
THE VILLAGER

Editorial:

Welcome to the 66th edition of The Villager. As always, many thanks to those who have contributed to this edition, a plea for those contributions to continue, and also for additional contributions from anyone with something they would like to share with our audience. May I remind you that the deadline for contributions to the October issue of The Villager is 1st October.

I am very grateful to those who organised a raffle in the Village Hall on April 15th which raised £103 for The Villager. With the Parish Council supporting one or two issues a year, I think I have enough funds to see us through to this time next year!

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Forthcoming Events at the Institute:

Soup'n'Pud: Served between 12 noon & 1pm. Still £3. Free Tea/Coffee

All proceeds to Institute funds. Do come along. A warm welcome & a great way to catch up with friends & neighbours over lunch.

June 13th, July 11th, August 8th, September 12th

Coffee'n'Criac: 10.00am - noon. Bacon Butties, tea, coffee & cake available.

June 17th

Natural England: Planting & Fencing on Murton, Burton & Hilton Commons:

June 21st: 4.00pm - 7.00pm. See following article.

Afternoon Tea: See later notice for details

July 22nd: 2.00pm & 4.00pm Adults £6.00 children £3.00

Curry Night: Bring & share. Raffle. Proceeds to Curry Aid (see later article).

Sept 6th

Film Nights:

I have it on good authority (from a motorhome deep in rural France) that Film Nights will resume on Saturday 30th September and continue on the last Saturday of each month until the end of March 2018. Film Titles will be announced nearer the start and, as usual, people will be invited to vote for future films on 30th September. There is a list of films requested already, but please send your suggestions to jules@hiltonworkshops.co.uk

Natural England: Planting and Fencing on Murton, Burton and Hilton Commons:

Natural England is consulting on plans for tree planting and fencing on the commons and would like to hear the views of local residents. These proposals are separate from the MOD's proposal to de-register the common.

Natural England has worked with the MOD and local farmers to draw up a scheme that benefits wildlife and landscape, while maintaining viable farming in the area. It would be part of a Countryside Stewardship agreement and contains four key areas for improvement:

- i) Limestone grassland on Long Fell, where the rare Teesdale violet occurs. Temporary fencing is needed to control sheep grazing so that it is heavier in spring and lighter in summer. This may be done by a series of moveable paddocks.
- ii) The area of Little Fell known as Scott Howe, where spring gentian occurs. This could be a temporary enclosure of about 1.25ha on the area of Scott Howe, with 500m fencing that can be removed when not required.
- iii) Hilton Beck corridor. Fencing off the left bank of the river for 15 years would exclude stock and encourage re-growth of a patchwork of trees and scrub within the river corridor. The total area of the enclosure created would be 13.7ha, and the length of fencing would be 1420m.
- iv) Potential areas of scrub on the lower slopes of Murton Pike. There is one large and two smaller areas of scrub planting proposed:

	AREA (ha)	Length of Fence (m)
Trundale Gill	1.7	380
Broom Hill	3.1	770
Murton Beck	17.2	2160
TOTAL	22.0	3310

Scrub means low growing trees including hawthorn, blackthorn, birch, rowan, hazel and aspen, with alder and willow in the wetter areas. They would be planted at low density and the plots would include lots of open space. The fences are needed for 15 years to exclude sheep grazing, but the young trees would also be protected by tubes and stakes. Gates would be provided for people to walk through the areas if they wish.

Scrub and woodland were once a much more common feature in the landscape but have been drastically reduced. It is an important habitat in its own right and is also vital for winter survival of black grouse, a species which is in decline. Increasing tree cover is also an important tool in management of catchments to reduce flood risk.

There is an opportunity to see and discuss the plans with Natural England at a drop-in session at: **Murton Institute on Wednesday 21st June between 4.00pm and 7.00pm.**

All are welcome. If you can not attend this and would like to see the proposals, please contact Shirley Muir, telephone 016973 20803 or email shirleymuir7@btinternet.com

Fellsiders:

The Fellsiders are making the most of the summer months by exploring the Cumbrian countryside & places of interest. The group meet on the first Wednesday of the month (not August). All are welcome. Membership is £10pa & visitors may attend events for £3.

Wed 5th July: Trip to Keswick launch & Lingholm, Beatrix Potter's holiday home & garden.

Wed 6th Sept: Curry Night. Bring & share. Raffle. Proceeds to Curry Aid (see later article).

Details for all events from Tina (017683 53642), Joy (017683 52133) or Dorothy (017683 52798).

Curry Aid:

Curry Aid founder Jessie Oddy and her husband Alan made their annual visit to India to distribute the £2,500 they raised for underprivileged children in 2016.

Jessie and Alan who live in Appleby visit India each year at their own cost as part of a trip to see Jessie's family, who still live in Tamil Nadu, where she grew up.

They treated the children at local orphanages and bought essential supplies, as they have done for the past 10 years since the charity was set up.

This year they made sure each child had their own plate to eat from, as some were still eating off a banana leaf. They also treated 75 children to pizza, as well as continuing to support a boy with a heart condition with medication which has enabled him to return home to live with his mother, rather than being cared for by the nuns at the orphanage. Many of the children have surviving families, but they cannot afford to care for them at home.

As well as continuing to support the orphanages, Jessie is also keen to help people to help themselves, after seeing how a one off donation to buy a disability scooter for a young woman has enabled her to return to live with her mother and the pair have now set up a small shop in their home. Jessie said: "It has been a total change of lifestyle for them."

Over the years, Curry Aid and its supporters have changed the lives of hundreds of children in orphanages in Tamil Nadu by buying beds, mattresses, shoes, clothing and other essential equipment, as well as an annual treat for the children.

Jessie founded the charity in 2005 after coming across a tribal orphanage during one of her visits home and being shocked by the conditions and lack of money and vowing to do something to help.

Jessie wants to say a big thank you to everyone through the magazine to all the people in the area for all their support to Curry Aid, it means a great deal to know you all care.

Civic News June 2017:

I have to begin with an apology for giving such an inaccurate view of the recent moves by the MoD to remove the Murton, Hilton and Burton Fell Commons from the Commons Register in the last edition of 'The Villager'. My thanks to representatives of the Commoners Committees and those local residents who attended the PC meeting on 15th May. We had a wide-ranging discussion after which the PC voted unanimously to oppose the application. It was decided that as the Commoners response addressed the legal aspects of the Commons and the MoD Undertakings, the PC response should reflect the views expressed by our residents. Therefore, our opposition to the application is made on the following grounds:

1. The Parish Council considers that the information given in the application is insufficient to allow a full discussion of the implications of the application's changes for the community. The possible implications warrant a full public consultation process which would include all stakeholders to make an informed response.
2. The Commons Act of 2006 states that the total area of Common Land should not be reduced but this application is in direct contravention of this.
3. The consequences of de-registration to the villagers is causing great consternation and alarm. The Undertakings stated in para 7.9.1 that the MOD undertakes that the Commons will not be de-registered but as successor in title to the freehold common land there would be a possibility that the MOD could decide to sell the land. The consequences to the villages of Murton and Hilton would be catastrophic and completely outwith the control of the Parish Council and the residents that the Council represents.
4. The Parish Council considers that there is no demonstrable need or reason given to change the status quo and that the inclusion of this land on the Commons Register provides a safeguard of our right of access, the maintenance of the fell, and any change of use that may be proposed by the MOD.
5. The Parish Council would like a guarantee that the current rights of access would not be compromised in any way in perpetuity.

The application purports to correct an administrative anomaly. However the residents of Murton Parish are extremely concerned that this 'administrative anomaly' will have long term consequences on their way of life, community activities and impact hugely on the character of this vital fellside community.

As a Parish Council it is our duty to protect the environment within which we live, safeguarding the Commons and Village Greens for future generations. For these reasons, the Councillors of Murton Parish Council ask you to reject this application.

English Nature: Drop-in consultation session June 2017

We have been approached by a specialist consultant who is currently working on behalf of Natural England & the MoD regarding proposals to undertake some planting and fencing on Murton Pike. This is separate from the MoD application for de-registration but does affect the same three Commons.

There is a drop in session in The Institute on 21st June (mentioned elsewhere in this edition). The PC will be consulted separately so this session is primarily for local people.

Broadband: I am sure that everyone has seen the green box across from Hilton Bridge. I spoke to an Open Reach engineer who was working on it a few weeks ago and he was able to confirm that it is a fibre optic box for broadband and will offer a faster and more reliable service to anyone signing up for it within a mile of the box – when it becomes operational!

He advised that we consult our providers as soon as possible to find out what options are open to us. You can imagine how pleased I was (but sceptical) as we have been experiencing awful broadband speeds and a very poor service for months. So I encouraged Richard to contact BT, our provider as soon as he had noted a series of download speeds.

The result of this was that he was told that the fibre optic box could take up to 9 months before activation (no reason for this was given) and although they sympathised with our appalling download speeds, there was little they could do in the short term.

Therefore – join us in phoning your broadband provider to complain about the poor service and lobby for the fibre optic service to be activated as a matter of priority.

Date for your diary – the annual walk around the Village Greens will take place on Sunday 18th June. Come and join us if you can. Cllr King will post the details on the noticeboards.

Finally, there is nothing to report on the plans for Hilton Bridge, the skips for garden waste are in place and we have asked for a new grit box at Murton Bus Shelter to replace the damaged one.

If you have any queries or matters that you would like to bring to the attention of the Parish Council, please have a chat with your councillors or contact me directly. Contact details are available on the Murton website.

Barbara Govan
Chair

The Potting Shed:

Hello Gardening friends, haven't we had the most marvellous of Springs. The beds of early spring bulbs, then later tulips, have morphed almost seamlessly into full blown blousy, wild and colourful herbaceous borders. Everything is coming into flower at once and fighting for its own place in the flower beds. I was grateful for the rain a couple of weeks ago and again in the past couple of days, as many of the tall perennials and flowering shrubs were starting to droop.

Our garden is mainly clay based, although over the years we have tried to add as much homemade compost to it as has been available. It can be difficult to work if there has been extended periods of rain, and not all plants thrive, but there are also advantages to this type of soil. It is usually very fertile, keeps plants well supplied with moisture during drier periods, and some plants absolutely flourish in clay. It helps to add organic material and grit in the Spring, to break up the solid pan that often appears after our winter weather.

Roses in particular thrive on clay soil, all types, climbing, rambling, species, floribunda and hybrid tea. Here are some suggestions.

Rosa " Ab Fab", rose of the year 2010, a compact, disease resistant floribunda with primrose yellow flowers, long flowering, slightly liquorice fragrance.

Rosa " Beatrix Potter", an upright, bushy deciduous shrub rose, thorny stems and glossy dark green leaves. It bears charming, double soft pink flowers with a lovely perfume, flowers early summer into autumn. One of my favourites

Rosa "Abbie's Rose", a low growing but upright bushy floribunda, with dark green leaves . The flowers are lightly fragrant , double cerise pink.

Rosa " All my Loving" a hybrid tea, bearing large, double lightly scented, exquisite, cerise pink blooms on strong stems. these plants are dense and bushy, resistant to disease and flower until the first frosts.

Rosa " A Shropshire Lad", close to my heart, as I am a Shropshire Lass. . . . This is a versatile rose, grown either as a large shrub rose or a short climber. It bears large rosettes of many peachy pink petalled flowers with a delicate fragrance.

Rosa " Constance Spry" an old favourite, a vigorous shrub rose, with musky scented double, pink blooms. Good for the back of the border, or trained as a climber up a wall or fence.

Rosa " Diamond Days", a hybrid tea, with yellow white flowers with a strong citrus perfume. An excellent rose for the herbaceous border.

Rosa " Sir John Betjamen, a classic, repeat flowering shrub rose with large, deep pink double rosettes.

Other plants for clay soil include the standards " Day lilies" hemerocallis, these can flower all summer.

The native Fox glove , which happily self seeds all over my garden.

Purple Elder, " Sambucus Nigra", with its delicate pink, lacey flowers and wonderful dark purple foliage.

The bushy, tall lime green Euphorbia "Wolfennii", this plant will grow in sun or shade.

Hydrangea Macrophylla also enjoys clay based soils, but it needs protection the cold drying winds.

I hope this list has given you some extra choices for plants for clay based soils. I hope the sun shines over the summer months, the rain falls at night and our gardens flourish for us all. I also hope we have the opportunity to visit gardens near and far. Happy Gardening.

Highlights Concert A Massive Success!

Over 60 people attended the second Highlights event in Murton Village Institute on May 10th, when the Montreal Guitar Trio captivated the audience with their incredible skills on acoustic guitars. Their music ranged from modern, rock , jazz and classical with their fingers flying over the strings. We are so lucky that Murton Institute has become a venue for events sponsored by Highlights, an organisation supported by the British Arts Council and local and county councils. We will be able to host another Highlights event in the Autumn, we are currently bidding for our first choice. Details of the Act and times and date will be available in the Autumn edition of the Villager. Details also available from Tina <tel:01768353642>

Eden Valley Opera Company:

Produced by Joe Davis (Hilton), music student at St Peter's College Oxford, & Persia Babayan-Taylor (Appleby), student at Guildford School of Acting.

FROM THE MAKERS OF DIDO AND AENEAS '16
THE EDEN VALLEY OPERA COMPANY PRESENTS...
JOHN BLOW'S **VENUS AND ADONIS**

STARRING MEMBERS OF
THE ROYAL CONSERVATOIRE OF SCOTLAND
THE ROYAL NORTHERN COLLEGE OF MUSIC
AND LEEDS COLLEGE OF MUSIC

DIRECTED BY PERSIA BABAYAN-TAYLOR
PRODUCED AND CONDUCTED BY JOE DAVIES
FRIDAY 28TH JULY, 8PM
AT PENRITH METHODIST CHURCH

TICKETS
£10 / £7 CONC.
AVAILABLE ON THE DOOR
OR AT EVENTBRITE.CO.UK
OR BY CALLING
01768 353 284

Upper Eden Food Bank Severe Food Shortages:

Our local Church run food bank has been running for nearly five years. For most of that time the donations provided by many individuals has been sufficient to meet the needs of the hungry in the area, who are referred to us by professional organisations. Unfortunately since January we have seen a doubling in demand for our service (as is being reported throughout the country). The national food bank charity, The Trussell Trust, has reported this as being caused by changes in the benefits system.

If you are able to help, donations of any items from the list below can be brought to the Sands Methodist Church Appleby on Tuesday mornings between 10 and 10 30, or to St Lawrence Church on Friday morning between 11 and 12.

SHOPPING LIST

Tea bags-Instant Coffee (med) / Milk (1 ltr Full fat or semi-skimmed UHT) / Pasta sauces (Jars or sachets) / Fruit juice (1 Ltr carton UHT) / Fruit squash (1 Ltr) / Biscuits or snack bars / Tinned meat / Tinned fish / Cereals/Porridge (Med size boxes) / Tinned fruit / Tinned vegetables / Instant Mash / Potato / Soup (Tinned or packet) / Tinned Rice pudding / Sugar 500gm or 1kg / Jam (**not homemade**) / Pasta (Medium bags of dried pasta) / Baked beans / Tinned chopped tomatoes

Sorry but we are not allowed to accept homemade preserves.

The following items we have run out of, or are in very short supply:-

Tinned meat except corned beef, of which we have plenty at the moment,
Fruit Juice 1 litre carton UHT,
Fruit squash 1 litre,
Soup Tinned or packet,
Biscuits or snack bars,
Cereals/Porridge med size boxes,
Instant Mash potato

Welcome to our Parish!

Ian & I would like to thank all those that have made us welcome in our new home, Brooklyne, Langton and would like to introduce ourselves. We are Ian & fiona Webb, born and bred in Kent. Ian is an electrician and I am a legal secretary. We have been married over 30 years and have raised three very wonderful sons; one making us grandparents for the first time last month. The boys are all grown up and have gone out into the world and so we have reached a stage in our lives where we don't have to put up with all the traffic and the stress "down south". Ian spent many happy holidays with his grandparents in and around Caldbeck during his childhood and, because of his love of mountain walking, managed to persuade me that it would be a great idea to move to Cumbria. I didn't take much persuading really. Ian and I, and our Cairn Terrier, Oscar, are loving it here.

Join us for

Afternoon Tea

On

Saturday 22nd July 2017

To be held at

The Murton Institute

Come anytime between 2.00 pm and 4.00 pm to enjoy the occasion and help raise funds which will be split equally between the Institute and Blood Bikes.

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

Gluten Free Food will be available

Adults £6.00 Children £3.00

We would be grateful for any homemade cakes, scones or biscuits. Please contact Anne Bell on 51547, or email b.annebell@btinternet.com or Susan Moncaster at susan.moncaster1@mypostoffice.co.uk

Mr & Mrs Foggy participate in the Appleby Rotary Club Car Rally 2017.

Mrs Foggy picked up yet another glass of red wine and joined her fellow Hiltonites who were discussing the forthcoming Appleby Rotary Club Car Rally. Mr Schug assured her that the Car Rally was easy to follow and very enjoyable. Mrs Foggy said they would be happy to join the Car Rally in Mr Foggy's old car.

She broke the news to Mr Foggy later that evening. Mr Foggy was not amused. "The car hasn't started since last year and the clutch is always seized after several months' inactivity". Mrs Foggy said she was sure he could sort it out. Mr Schug delivered the application forms promptly the following morning.



Mr Foggy built the car (subsequently given the name "Kitty") almost 30 years ago from a chassis and body panel kit and a terminally rusted Ford Cortina which provided the engine, gearbox, suspension and electrics. Mr Foggy was used to its idiosyncrasies and went to start the car. It wouldn't start and the clutch was seized but eventually he sorted the problems out.

So Kitty and Mr & Mrs Foggy reported to the Car Rally meeting point at the centre of Appleby. They recognised some others from Hilton in a Morgan 4/4, a Land Rover Series 1, a Triumph Spitfire and an MGB. All looked very confident (except the Foggys). Each car navigator was given a "Road Book" of instructions defining the route using "tulip

arrows". Mrs Foggy looked at the route descriptions in horror. They reminded her of IKEA flatpack furniture instructions (which she never understands either). Mr Foggy thought he might be able to read the Road Book enough to get them round (sort of). After a bacon butty and coffee in Bojangles the cars set off at one minute intervals. Mr Foggy's Plan A (to catch up with the previous entrant and follow him) failed as they were caught up in a gridlock of cars in Boroughgate Appleby. On Mr Foggy's interpretation of the instructions they proceeded through Colby and Bolton and were pleasantly surprised when the car which started after them overtook them on the Cliburn Road (they must be going the right way!).

They followed their understanding of the instructions through Lowther Estate, Askham, Pooley Bridge (over the new temporary bridge) towards Glenridding but a right turn took them onto unfamiliar territory around Matterdale. Fortunately they spotted another participant ahead and followed him back to Aira Force. The road up Kirkstone Pass was busy and alarmingly Kitty started to misfire and cut out. Fortunately another Car Rally Member in an East German Trabant was also struggling which slowed the traffic down to a pace which Kitty could (just) keep up with. Downhill and on level roads Kitty performed well and the convoy trundled through Ambleside over Dunmail Raise and round the west side of Thirlmere. A long queue of Car Rally participants followed an elderly Wolseley car round the lake but as they approached the junction near the dam he went straight on (followed by the Foggys). Mr Foggy quickly realised their mistake and rejoined the correct route but in the meantime umpteen participants had made the correct turn and overtook them.

The convoy proceeded through the outskirts of Keswick and down Borrowdale. On the steepest part of Honister disaster overtook the Foggys. Kitty refused to go up and the engine kept dying. Honister Pass was blocked by the failed Kitty. Mrs Foggy suffered palpitations, hot flushes and hypertension. Mr Foggy eventually coaxed the car into a layby to allow others to pass and rest the car. Eventually he restarted it and coaxed it up the hill to the Honister Slate Mine. Mrs Foggy rushed to the toilet. Lunch was served to participants in the cafe. After lunch and time to cool the car down they trundled down the other side of Honister. The route map then directed them over Newlands Pass. Mr Foggy knew they might not make it over this hill and made a detour over the gentler Whinlatter Pass. They rejoined the allotted route near Keswick and followed it round territory which was very unfamiliar to Mr Foggy but clues mentioning Plumpton and Kirkby Thore meant they had a rough idea where to go. Curiously they never saw any other participants until they got back to Appleby and afternoon tea at the Masonic Hall.

Several participants enquired how Mr Foggy had got on. He confirmed that had enjoyed the day but made a mental note that if he did it again he would have a better prepared car and definitely a different navigator.

Cycling across India:

Our journey across India by bicycle started in Pondicherry on the east coast. Pondicherry was a French port and the seaside architecture was reminiscent of towns on the atlantic coast of France - just 15 degrees warmer! For the first few days we travelled on back roads - mostly flat - but passing through beautiful countryside. We covered up to 100k each day. Although it was hot, cycling was never unpleasant and we stopped at roadside tea stalls every hour. This gave us a wonderful opportunity to meet and talk with local people. We stayed in small local hotels and enjoyed warm hospitality and wonderful food. At the end of our third day we arrived in

Chettinad. The town had great wealth created by salt merchants. The area is full of palatial houses built by these merchants, but many properties are deserted as the merchants have moved on to the US, Europe and Mumbai. They leave a caretaker couple to look after the properties as they will not sell to anyone outside their caste. Often the houses deteriorate for a generation until a family wedding leads to many thousands of pounds being spent on restoring the property for the week of the wedding.



From Chettinad we moved on to Madurai and the most wonderful temple in Southern India. Then we climbed up into the hills of the Western Ghats for 2 days more difficult cycling. As we began our descent we planned for our next 2 nights in Kerala, where alcohol is becoming harder and harder to find. Our support bus had to find room amongst bikes, food & water for cases of beer and wine. Finally we reached the Keralan backwaters and enjoyed a night in a good (dry) hotel - we needed our supplies! - and then a day & night on a houseboat where we were fed wonderfully. Finally we rode into Fort Kochi. As we passed the headquarters of the Indian Navy we were greeted with their motto "Hit First - Hit Hard - Keep on Hitting".



Pondicherry Beach (East Coast).



Near Kochi (West Coast).

