a treasure trail around the Hall and then a walk over to Murton to look for Bumble bees and identify the different species. The adults who tacked on to the group found the subject fascinating and were very grateful to Mandy for engaging all ages in the search.

It was nice to see new families joining in.

The next Coffee & Craic will be on Saturday 20th August .. Come and stock up with a bacon buttie before going on into Appleby for the Summer Pudding Festival at the Castle.

A full-on day of events starting for us in Murton Institute.

Tina Wragg and Dorothy Macfaddean have been busy again beautifying the outside of the Institute by planting up both sides of the parking area with bee friendly plants which should also provide ground cover to suppress the weeds. It is all looking very nice and tidy. Thank you to the ladies.

The **COMMUNITY LUNCHES** continue to be popular – on the second Tuesday of each month, 12 noon to 1pm. £3 only for soup and roll with dessert and coffee or tea. A Great opportunity to meet up and chat over lunch.

Teams A and B take turns so each team is responsible for making soups and desserts only every second month. If you would be free to help at times, say when people are on holiday, please let Jackie or Tina know so that we can build up a few more names on the rotas.

The **WALL HANGING** planned to go on the wall above the hatch in the hall is now well under way with 15 ladies sewing to make up their 2ft square sections of the overall design. It is coming on well and thanks to Clare Patterson who has co-ordinated the work and has encouraged everyone, whether sewers or new to sewing, to try their hand at joining in this community project. It will look amazing when up on the wall, padded with sheeps' wool (what else in this area) and thus absorbing some of the echo and sound in the Hall. The next banner meeting will be on Tuesday 30th September, 7.30 at the Institute and Clare would like to see all panels there together. If anyone can't make it on the night can they please either get their piece to Clare or give it to someone else doing the banner to bring along on the night.

NEW ARRIVALS

Eileen and Alan Ormrod are grandparents again – this time twins for their daughter Lucinda and husband Stewart, born August 2nd, a boy and a girl. Freddie weighed in at 6lbs 11 ozs and Jessie was 5lbs 7 ozs. All doing well and back at their home in Evesham. Congratulations to all the family. Lucinda first came to Murton when she was only a few months old and was baptised and later married in St John's Church, Murton. All the family will be meeting up at Romney Green in October including Adam with his family from Kent. Quite a houseful! Maybe it is a good thing that Alan & Eileen never downsized into a smaller house after all.

Another recent arrival has been Penny Greenhow, a daughter to Stephanie (nee Osborne) and Rick Greenhow, now in Appleby, but for many years Steph lived with her family in Murton. *Story Homes* have put up a nice piece on their website titled 'a-new-home-for-a-brand-new-baby-at-orchard-place' the first baby to be born there.

It should also be mentioned that Katherine Wilkinson was presented to the Queen at Windsor and received a rosette for her work as Secretary of the Fell Pony Society.. Many congratulations to Katherine.

A WEDDING

The first wedding reception in the new Institute will take place on Saturday September 17th. Gemma Osborne and Shaun Smith are getting married in St John's Murton at 3.00pm and then crossing over to the Institute for their reception. They now have a house in Kirkby Stephen but Gemma lived for many years in Murton when she moved here from Essex aged 13 with her parents Lynda and Geoff. Gemma studied as a veterinary nurse at Newton Rigg but for a while had difficulty finding a permanent job in an animal practice. In the meantime she worked in the hotel trade until a vacancy for a nurse arose at the Doomgate vets practice, now on the Cross Croft Estate. Shaun grew up in Wigan and now works as a chef at the Appleby Manor Hotel which is where they first met. Our very best wishes to you both.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday August 20th Coffee & Craic 10am. Stalls and Raffle
 Wednesday September 7th Fellsiders Curry Night See report for time.
 in aid of Jessie Oddie's fundraising for the Orphanage in India.
 Saturday September 10th Quiz 7 for 7.30
 Tuesday September 13th Community Lunch 12 noon
 Saturday September 24th Film Night 7 for 7.30
 Saturday October 29th Film Night 7 for 7.30

THE NEW INSTITUTE:

We are now at the end of our construction contract! The one year run-on period for the rectification of any defects in the building is now over and it's great news that we only had very minor or trivial things to discuss with Eden Stonework. That there were so few defects (eg a few plaster pop-outs over nail heads in the timber frame section of the building, all of which appeared within a few weeks of the plastering) is a tribute to the quality of the work done by Adam and his team.

The Institute construction was entered into the North West LABC Excellence awards that were judged in July this year. It's great to report that the entry was judged to be Highly Commended. This recognises the relationship between Eden Stonework and the Eden DC building control team and the ease with which the construction sailed through all of its contrail and assessment stages. That's another Well Done to Adam and his team.

We are now also at the end of our monitoring period with the Big Lottery Fund. Our final monitoring report was submitted a few weeks ago and we have not been asked for any further information or clarification on any of our targets and achievements. This means the BLF are happy with our work and feel we have achieved what we said we would...Phew!

You may have noticed that we now have a defibrillator in the Institute. This is sited behind the reception desk. This comes as a generous donation from the Murton and Hilton First Responders. This is a great asset to have but let's hope we never have need of it. The maintenance and upkeep costs of the defibrillator have also been met by the 1st responders by way of a generous donation to the Institute funds. We owe them all a huge thank you for this.

Work on the Wall hanging is progressing well. Many thanks are owed to Clare Patterson and all her willing volunteers for all the hard work that is going into this.

We have two of the old tables going begging to anyone who wants one. These are the metal framed tables with the wood effect tops and fixed legs. If you would like one, please drop me a line and I'll help you lift it out. A small donation would be nice if you do take one.

Sometime in May or early June we noticed some heavy staining on the carpet in the meeting room. Unfortunately, we could not get this out without professional help. If you do notice that some damage or staining has occurred when you use the hall please let us know straight away so we can try to clean up as soon as possible.

Frank Price - Caretaker

DRAMATIC DAY IN DURHAM

(BOMB SCARE AND MINER'S GALA)

We arrived in Durham slightly puzzled. There were a few roads closed and policemen in groups. Hundreds of people gathered under Miners' banners and holding brass instruments etc. With families and people of all ages looking on at the spectacle. The Miner's gala was in full swing.

Many of us walked/ squeezed up the hill to go to the Cathedral or Castle tour. Others tried in vain to start their shopping trip. As the centre of the city was at a noisy stand still. Good natured crowds but still a shock to us expecting a quiet day out.

More drama awaited. Most of us were caught up in a bomb scare at the Cathedral and were ushered out due to a bag left inside at 1 pm. Rumour had it it could of been a parcel and there was a phone call to the police.

Unfortunately Mum and I missed the excitement, as we were busy eating our pies outside on the edge of the Cathedral Square. There were no police rushing around or other excitement. We found out as we were drinking tea in the Cathedral cafe later and chatting to others.

When we did emerge from the Cathedral we saw a band arrive in the square prior to the 3pm service. Bands marched up the hill and round the square before entering the Cathedral. It got confusing as each band continued to play their tune in the square, so two or more tunes at the same time was a muddle.

We went back down to The Market Place. This was particularly busy with family watching the fun. Band members waiting round their banner and men continued drinking outside the pub. The atmosphere was busy but friendly, watched by small groups of police.

Everyone got back to the coach safe and sound, comparing notes about the day and trying to cram extra shopping bags around our feet. Looking forward to the next trip.

Lorna Atkinson.

St John's Church:

We have been very fortunate recently because of the generosity of members and friends of the church. The Falls on the Vicar's stall and the prayer desk have been made and donated, and are very welcome, as the ones we have been using are in a poor state and the new ones match the altar frontal. We are very grateful to the donor. Some very generous donations have been received to open an organ fund, which may be necessary in, what is hoped to be, the distant future. Very many thanks to the donors.

Thank you to those who have covered the cushions that were donated by Julia Cawson. There are still more to be covered. I can buy the material if needed for anyone who could cover one or more.

The Harvest Festival will be at 6.30 on Sunday 9th October with refreshments afterwards in the Institute.

Discussions are taking place at the moment regarding the number of Services at our church. We have been very fortunate to have had Services on four Sundays a month for the last 15 or 16 years. We are one of only a few village churches in the Heart of Eden Team to have four Services, and with the diminishing attendance we shall probably sometime in the near future only have Services on the 1st Sunday (Holy Communion, Book of Common Prayer), 2nd Sunday DIY, 3rd Sunday (Holy Communion, Common Worship). This will be discussed at the PCC meeting in October. If anyone would like to let me know if they have strong views on the matter I will pass them on to the Rector Rev'd Sarah Lunn.

Gabriel Reid (Church Warden)

Film nights are back!

Films will be shown the last Saturday of the month from September to March, with a month off in December.

Starting with:

Saturday 24th September

Star Wars: The Force Awakens

The latest of the Star Wars series. Bring along your favourite inter-galactic inspired snacks and drinks, sit back and enjoy the show.

Saturday 29th October

The Full Monty

A golden oldie; a hilarious yet poignant story of six unemployed steel workers who form a male striptease act. Starring Robert Carlyle, Tom Wilkinson and Hugo Speer.

We also need your ideas for what to show over the winter months, there'll be the usual voting form at the first showing.

Also, as we now have our own kit, anyone can now show a film for a birthday party or other celebration; your very own desert island movie. Drop us a line if you want to put on your own show.

Quiz Night

SATURDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER

DOORS OPEN 7.00, 7.30 START

**BRING AND SHARE SUPPER AND YOUR OWN
DRINKS**

**THIS WILL BE JOHN AND FRANCES' LAST QUIZ
NIGHT SO IT'S BOUND TO BE A GOOD ONE!**

Fellsiders Ladies Curry Night: *Wednesday Sept 7th, Murton Institute, 7.30pm*

Come and have your taste buds tickled by the tantalising assortment of curry dishes, from mild and fragrant to those that pack more of a punch, made by our own Fellside chefs.

£5 a ticket, please book with Dorothy 52798 or Joy 52133 by Friday September 2nd. All ladies welcome

RAFFLE , donations welcome, all proceeds to CURRY AID

We would welcome volunteers to create this feast, contact the above numbers. See you there .

Mrs Pinafore's Spicy Apple and Plum Cobbler

Ingredients serves 4 - 6

For the filling:

2 cooking apples, peeled, quartered and cut into 1 cm thick slices
4 plums, quartered and sliced
2 tablespoons of mincemeat or blackcurrant jam
2 tablespoons sugar
2 teaspoons of cinnamon

For the topping:

200 g self-raising flour
2 tablespoons sugar
1 teaspoon cinnamon
50 g butter
150 ml single cream

Method

Preheat the oven to 180°C.

Place the filling ingredients in a 1 – 1.5 litre baking dish and mix.

For the topping, mix the flour, sugar and cinnamon and rub in the butter until it resembles fine breadcrumbs. Make a well in the centre, pour in half the cream and mix with a knife. Add more cream until you have a soft but not sticky scone-like dough. Divide the dough into around 14 pieces, each about the size of a large walnut. Flatten each one until it is about the thickness of a pound coin. Arrange the cobbles on top of the fruit. Sprinkle 1 or 2 teaspoons of sugar over the cobbles.

Bake for 30-35 mins until the cobbles have turned golden-brown. Good served hot or cold, with custard, ice-cream or cream.

Happy cooking! If you have a recipe to share please send it to the editor in the usual way.

The Potting Shed, August 2016

Hello gardening friends, are you as weary as I of trying to keep an ever growing jungle under control? The spectacular sunny May gave way to more changeable weather in June and July, ideal weather for trees, shrubs and herbaceous perennials to double their growth. My rose parterre terrace has had the most blooms ever, only 3 years old and really coming into its own. The fragrance from the flowers has been almost overwhelming, but when those heavy rains at the end of June and early July lashed down I lost over 80 opening buds to "balling" or wet rot. Such a shame. So . . . to cheer us up we decided to go and visit other gardens , near and far, for inspiration and sheer enjoyment.

One of the first gardens we visited was Thornton Hall gardens , between Staindrop and Darlington, in early June. People use the phrase, it has the WOW factor but this garden truly has. It is only open for a few days in June and early July. Two or three paddocks attached to the Medieval farm house have been developed into gardens full of such diverse colours and quirky statuary, laid out with the imagination of an artist who has mixed colours and textures on the canvass before them. Lupins, standing ramrod straight were the stars of the borders when we visited, along with early flowering shrubs and foliage plants to add shades of lush greens and greys. Although it is a garden on a rather grand scale, that includes two small lakes, I think every visitor could take away a planting scheme that could be used in their garden at home.

Another garden that I was able to visit for the first time was the walled garden at Scampston, near Malton on the edge of the Vale of York. I have heard a lot about this garden as it has been featured on several garden programmes , because the designer Piet Oudolf was the first designer to introduce Prairie planting on a grand scale. One walks through a series of rooms within the walled garden until you finally enter a garden full of grasses planted amongst large herbaceous perennials, full of bees and other pollinators. This summer Scampston is celebrating 300 years of Capability Brown, who designed the parkland at Scampston. I would certainly recommend a visit if you are visiting the York area.

One of my favourite gardens I was lucky enough to visit in mid July was Haddon Hall, a medieval hall on a grand scale. It has featured in many costume dramas and more recently with the historian Ruth Goodman who made a fascinating programme, The Tudor feast, using the 13th century kitchen undercroft as it would have been used in Tudor times.

Haddon is famous for its climbing roses that cling to the mellow stone work of the hall, along with beautifully terraced herbaceous borders. the newly planted lavender knot garden was full of bees and the scent from the lavender mixed with the heady perfume of the roses became quite intoxicating.

I believe you can always bring back a little idea after visiting all these wonderful gardens , that you can adapt for some tricky corner in your own patch, however big or small. If you get the chance go and explore, use the N.G.S. local yellow book brochure, there are plenty of inspiring gardens, right here on our doorsteps. Make the most of the late summer sunshine, we will have plenty of time later in the year to plan next year's borders, get out and about.

STOP PRESS !!!!! Murton Institute will host their first "Highlights" evening on Friday November 18th, when we will enjoy a musical evening with James Hill and Anne Janelle , young Canadian musicians who will entertain us with an amusing quirky concert, playing ukelele and cello. their promo video is brilliant! Time 7.30pm at the Institute, raffle and bar. Tickets :£8 adults, £4 children, and £20 family(2 adults and 2 children) details and tickets from Tina 01768353642. Early booking is advised as this duo have quite a following. Look forward to seeing you there.

The Foggys take the Low Road to Scotland.

Mr & Mrs Foggy were invited to a family event somewhere near Strathcarron in North West Scotland. Mr Foggy found Strathcarron in his book of maps. It seemed a long way to drive – 320 miles over winding roads. So Mr Foggy looked at his other options. The bus was out because his English Bus Pass can only be used in England. The train via Inverness looked the quickest route but the West coast route looked more interesting but a bit expensive. An Appleby to Mallaig ticket would cost £62.85 each but he worked out that by buying two tickets (Appleby to Glasgow Central - £8.10 and Glasgow Queen Street to Mallaig - £15.00) he could do the outward journey for £23.10 each.

Mr & Mrs Foggy set off with their rucksacks and arrived mid morning in Glasgow. Their walk from Central to Queen Street stations took them past a Wetherspoons. The Foggys were hungry so dropped in for a Scottish cooked breakfast. Mrs Foggy was disgusted at Mr Foggy having a pint of “heavy” at 10.00 am but Mr Foggy explained that it was traditional in Glasgow.



They caught the Mallaig train which meandered slowly through the Glasgow suburbs along Loch Long and Loch Lomond. Mr Foggy pointed out that Tyndrum is the smallest village in the country with two stations. Mrs Foggy was getting bored with looking out at hills and bogland. Rannoch Moor looked very wet and uninviting with tiny stations literally in the middle of nowhere. Eventually the train dropped down to civilisation at Fort William where after a short stay it turned round and headed for Mallaig. At Glenfinnan the train crossed the concrete viaduct made famous in the Harry Potter films. The Foggys eventually reached Mallaig at the end of a long day and checked into a B&B looking out over the harbour.

The following morning they walked down to the harbour and walked towards the large ferry moored there. But an official redirected them to the end of the pier where a small car ferry looking no bigger than the Windermere Ferry was loading cars. Mr Foggy noticed that the sea was a bit rough and he knew that sailing in a small flat bottomed boat was going to be uncomfortable. It was. Mr Foggy stayed outside in the fresh air listening to the sound of car alarms and inside Mrs Foggy looked anxiously at the white faced boy sitting beside her. Fortunately the crossing only took 45 minutes and all were glad to be back on dry land. Mr & Mrs Foggy started running for the waiting bus (only two buses a day to Broadford) but were assured that it would wait for all the ferry passengers. The bus set off at a rapid pace giving its passengers a bumpy ride similar to the car ferry. The Foggys admired the biggest brightest double rainbow they had ever seen. Broadford seemed little bigger than Murton with little to look at while waiting for the bus to Kyle of Lochalsh. This eventually arrived and it crossed the Skye Bridge back onto the mainland and into Kyle of Lochalsh. Mr Foggy quietly heaved a sigh of relief. Crossing Skye was the uncertain bit of the journey and he had visions of being marooned for days in Armadale. The Foggys spent a few minutes sightseeing in Kyle (it doesn't take long!) before sheltering from the rain in a cafe while waiting for the train.

In the final leg of their journey the train hugged the water's edge through Plockton (remember Hamish Macbeth!) to Strathcarron.

The return journey via Inverness and Edinburgh was quicker but less exciting. Again an advance through ticket would have been £78 but three separate advance tickets between Strathcarron – Inverness - Edinburgh -Appleby came to less than £15. Mr Foggy was happy.



Fix My Street

Have you ever seen a problem which requires action from a public body or utility but were not sure who has responsibility? And if you thought you knew did you give up after ringing up and being told for the third time that your call was important? You had got bored listening to classical music, hearing various recorded messages and pressing several buttons only to find none of the options fits your request.

There is now a simple online facility which allows you to report such a problem without having to ring round. It also allows you to see what other problems have been reported in your area. Fixmystreet at <https://www.fixmystreet.com> allows you to point out your problem on a map, and describe it. Whether it is a broken street light, vandalism, a blocked drain, fly tipping, an empty grit box, a pothole or whatever fixmystreet will identify the responsible authority and report it. Should you wish you can report problems anonymously. Fixmystreet won't actively pursue it but will come back to you at regular intervals to ask whether the problem has been resolved. Public bodies and utilities take notice as their responses are monitored. We requested via fixmystreet that a grit box be provided on the hill between Langton and the bypass. After a week we were contacted by Cumbria County Council to say that it had been added to their request list and a few weeks later it appeared. Success!!

It won't work every time. If after several weeks and several requests to the authorities your request has not been met fixmystreet will give up but will suggest other actions you might try yourself.

So if you see a problem report it via fixmystreet and await results. If you are not online ask someone else to report it anonymously on your behalf. It might work!

WE ARE SURVIVORS (for those born before 1940.....)

We were born before television, before penicillin, polio shots, frozen foods Xerox, contact lenses, videos and the pill. We were before radar, credit cards, split atoms, laser beams & ballpoint pens, before dishwashers, tumble driers, electric blankets, air conditioners, drip-dry clothes....and before man walked on the moon.

We got married first and then lived together (how quaint can you be?). We thought "fast food" was what you ate in lent, a 'Big Mac' was an oversized raincoat and "crumpet" we had for tea. We existed before house husbands, computer dating, and sheltered accommodation was where you waited for a bus.

We were before day care centres, group homes and disposable nappies. We had never heard of FM radio (*come on Pat, it's DAB now -Ed*), tape decks, artificial hearts, word processors or young men wearing earrings. For us "time sharing" meant togetherness, a chip was a piece of wood or fried potato, hardware meant nuts and bolts, and software wasn't a word.

Before 1940 "Made in Japan" meant junk, the term "making out" referred to how you did in your exams, "stud" was something that fixed a collar to your shirt, and "going all the way" meant staying on a double decker bus to the terminus. In our day cigarette smoking was fashionable, 'grass' was mown, "coke" was kept in the coal house, a "joint" was a piece of meat you ate on Sundays and "pot" was something you cooked in. Rock Music was a fond mother's lullaby,

“Eldorado” was an ice-cream, a “gay person” was the life and soul of the party, whilst “aids” just meant beauty treatment, or help for someone in trouble.

We who were born before 1940 must be a hardy bunch when you think of the way the world has changed and the adjustments we have had to make. No wonder there is a generation gap today.... BUT

By the grace of God we have survived!!!

GARDEN WASTE SKIPS

The garden waste skips will continue to be provided for the remainder of the summer. The current arrangement with Eden District Council is that one skip will be provided in Murton and one in Hilton every month. The skips will be removed once they are full.

The Parish Council are responsible for ensuring that only garden waste is put into the skips; if anything else is found to be in the skips then the PC will be charged for having it separately removed and we may lose the skips altogether, so please do not dispose of rubble or any other rubbish in the skips.

The skips do fill up very quickly, so please chop us any larger items such as prunings; large branches should not be put in the skips at all as they can't be composted.

Most people would prefer to have green garden waste bins provided as happens in Appleby and elsewhere. The PC will write to Eden District Council to see if this can be arranged, but with budget cuts it seems unlikely, so the skips are the best we can do for the present. If anyone needs help moving garden rubbish to the skips, please phone me or any of the other parish councillors and we will see if we can help.

Anne King 017683 52308

Mining in Scordale

Lead mining in Scordale is believed to date back to the 12th century and is known to have taken place at Mason's Hole (high on the north side) in the 18th century. However documentary evidence of lead mining only starts when the London Lead Mining Company worked the valley between 1824 and 1876. The mines were eventually very extensive and it was possible at one time to walk entirely underground from the Hilton Mine (on the south side of Scordale) round to the Murton Mine (on the north side) and then under Mell Fell through to the White Mines in Gasdale. In 1851 Scordale produced "800 bings of lead" (1 bing = 8 cwt). Power for the mineral processing was provided by several large water wheels.



The London Lead Company invested heavily in the area building roads, schools, reading rooms, public washhouses, improved housing and piped water supplies to the villages. Although a Quaker company it also donated money and land for the building of churches.

The lead industry suffered greatly in the 1870s as cheaper and better quality imported lead largely replaced English ores. By 1885 lead mining in Scordale had been abandoned but the mines re-opened in 1896 and were worked by several

companies for witherite and barites until 1919 when the machinery at Hilton was dismantled. The derelict buildings are shown in the photograph on the right from the 1930s. Note the (now gone!) bridge over the beck and the lead chimney flue on the far right. A minor revival took place in the 1930s when Bill Wharton held the mineral licence and this continued after the war on a very small scale. Bill Wharton lived at Town Head Cottage in Hilton and employed about 10 miners. The photograph from February 1949 below shows Scordale miners taking a break. In 1950 Bill sold his mineral rights to Laporte Chemicals who also operated the Silverband Mine at Knock. No mining activity seems to have taken place since then as the military had taken over the area and most of the mine buildings were destroyed during their exercises in 1960-1980. In 1972 the Lancaster University Speleological Society explored the mines and published maps of what was still accessible. In 1999 the lead mines were declared a scheduled monument by English Heritage and in 2005-2008 they made a detailed survey of the area. Their report describes the mines in detail. A copy will be found at www.research.english-heritage.org.uk if searched under "Scordale".



Readers who wonder what it might have been like to be a miner in Scordale can look at a Gaumont British Newsreel from 1949 entitled "Loneliest Mine High in the Pennines". It can be seen at the website www.ITNSource.com (search under "Scordale"). Do any of our older residents recognise any individuals?

