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# THE VILLAGER

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## Editorial:

Welcome to the latest edition of the Villager. This edition comes to us courtesy of Gabriel Reid who has sold her house and is moving into Appleby in the New Year. Gabriel has been a regular contributor of Church News to The Villager in her role as Church Warden, and I look forward to hearing who I need to pester for future contributions. Gabriel also distributed around 50 copies of the Villager in Hilton & I would ask for a volunteer to take on this role. Come on, a walk round Hilton 4 times a year will be good for you! Please contact me on the phone/email below.

Thanks to all those who have contributed to this issue. As far as the rest of you are concerned, please don't be shy. I am always looking for copy, be it short stories, poems, recipes, tales of your travels, tales of the history of the Parish - indeed anything you wish to share with us.

Richard King: Editor 01768352308 : [richard.anne.king@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:richard.anne.king@hotmail.co.uk)

## Events at the Institute:

We have had some great events at the Institute recently – film nights have started up again and the community lunches and coffee and craic continue to be well attended. We had an excellent evening in November – a ukulele and cello duo, James Hill and Annie Janelle, all the way from Truro, Canada, as described elsewhere in this edition of the Villager. Thanks to all who made it such a success, particularly to Tina Wragg, without whom it would not have happened. Thanks also to Alistair Maltby of Helm Bar Brewery and Matt from The Stag Inn at Duffton for providing the bar.

### Upcoming Events

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December: Coffee and Craic, 10 – 12. £2.50 for a bacon butty and tea or coffee. Cakes also usually available, plus a variety of stalls and a raffle.

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December: Film night – Keeping Mum. Doors open 7 pm for a 7.30 pm start. Entrance donation £5.

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December: Community lunch, 12 – 1. £3 for soup, dessert and tea or coffee.

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> December: Christmas Domino Drive, 7.30 pm.

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January: Community lunch, 12 – 1. £3 for soup, dessert and tea or coffee.

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> January: Film night – Untouchable. Doors open 7 pm for a 7.30 pm start. Entrance donation £5.

### Highlights Review:

First Highlights concert a SELLOUT ! Over 70 people enjoyed a captivating musical evening in Murton Institute on Friday November 18th when the Canadian couple, James Hill and Anne

Janelle entertained the audience with a quirky, fun, varied and inspiring concert playing a ukulele and cello. I have never heard such a mixture of fantastic sounds emanate from either instruments before. James' rendition of Michael Jackson's " Billy Jean " was truly awesome ! His ukulele produced percussion, guitar, banjo and almost electronic musical notes. The couple have an interesting site on You tube, so if you missed the evening you can sample a small part of their repertoire.

Highlights is the organisation based in Appleby that works with the Arts Council to bring Art, Music and Drama to Rural communities. Our next Highlights event will be in May, artists and exact day T.B.C. I do hope to see you there. Details from Tina Wragg, 01768353642.

### **Fellsiders:**

#### **Review of 2016:**

The Fellsiders have enjoyed a variety of outings and guest speakers over the last 12 months. We kicked off the New Year with a super Ladies Night Out and Dinner at Appleby Golf course when 40 ladies braved the chill for an evening of good fun and delicious food. We enjoyed several fascinating talks by the local Red Squirrel group, the North Pennines Nectar works officer who explained why we must all plant nectar rich flowers to encourage insects and bumblebees into our gardens, a brilliant talk on the restoration of the water mill at Acorn bank, and several outings, including a visit to an inspiring garden, a trip to Durham which coincided with the miners Gala day , a visit to the Devil's Porridge museum near Annan, and a trip to Keswick to see their Christmas show at the Theatre by The Lake.

The program for 2017 looks to be equally as interesting with a varied group of guest speakers and several outings planned. The Curry evening in September proved so popular, with the food being cooked by members, that we are going to repeat the experience next September with proceeds going to Curry Aid. We will start the year with our Ladies Dinner and night out which is planned for Wednesday Jan 11th. Details of venue, time and menu will be confirmed in the next couple of weeks. Details from Tina or Joy

Any lady who lives in the parish is welcome to join Fellsiders for £10 a year, and any lady can pop along to any of the meetings as a "Guest", and we also welcome the gentlemen to some of the evenings. If you have any queries please get in touch with Tina 017683 53642, Joy 52133 or Dorothy 52798.

#### **2017 Events:**

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> Jan: Ladies Dinner – details to be announced, further information available from Tina Wragg and Joy Sampson.

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February: An Alaskan Journey – a wee slideshow from a recent kayaking and walking trip in Alaska.

## St John's Church:

The Carol Service will be on Sunday 18th December at 4pm and will be taken by the Rev'd Janet Cox. It would be lovely to have lots of children who can take part by taking the figures up to the crib and placing them there. There will be mulled wine and mince pies in the Institute afterwards.

The Casson organ was finally removed from the church at the end of October. The Walker organ is a pleasure to play and has proved a very good support to the singing.

The Services from January will be:

1st Sunday of the month: Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

2nd Sunday: Informal Worship

3rd Sunday: Holy Communion (Common Worship)

4th Sunday: No Service

5th Sunday: Alternating with Appleby

There are a number of vases in the vestry belonging to flower arrangers. Perhaps the owners could collect them as space is limited there.

I wish everyone a very happy Christmas.

Gabriel Reid (Church Warden)

## CIVIC NEWS : November 2016

Full marks to anyone who noticed that I didn't send an update on parish matters to the Editor in time for the last edition of The Villager. This was not for want of trying on his part I may say, so I determined to complete a report for you following our PC meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> November.

Councillors were very pleased to welcome some Murton residents who wished to raise their concerns about the plans by Eden District Council to remove all the street lighting except for one light at Murton Bus shelter as the lights fail. The matter was the subject of our Parish meeting in March 2013 as part of the EDC consultation, and despite poor attendance at the meeting, the PC secured an agreement with the District Council that 3 out of 18 lights in the parish would be retained despite none of them reaching the criteria set for retention. Those lights are as follows:

- Light outside Hilton Hall – because the school bus drops off at this point.
- Light at Lane Foot, Hilton – because of the proximity of the river and as the lane is the main pedestrian pathway to the Institute
- Light in Murton beside the bus shelter.

We were assisted in our discussion by Martin Stephenson, our County Councillor, William Patterson, our District Councillor and PCSO Karen Dakin. The councillors clarified that there is no statutory obligation on either council to provide footway lighting (as it is called). It emerged that if we wish to retain more lights within the villages, it would be a 'self-help' situation. Despite concerns that residents particularly in Murton feel vulnerable following recent break-ins, Karen was able to reassure us that the police consider the risk of crime to

be low and all recent incidents related to farms rather than houses and couldn't state whether or not the lack of lighting had been a factor. The PC are planning to revisit this topic at our next meeting in February, and in the meantime, I would urge any resident with any opinions or concerns on lighting to speak to one of the councillors or contact June, our clerk (Contact: 017683 52851 or [clerk@murton.org.uk](mailto:clerk@murton.org.uk)).

I can update you on the plans for widening Hilton Bridge as well. The project is currently out to tender, and the final plan will be given to the PC once the successful tender and associated plan has been chosen. At that point we shall consider the plan and we hope it will be available for discussion at our next meeting in February 2017. The work is scheduled to be carried out in July-Aug 2017.

The new cattle grids for Brackenber Moor are to be put in place at the end of November, a year later than expected. New gates were put in place last year to allow vehicular access during the work. However it would be helpful if the traffic using this road is reduced, so I would suggest that you use the other road to Appleby while the work is on-going where it is practicable.

Finally, winter is creeping ever closer so Be Prepared (like the Scouts). Put a wee shovel in your boot so you can use the grit boxes we now have along the roads to Appleby, and either phone any Councillor or the Winter Help line which is: 0300 303 2992 if you find that a box is empty. Drive carefully and be safe.

Happy Christmas

Barbara Govan, Chair

Murton Parish Council

## **CHANGES IN OUR PARISH:**

As has been mentioned elsewhere, Gabriel Reid is leaving the Parish and so I asked her for a brief farewell piece, which follows:

“Richard has asked me to write a few words about living in Hilton - Well, I can thoroughly recommend it! The two outstanding things are firstly, the wonderful community spirit. If you have a problem of any sort there is always someone who is more than willing to help. A few years ago I fell in the snow in the lane outside my house. By the time the ambulance came there were half a dozen people round me with blankets, cushions and comforting words. Secondly, the stunning views which I am going to miss so much. A few days ago the view from my upstairs window was of the sun shining on the snow- covered Lakeland fells, and there is the constant view of Murton Pike (except when there's fog!)

There are also so many social activities, Coffee and Craic, Community lunches, Fellsiders, Film and Quiz nights etc, etc. I hope to keep on coming to those, weather permitting. I hope Jack and Allison will enjoy living in Hilton as much as I have done.”

Since the last edition of The Villager we have lost John & Frances Sibson, who each made a huge contribution to village life and will be sorely missed. We wish them well in Norfolk & hope that they enjoy life there.

We were all sorry to hear of the death of Claire Patterson and our thoughts are with her family at this difficult time.

## **Mr & Mrs Foggy explore the Cumbrian Coast.**

Following a disastrous trip back from London on the last train of the day (which was three hours late) an irate Mr Foggy wrote to Virgin Trains to complain (even though it wasn't really their fault). He was happy to accept the £25 rail voucher as compensation (particularly as their return tickets from Euston had only cost them £10 each – by booking in advance). Mr Foggy pondered on what he might spend his voucher on and decided that a day exploring the Cumbrian Coast would be appropriate. Mrs Foggy carried her shopping bags and Mr Foggy clutched his Good Beer Guide and railway timetable.

The Foggys started their Cumbria Coast journey at Carlisle station and they had just enough time for Mr Foggy to sample the beer in the nearby William Rufus (a Wetherspoon's pub). Over his beer Mr Foggy read that William Rufus was the son of William the Conqueror and he was king of England from 1087 to 1100. He built the first castle at Carlisle but he died after being struck by an arrow while hunting, under circumstances that remain murky. Mr Foggy finished his beer and Mrs Foggy her coffee and they hurried to catch the next train to Barrow.



The train trundled through Dalston, Wigton and Aspatria but the Foggys alighted at Maryport. They hurried through the town (only an hour before the next train) down to the harbour where Mr Foggy treated them to fish and chips while sitting on the harbour wall. This was not a good idea as they were quickly spotted by dozens of hungry seagulls. They finished their lunch quickly so just had time to call in at the Lifeboat Inn on the seafront. Mr Foggy learnt that the Maryport RNLi Lifeboat Station closed in 1949 because the harbour had silted up but a new independent Inshore Lifeboat was set up in 1978 to cater for local sea and flood rescue. The Foggys rushed back to the station to catch the next train for Workington. After Maryport the line hugs the Cumbrian coast with wide open views across the Irish Sea.

At Workington they called into the Henry Bessemer (another Wetherspoon's pub!). This was formerly the Rendezvous cinema so is huge inside. It is named after Henry Bessemer who invented the Bessemer steelmaking process which worked particularly well with West Cumbrian iron ore making West Cumbria and Barrow-in-Furness the biggest steel suppliers in the world in Victorian times. Thousands of miles of railway track were built around the world using West Cumbrian steel. The Henry Bessemer is a long walk from the station so Mr Foggy didn't have much time to finish his beer (or Mrs Foggy her coffee) before they rushed back to the station to catch the Whitehaven train.

At Whitehaven they sought refuge in the Bransty Arch (yet another Wetherspoon's pub!) named after a nearby railway bridge which carried coal traffic down to the harbour. The pub was originally the workshop for the Whitehaven bus station so is enormous inside. Mr Foggy calculated he just had time for a final beer but Mrs Foggy declined any more coffee.

So after a long and exhausting day the Foggys returned home. Mr Foggy considered the Cumbrian coast fully explored but worth revisiting should the opportunity occur again.

## THE POTTING SHED: By Tina Wragg

Every one I meet has remarked that the autumn this year has been spectacular; the length of time that the leaves have remained on the trees, the deep rich colours of the leaves themselves and the late flowering of our herbaceous plants. Although the winds of last week have been responsible for the toppling of many ancient trees, they did manage to whip off the remaining leaves so that the final raking up of debris could be finished.

I was quite pleased to see the frosts on a couple of mornings that have halted the flowering of the herbaceous perennials in the borders. I cannot bring myself to cut back plants that are still in flower, but I know that our weather at the foot of the Fells can change dramatically at this time of year and we gardeners can get caught out by frozen ground, stopping us from our autumn tidy up tasks. If weather does permit here are some of the jobs you can be getting on with:

- Plan, order and plant new hedges. if your troubled by box blight, dig out it out and start over. Yew is slow growing but has all the neatness and glossiness of box. There are several hedge specialists, advertised at the back of the garden magazines, and they will sell plants in bare rooted bundles.
- This is an excellent time to plant stepover apples, giving them the winter months to establish themselves. Plant several that will pollinate each other for bumper crops. Another fruit that is happy to be planted at this time of year is Goosebury" Hinnonmaki Red", a hardy variety well suited to northern conditions, producing purpley red fruits on upright , easily pruned plants
- Prune climbing roses, tying them into their supports as you go. There is an easy step by step guide at [rhs.org.uk](http://rhs.org.uk)
- My holly trees seem to have a good show of berries this year. I have been advised by a canny friend to cut some branches now and put them in a small amount of water in a bucket in a frost free place, otherwise the greedy birds will have the lot before christmas.
- Clean your terracotta pots, giving them a good scrub and let them dry in the winter sun.
- Cauliflowers have stopped growing. To prevent the curds being damaged by frost, pull some of the longer leaves across the centre and tie down.

Many of the charity catalogues that pop through the letter box at this time of year have sections where by you can make a donation to buy a gift on behalf of a friend to a family overseas. The Save the Children online shop offers a Gardening pack for £29 which contains tools, fertiliser and seeds to help a family support themselves. The same charity also offers four tree saplings for £12 that you can send in your own name or on behalf of some one else. Oxfam also has a variety of gifts that can be sent to the third world countries.

I wish you a peaceful and uneventful winter in the garden, and hopefully it will only be a matter of a few weeks before those wonderful little white goblets of the first snow drops will be cheering our winter mornings.

A HAPPY FESTIVE SEASON to you all and best wishes for 2017, a rather weary gardener.

## Mrs Pinafore's Fennel and Potato Gratin

This vegetable bake goes well with fish and roast meat, or if you're not an obligate carnivore, with a crunchy salad. Thanks to Jackie Watkinson for the idea.

### Ingredients (serves 4)

50 g butter  
2 large bulbs of fennel  
2 onions  
400 g potatoes  
2 garlic cloves, crushed and chopped  
50 g parmesan cheese (cheddar does just as well)

### Method

Preheat the oven to 200°C (180°C fan)/400°F/Gas 6. If you have one, use a dish that can be used on the hob and go in the oven.

Trim the tops from the fennel and cut each bulb in half through the root, then cut each half lengthways into three wedges. Cut the onions into six wedges too in a similar way.

Cut the potatoes into wedges the same size as the fennel wedges.

Boil the potatoes in water until tender and drain well. Put the fennel and onions in the dish and add milk up to about half the height of the vegetables. Simmer until the fennel is tender – about 5 – 10 mins.

Add the butter and the garlic to the pan over a low heat until just melted. Add the potatoes to the pan and stir until coated. Sprinkle with the parmesan. Bake for 30-40 minutes, or until piping hot.

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

## SCORDALE MINERS UPDATE:

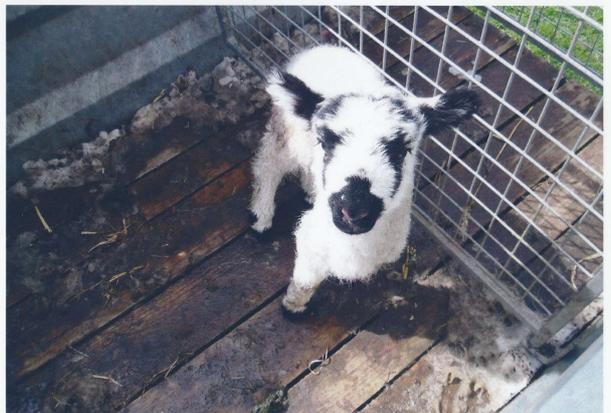
In the last issue of the Villager there was an article on the Lead miners in Scordale. In the bottom right of Page 12 there is a photo. Joan Winder has sent me a copy of the Picture Post. The photo is part of an article on the miners. Unfortunately, the article & photo will not reproduce, but the 3 miners in the photo are (left to right) John (Jack) Anderson, Tom Tinkler (standing) & Tom Anderson. The Anderson brothers lives in Joan's house "Smithy House" Hilton all their lives. Jack was the last of the Scordale Miners to die, aged 82, in 1974. Thanks to Joan for adding to our knowledge of the history of our Parish.

## WINTER 2012:

I am grateful to Dorothy Elliott of Murton for a series of photographs showing the rescue of young lambs in the last week of April 2012. 26 lambs were rescued and only 1 was dead. Dorothy names those in the photos as Geoffrey Wharton, Chris & Jane Hogg, Dorothy Rosalind & Ella. It serves to remind us that heavy snow may be beautiful, but it poses real problems for our farmers.

APRIL 2012.





## **MAKING THE BEST OF IT DOWN UNDER!**

We were delighted when one of my nephews announced his forthcoming wedding in Brisbane in August. We had long wanted to visit the north of Australia, but the European summer is the best time so we have never got round to detailed planning and booking. Even 10 months in advance we were unable to secure an Air Miles outward flight in August but we managed a return in mid September and a cheap (non refundable) outward flight on Singapore Airways. Outline planning began, but after 2 months we heard that the couple had split up and the wedding was off! After my Victor Meldrew impression we decided to make the most of our opportunity. After all, we had 4 extra days to explore and no need to waste valuable luggage space with useless items such as suits, ties and posh shoes!

Our arrival in Brisbane was an example to countries all over the world. A short walk from the airbridge to immigration, a smiley greeting, cursory passport examination and then "Welcome to Australia Richard, you're good to go". Luggage on the carousel as we arrived, a short walk to the station & on to the air train to the city centre. A 5 minute walk to our hotel meant that the whole journey from the door of the plane to hotel reception took 55 minutes. At Heathrow you would still be in a queue for a surly passport examination to get back into your own country!

The hotel receptionist said that the dining room closed in 10 minutes, but he would alert the staff and asked us to go to our room, freshen up as quickly as we could and we could certainly have dinner. This set the tone for what I call "The Friendly Holiday". As with all our rooms in Oz, we had a fridge & basic cooking facilities so we had the opportunity to breakfast in our room and keep a few bottles cold. The next day we spent in Brisbane. We thought we would take a river tour for \$30 each but the lady in the Tourist Info advised us that the public "City Cat" did a longer route for \$5 each and armed with the leaflets she gave us we could dispense with the commentary on the more expensive tour. We booked a restaurant with a river view for the evening but fancied a beer or two beforehand. The riverside bars were heaving with young (or so they looked to us) people in business suits enjoying an after work bevy. We must have stood out by being more than double the average age and casually dressed, but people recognised strangers, welcomed us to Australia and engaged us in conversation which could have lasted all night.

The next day we left Brisbane & flew to Cairns. We planned to stay in 3 locations over the coming week before moving on to Darwin. A word of warning about Australian cars. Yes, they are upside down! By this I mean that the stalks on the steering wheel are reversed, with the wipers on the left and the indicators on the right. For a week I had very clean windows, but gave no indicated signals as I muttered "Korean C\*\*p" as I blamed Hyundai for what I later discovered was a requirement for all cars!

Our first stay was North of Cairns in Daintree National Park. This is a world heritage site containing the oldest rainforest in the world. The rivers and beaches are stupendous, and there are plenty of drives, walks etc to suit all tastes. The wildlife is wonderful, with Salt Water Crocodiles (Salties) one of the star attractions. Another star is the ridiculous Cassowary, a prehistoric looking bird a bit like an even more bad tempered emu. Once again we had a basic, but clean room leading out onto a huge terrace with fridges, catering facilities and wonderful views.

From the Daintree we moved on to the Atherton Tablelands. This is a hilly plateau, in an idyllic rural setting with a mild continental climate. Lakes to swim in or walk round, possum to spot and the most wonderful beef. Outside the main cities, food in Australia is good, but plain. There is not much other than steak, chicken or a distinctly average fish (Barramundi) on offer. You might find an Italian or Indian if you were very lucky. However, many hotels have free BBQ facilities and these are replicated in car parks etc across the area. For example, the waterfront in Cairns is

approximately 2 miles long with 8 or more sets of 4 free gas BBQs for you to prepare your own food, washed down with the contents of your Eski.

From Atherton we moved on to Cairns, the jumping off point for the Barrier Reef. You can do anything from a half day cruise (with 2 hours or so swimming over the reef) to spending a night or 2 on expensive island resorts. Either way, the reef is not to be missed.

The sad thing about this area is that swimming in the sea is very unwise, whether because of jellyfish from October to March, or Salties anytime. The sea is inviting, the beaches stupendous, but the risk too great. Further inland, for example in the Tableland Lakes, there are some freshwater crocs. These are considered safe so whilst I wouldn't go and bang one on the nose, the locals say if you leave them alone they will afford you the same courtesy!



From Cairns we flew on to Darwin. Again, a small but very friendly city with an interesting history, including being virtually extinguished for the first time by the Japanese in World War 2 and then for the second time by Cyclone Tracy. Darwin is really the jumping off point for excursions to Kakadu, Katherine Gorge & Litchfield National Parks. We went on a 5 day camping safari, learning a great deal about aboriginal history, the development of modern Australia and wildlife.

We then flew to Alice Springs, the jumping off point for Uluru (Ayers Rock). We took a 3 day camping safari to include Uluru, The Olgas & Kings Canyon. We were lucky in that there had been rain for 2 weeks before our visit so the desert was blooming. The distances are huge, over 400k from Alice to Uluru, another 200 to Kings Canyon, but the scenery and wildlife are fascinating. One highlight was a dawn walk round Uluru. The light and the rock are simply magical.

As with all good holidays, we left burning for more. We have still only scratched a small part of the surface of this wonderful, beautiful, country. We met a couple of similar age to ourselves in our hotel pool in Darwin. They are retiring next year and plan the Ozzie motorhome ideal of a 26000 kilometre trip round Oz. I think it a bit far for us to take our van there, but am weighing up the alternatives of renting or buy on arrival and sell on departure. At least in the outback I won't need the indicators!

Travel arrangements courtesy of Pygmy Tours of Hilton.

## **THE SUEZ CANAL ZONE EMERGENCY 1951-1954**

*Thanks to Pat Laverty who has sent the following extract from The Suez Canal Veterans Web site. Pat served in the Canal Zone as part of his National Service.*

In 1951 the Egyptian Government abrogated the 1936 Anglo-Egyptian Treaty, which agreed to the British retaining a military base in the Suez Canal Zone until mid 1956 and threatened to “take over” the canal. As Britain still had about £100m worth of equipment stored in the Zone from the end of the war, and nearly 10,000 troops to oversee the protection and maintenance of the equipment, The British Government refused to accept the abrogation. This resulted in the Egyptian Government ordering its troops and police to harass British troops in the Zone. Very quickly this harassment escalated and many civilians plus members of the Fedayeen, were taking part. A “Suez emergency” was declared by Britain and an extra 6,000 men, 170 tons of stores and 330 vehicles were despatched to the Zone in a matter of 10 days, the swiftest build-up every achieved by the British Army in peacetime.

At it's peak this military campaign involved about 80,000 Servicemen & women, made up from Army, RAF, Royal Marine Commandos & a Navy squadron - the largest force engaged in any one military theatre since the end of World War 2. Not only was the campaign fought to protect British personnel and property in the Zone, but it was also the time of the “Cold War” with a Russian threat to the Middle East oil fields which supplied Western Europe's oil. Furthermore, the Canal was considered vital to Britain's strategic interests as the route to Australasia, The Far East and our African Colonies as well as being essential for European trade with the Far East.

During this emergency approximately 600 service personnel, who were classed as on “active service” died due to the actions of terrorists and ill health brought on by the unhygienic conditions prevalent in the Zone. Those who served in this Emergency were awarded the Suez Canal Zone General Service Medal.

## **OVER TO YOU PLEASE!!!**

I have now used up all the articles in my stock. If you have been anywhere interesting, see anything amazing (hint: Nepal/Alaska??) or have anything to share, please let me have copy anytime. If you have recently moved into the Parish please let me have a paragraph or two to introduce yourselves. If you have a story to tell, or news to share I am waiting!!

