
THE VILLAGER

Editorial:

Welcome to the 67th 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 next issues of The Villager are December 17th & March 18th.

Please note that you can find the current & recent back copies of The Villager at the murton.org website. The pictures will often be in colour. Sorry, but we can't afford colour printing!

Richard King: Editor 01768352308 : richard.anne.king@hotmail.co.uk

What's on @ the Institute:

Look out for posters on the noticeboards for further details and other events. Further details about Fellsiders and Highlights are given elsewhere in this issue.

October:

Wednesday 4th: Fellsiders. An audio visual presentation "Lakeland Panorama" by Tony Warren, with a raffle in aid of Hospice at Home

Tuesday 10th: Community lunch, 12—1

Saturday 21st: Quiz night

7.30 pm, with Quizmasters Macfadzean and Price. Bring and share supper.

Saturday 21st: Coffee and craic

Bacon butties, cake if you're lucky, range of stalls. 10-12.

Saturday 28th: Film night— Swallows and Amazons. The 2016 re-make of Arthur Ransome's classic tale, starring Kelly MacDonald, Andrew Scott and Rafe Spall. Doors open 7 pm for 7.30 start. Bring your own drinks and snacks

November:

Wednesday 1st: Fellsiders

Friday 3rd: Highlights - Steve Tiltson and Geoff Lowe. Go to the Highlights website to book tickets or contact Tina Wragg 53642. BYOB and glasses. Adults £9, Child £4.50, Family £25

Tuesday 14th: Community Lunch 12-1

Saturday 25th November- Film Night — Far from the Madding Crowd, starring Carey Mulligan, Matthias Schoenaerts and Michael Sheen. Doors open 7 pm for 7.30 start. Bring your own drinks and snacks.

December

Wednesday 6th: Fellsiders

Saturday 9th: Coffee and craic. Bacon butties, cake if you're lucky, range of stalls with Christmas goodies. 10-12.

Tuesday 12th: Community lunch, 12—1

Table tennis @ the Institute:

Mary-Anne Sadler is arranging table tennis evenings at the Institute.

The first evening is arranged for Tuesday 10th October:

Children 6 - 7.30 £1 each; Adults 7.30 - 9ish £1 each

Depending on feedback, Mary-Anne is hoping to have these evenings once or twice a month, so next date would be 25th October. Watch out for further emails.

Feedback from past events:

The Afternoon Tea held at the Institute on 22nd July raised just over £400, which will be split between The Institute & Blood Bikes. The organisers would like to thank all who came, gave donations, made cakes and helped out during the event.

Update on the Planting and Fencing on Murton, Burton and Hilton Commons:

Staff at Natural England would like to thank everybody who took the time to come along to the drop-in on 21st June at the Murton Institute to give their views on the proposals for fencing and planting works on Murton, Hilton and Burton Fells. The plans that were on display have been developed as part of a potential Countryside Stewardship agreement between Natural England and the graziers of the fell land.

The event was attended by around twenty people. Comments received varied from "it shouldn't be done at all" to "there is not enough of it and much more woodland should be planted or allowed to regenerate".

Most people had come along to find out more and were generally in favour once the reasoning behind the proposals was explained, but with an over-riding concern about maintenance. Almost everyone mentioned the unsuccessful planting at White Mines, which was done by MOD several years ago. Most of the tubes have now fallen over, and it looks a mess. Therefore people wanted to be sure that the proposed schemes for tree planting at Murton Pike and Scordale would be maintained properly.

A couple of people also mentioned that they would wish to maintain open views across the beck from Scordale, and would not want to see the development of very dense bracken and gorse within the bankside vegetation here.

The comments from the drop-in session and others received from consultees have been recorded and are being considered carefully.

With the matter of the proposed de-registration of the Common Land currently causing a great deal of local concern, it has been decided not to submit a formal application for consent for the fencing works this year. If and when such an application is made, consultees will be informed and will be given the opportunity to formally comment on the proposals. In the meantime, all the comments received during the informal consultation are being collated in a report as background to any application which is made in future.

Church Matters:

Hello everyone. My name is Peter Boyles and for a few months now I have been part of the team of clergy who looks after the churches in the Eden Valley. The plan is for Murton cum Hilton to see more of me in the future and for me to help church members develop services aimed at the next generation of churchgoers. Our aim for the Parish is to reach out to the younger generation (i.e the younger families with children) and find a way of regularly communicating with them to invite them to family/child friendly activities run by the church. To assist in this process of reaching out, St John's could use its baptismal register to begin to compile a list of families who have previously had a connection with the church. A written invitation will be sent out occasionally to families in the community based on a list from the register. This list could be augmented by local knowledge of new and other families we know about in the community but who have not had baptisms at the church. Once this work of compiling an invitation has been done, the church then has to work to organise activities and services which would be suitable for families with children. Messy Church is one such activity and we are planning one for Saturday 2 December, where we will help the children to make things to celebrate Advent in the home. This will take place in the Institute between 10.00 and 12.00. It is open to all, whether churchgoers or not. There will be coffee and chat and a chance to help with the activities. We will be making Christmas cards and other seasonal articles. Come along and help to make these things. But other seasonal celebrations could be adapted to be child-friendly, for example family services for Harvest, Mothering Sunday, Easter family service and a lambing service. All these involve getting the children to take part, are much shorter than the ordinary services of the church, and will have songs and hymns which children can easily learn.

I shall look forward to meeting you.

At the morning service at St John's on 8 August the following was mentioned: A week ago the centenary of the 3rd Battle of Ypres that became known as Passchendaele began. During the second battle, a young man of the parish was killed in Flanders. He was Mitchel Elliott who lived at the Shepherd Cottage in Flakebridge. He was 23. His name is commemorated on a panel at the Menin Gate as well as on the War Memorial in our cemetery. We remember him together with all who fought for their bravery and courage.

Some other important services will be taking place during the currency of this issue of the Villager. The Harvest Thanksgiving will be on **15 October at 6.30** and will take the form of a Songs of Praise. If you would like to choose a hymn please let Dave Sampson (52133) or Alan Ormrod (51513) know so that it can be included. We are proposing to support the parish's Food Bank. All contributions will be appreciated and, in particular, what is required are long-life milk, breakfast cereals, tinned meat and vegetables and dried pasta. Also jams and tinned and packet soups, baked beans and biscuits or snack bars. Please leave your gifts in the church during the week leading up to the 15th.

-The annual Remembrance Service is on **12 November**. Numbers have been increasing in recent years. There will be a short service in church at 10.30 before moving to the War Memorial in the cemetery for the wreath laying at 11.00.

-Messy Church is on **Saturday 2 December** which will be followed by a family-friendly service on the 3rd when it is hoped that those at Messy Church will be able to come on the Sunday.

-Lastly, the Carol Service will be on **Wednesday 20 December at 6.00**. This will be followed by refreshments in the Institute.

-The service on the second Sunday of the month is informal and up to now has started at the usual time of 9.15. It is proposed to change the time to 10.00 so that those who find 9.15 too early will have the opportunity to be present. This will start in January of next year.

Fellsiders:

The Fellsiders have enjoyed a couple of great days out over the summer months, one to Levens Hall, and another to Keswick featuring the Beatrix Potter inspired walled garden at Lingholm, and a cruise around Derwentwater. On both occasions the rain held off !!

We started the Autumn off by a Bring and Share Curry evening, when more than 45 folk sampled a variety of curry dishes and fantastic desserts, I have never seen so many crock pots in use, before. The funds from the ticket sales and raffle raised an amazing £379 for Curry Aid, an Appleby based charity that takes all the monies raised over to Southern India each winter, where children at a local orphanage have received over the years new shoes, school equipment, bunks and mattresses and some simple treats. MANY, MANY thanks to all those who provided the mouthwatering dishes, donated raffle prizes and to the great team who set up the hall, and then cleared away again .

Although The Fellsiders are not primarily a fund raising group, I am proud to write that over the past 8 months, we have donated the following monies to local charities, money raised from raffles and speakers fees. Thank you to all our members and guests for their wonderful support -"Just Giving," a fund to help young women, with no healthcare, to undergo surgery for breast cancer. £100

-" Blood Bikes" £ 120

-"First responders" £40

-"Curry Aid" £379 (Photos below)



Our meeting on Wednesday October 4th is in aid of Hospice at Home, when Tony Warren will entertain us with an audio visual tour of the Lakes. There is a raffle, all welcome

We will be planning next years program shortly , please do send suggestions to Tina 53642, Joy 52133, Dorothy 52798. A full days outing to Boundary Mills in Lancashire is planned for November 1st, details from the above people. Hope to see you

THE POTTING SHED:

Hello, fellow gardeners, what a challenging summer we have experienced, occasional sunshine days from mid June with many showery days in-between. On the bright side the trees and shrubs have put on tremendous growth, runner beans and courgettes have surpassed themselves, and we gardeners haven't had to water our troughs, pots and hanging baskets as much.

I have been concerned over the summer months by the falling numbers of butterflies seen flitting around the gardens. However those gardeners who have planted late flowering plants such as

sedum, heleniums and rubekia, inula and verbena bonariensis will have enjoyed the late flush of Red Admiral that have emerged over the past couple of weeks. On a sunny afternoon this week I was thrilled to count over 30 Red Admirals in the Sunken garden, greedily feeding on the nectar of the red sedum and purple verbena bonariensis. It was a spectacular sight. We were also privileged to observe a dragon fly emerging from their chrysalis state, resting on a water lily leaf while their wings dried and hardened in the gentle summer sun.

There are many jobs to do at this time of year in the garden, it is just a matter of working through them . . .

In the flower garden. . . . keep dead heading and cutting the dahlias, they will flower until the first frosts.

Cut down perennials such as rock roses, achillea and lychnis so they can put on a little growth before the first frosts. However less hardy perennials such as penstemons and silver leaved mediterraneans can be left with their foliage intact as this will protect them from the cold.

On the walls, tie in climbers so they aren't damaged by the wind.

Plant clematis. They like their roots in cool soil, humus rich and free draining. Dig a large hole, two feet from a fence or wall, add grit for drainage and some bonemeal for feed.

Lawns. . . . This is a good time of year to sow repair patches of grass seed. Overly compacted soil makes it hard for seeds to take hold so rake the soil or if the area is large enough dig it over.

On the vegetable plot. . . . Keep harvesting regularly, so you don't get caught out by early frosts. pull leaves away from tomato trusses allowing all the sunlight to reach the ripening fruits. Start collecting leaves from courgettes and rhubarb and compost them before they turn to mush.

Last chance to. . . . Give box hedges a trim before winter, so that any new growth doesn't get damaged by early frosts

Lift potatoes, they all need to be dug by the beginning of October otherwise the slugs will have a feast. Choose a dry day and let them dry off on top of the soil before bagging the perfect ones. Store somewhere dark, dry and frost free.

Plant up your winter troughs with spring bulbs and winter pansies, bellis and autumn flowering cyclamen. Enjoy the autumn sunshine and visit the local gardens that host Apple Days, such as Acorn Bank on October 8th.

Civic News October 2017:

The Editor has asked me to keep this brief so I shall concur and mention the immediate priorities. After months of asking for the plan for the widening of Hilton Bridge, Capita has provided an outline of the preferred option. However as the Villager is going to print before the next PC meeting, please watch out for details of an open meeting sometime in November when you will be able to have a look at the proposed plan, and discuss it with councillors. We shall circulate the details by email and on the parish website.

Footway lighting has become a more immediate issue with coverage of the EDC proposals and implications for the villages in the 'Herald' in recent weeks. The Parish Councils are being asked to take over the lights, and in our case this would apply to the three lights already marked for retention. All other lights will be removed, and the costs involved would make it unsustainable for the PC to consider retaining them. There will be help from EDC with initial costs spread over 5 years so there should be no necessity to increase the precept in the immediate future. This will be discussed at the next PC meeting.

As usual, 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 and the date of the next PC meeting is Monday 6th November at 7.30pm.

Barbara Govan Chair

Mr and Mrs Phileas Foggy travel on the Scarborough Spa Express.

Mrs Foggy had a significant birthday this year but Mr Foggy didn't think it was worth making too much fuss. Fortunately their friends did and Mrs Foggy received two first class tickets for the special steam train excursion on the Scarborough Spa Express from Carnforth to Scarborough. Mrs Foggy deliberated long and hard as to whom she should give the second ticket but reluctantly came to the conclusion that she had better take Mr Foggy. After all he was brought up in Scarborough and it would have been very unkind not to take him and he might come in useful in finding their way around when they arrived.

It was a very early start to catch the 06.55 Special Train from Carnforth. Carnforth is rather a desolate station in the early hours – not at all like the film Brief Encounter – though the clock is still there (but not working)..

The first part of the journey went through Lancaster, Preston, Bolton and various stops to Wakefield and then York. They passed through many small stations some with names they had never heard of (such as Oswaldtwistle, Mytholmroyd and Ulleskelf). At York some time was spent swapping the diesel engine for a steam engine. Our train experts sitting opposite said it was a very special type of diesel engine (a Class 40 apparently) and the steam engine was called Galatea. Their mobile phone was set to show the speed of the train. Mrs F was impressed by their knowledge. All along the route there were people waving and photographing the train. Mrs F felt like royalty and she waved back.

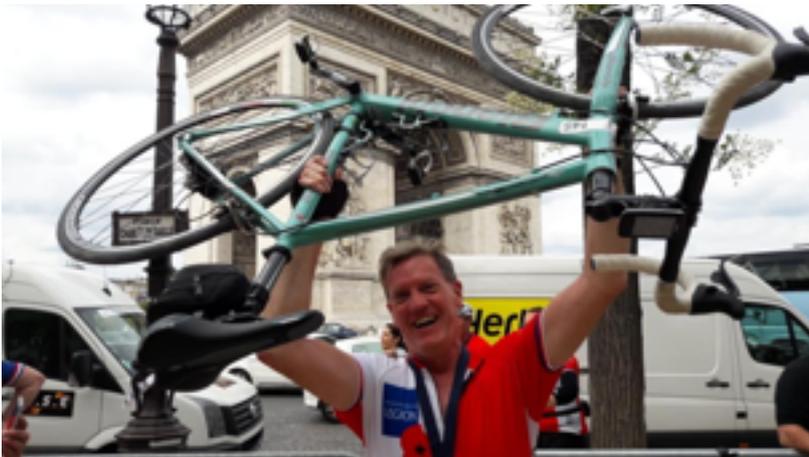


It was very hot when the travellers arrived at Scarborough. They dashed down the road to Wackers – an old favourite fish and chip shop - then afterwards down to the seafront to catch the open top bus. Mr Foggy was cross that they could only get half price tickets with their senior citizen bus pass but he was very keen to go on the bus because he had been a bus conductor during the summer holidays when he was in the 6th form at school. After a short walk round the sights of North Bay and an ice cream, Mr and Mrs F headed back to the centre. By this time it was getting even hotter so they went into the first pub they came to. A wander round the town, a sit in the park in the shade and another visit to the pub and it was

time for the return journey. Crowds had gathered to look at the steam engine and Mrs F felt very privileged as she took her seat in the First class carriage. Afternoon tea was set out very elegantly and the couple ate all of it even though they weren't really very hungry. They finally arrived back at Carnforth where Mr and Mrs F were forced to go into yet another pub because there were no toilets on the station. It had been a very long but very special day.



PEDAL TO PARIS: from Ashley Liston.



From the beginning it was all about the finish in Paris. The thought of cycling up the cobbles towards the Arc Du Triomphe and then pedalling around Etoile without any traffic seemed like a once in a lifetime opportunity. There are many charities which organise bike rides from London to Paris but this is the only one which receives the privilege of closing the roads around this iconic setting as well as organising rolling road closures in France allowing cyclists not to worry about traffic, junctions or red lights.

So it was that my twin brother Gerard and I arrived

at Eltham Palace in south London in the early hours of the last day in August to set off on this adventure. It was a sunny day and although feeling positive and up for the challenge we were soon feeling slightly apprehensive as we realised we were well towards the upper end of the age range and surrounded by some state of the art bikes and semi-pro teams of cyclists. We had opted for the mid-speed group which would average 14 mph with the elite group aiming for 18 mph and a 'social group' 12 mph. After a group photo and a stirring speech peppered with road safety advice we set off. Altogether there were nearly 300 cyclists with support vehicles, motorbike outriders and a 'sweep van' at the back ready to pick up stragglers. We had been instructed to wear our Royal British Legion cycling tops on the first and the last days of the ride adding impact to the sight of these cyclists pedalling to Paris raising funds and publicity for this good cause.

Cycling through Kent was predictably flat with relatively small hills when compared with Yorkshire and Eden Valley where Gerard and I normally cycle. After 70 miles the English Channel was in sight and it felt like we were nearly there. An impression that was quickly dispelled by an awesome hill on leaving Folkstone towards Dover but with the reward of the amazing view from the top which was best seen from the newly completed Battle of Britain memorial site. Arriving in Dover we were greeted, as at every finish and rest stop, by a wonderfully enthusiastic support team and a row of physiotherapy couches where aching muscles received attention. Our bags had been collected in London allowing us to travel light carrying only puncture repair kits, energy bars and our passports which for many in the group were now rather soggy after the lunchtime rain shower. On board the ferry we were allowed exclusive use of the forward restaurant area with a special meal laid on for us. This initially seemed a bit of a treat but once the odour of 300 sweaty cyclists filled the room it became apparent that the planning was largely modelled on transporting livestock rather than sporting heroes.

Day two started with a visit to the British War Memorial in Dunkirk. The recent film directed by Christopher Nolan dramatically retells the story of the mass evacuation of more than 330,000 Allied troops from the beaches of Dunkirk in May 1940, contrasting with the quiet reflection and remembrance of our brief ceremony. Attended by local dignitaries, representatives of armed forces and the Royal British Legion it reminded me of the Legion's commitment to 'Live On' to the memory of the fallen and the future of the living. During the ride it was possible to get to know many other cyclists, many of whom were formerly in the army and many who had been supported through very difficult times

by the charity. The sponsorship support I had received from many generous donors had encouraged me to take on this challenge but the various ceremonies and conversations en-route really helped me understand the excellent work the Legion is involved in making the whole experience feel even more worthwhile.

Day two was the longest cycle ride at 98 miles with the following day being 70 and then the final ride into Paris being 65 miles. The rides were broken up with plenty of rest stops which allowed the three cohorts to regroup and enjoy some wonderful villages and towns on the way. One village required a particularly long wait for the 'Social Group' to catch us up resulting in the 'Elite Group' enjoying many pints of local ale allowing my 14 mph group to keep up with them as they regularly 'inspected' the roadside trees for the remainder of the journey. At one village a family opened their home to the cyclists to use their loos which resulted in a queue of about 40 people outside their house and then a photo of the whole group with the family in the centre outside their house to say thanks with a rousing British 'hip hip hooray'.

The final day cycling into Paris was without doubt the highlight. It was the shortest leg of the trip and with the gradually increasing urban landscape Paris seemed to appear very quickly. The motorbikes were busy blocking off the side roads and roundabouts and with the group being encouraged to keep close together it was possible to experience something of the peloton effect where wind resistance was significantly reduced from other cyclists around you. Coming from the north it was possible to see the Eifel Tower from many miles away but after what seemed quite a long time concentrating on the busy Paris roads we turned a corner onto the cobbled road leading up to Arc Du Triomphe and then onto the Etoile roundabout which was completely empty of traffic. After a few glasses of celebratory wine we were then organised into rows ready for the final remembrance ceremony at the tomb of the unknown soldier underneath the Arc Du Triomphe. Led by some very dignified veterans we were marched across the cobbles of the Etoile trying to avoid tripping over in our cleated cycling shoes looking I am sure like a scene out of Dad's Army.

Would I do it again? Probably not, but will I remember it for the rest of my life? Definitely. I am so grateful to the many people from Hilton and Murton as well as the Appleby Health Centre for their sponsorship and support and the British Royal Legion for organising such an epic event which was indeed a once in a lifetime experience.



