
THE VILLAGER

Editorial:

Welcome to the 68th edition of The Villager. As always, many thanks to those who have contributed to this edition. I would ask newcomers to the villages to consider letting me have a paragraph or two introducing yourselves. I am sure this will help you integrate more quickly into our community.

Please let me have articles about your travel exploits, hobbies etc. I am exploring the possibility of issues with colour pages, so please let me have photos with your contributions.

The deadline for the Spring edition is Saturday April 7th, but I am happy to receive contributions which are not time sensitive at any time.

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Civic News:

Let me begin with a plea to everyone to drive safely and considerately along the roads into Appleby. The winter weather in recent days has made the surfaces wet and slippery with black ice difficult to detect. If you find that the grit boxes need filled or the grit piles have disappeared, please contact one of the councillors or the clerk (contact details on the website), or phone the **Cumbria Highways Hotline: 0300 303 2992**.

Recently, I have mentioned several topics on which I can give you an update.

Firstly, the proposal by the MoD to remove the 3 Commons from the Commons Register. There has been no discussion of this application by Cumbria County Council so far and we understand they are taking legal advice before doing anything. Andy Connell our CCC councillor is monitoring it for us.

Secondly, we had a productive open meeting at the Institute in November with representatives from Cumbria Highways to discuss the proposed plan for the widening of Hilton Bridge. Thank you to those who were able to attend and I hope it was an useful opportunity to ask any questions and clarify the details of the plan. It appears that the bridge will be doubled in width with the extra roadway added to the upstream side, with the downstream arch remaining the same. However it will be necessary to take down the walls to road level, and rebuild them completely, facing the new sides with the old stone so that it blends in. A new concrete arch is to be placed to strengthen the new road and to protect the upstream arch which will remain under the bridge.

There was much discussion about the proposed increase in height of the parapets but this is a regulatory requirement as the bridge sides must comply with current regulations. It was also pointed out that there will be a small rim of concrete at the edge of the road to protect the parapets from the sort of damage that we have seen to the current bridge.

Work is due to start next summer and although there may be a need to close the road, it is currently proposed to keep any closure to a day or two at a time while using a system of

lights to regulate the traffic at other times. We shall know more about this in the spring. If anyone would like to see the plans, there is a copy in Murton (contact Pat Laverty [tel: 52076](tel:52076)) and with me (<tel:51663>).

Finally, the Parish Council agreed to accept 3 lights as parish assets to safeguard some footway lighting within Hilton and Murton. There will be no increase to our precept next year to cover the costs associated with these lights but as the contribution we shall receive from Eden District Council will decrease gradually over the next five years this will become part of our budget calculations in years to come. I appreciate that there are some residents who would prefer completely dark skies but it has been evident to the PC that many older villagers would value some lighting on health and safety grounds. The lights that will remain are as follows:

The school bus drop off points - 1. Murton centre, across from the bus shelter & 2. Hilton, outside Hilton Hall also 3. Hilton, Lane foot – to light the bottom of the lane and old Hilton Bridge.

The light at Gort Hall will also remain on if EDC Lighting Dept agrees to transfer ownership to Steve. I am sure you will join me in thanking Steve and Allie for this kind gesture which will benefit everyone in Murton and particularly those who live towards Townfoot.

Happy New Year to everyone and all the best for 2018.

Barbara Govan
Chair, Murton Parish Council

News from the Institute:

We have had some great events at the Institute recently – film nights, community lunches and coffee and craic continue to be very well attended. The latest quiz went down a storm, with Frank Price joining Dorothy Macfadzean as guest quizmaster, and the recent Highlights event was a sell-out.

These events don't arrange themselves, so if you enjoy Institute events and would like to lend a hand, do get in touch. We send regular email updates of events at the Institute. If you do not receive these emails and would like to, please send an email to jules@hiltonworkshops.co.uk.

The Institute's finances are looking healthy and the committee has agreed to keep the hiring fees at their current rates.

Upcoming Events:

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.

January:

Tuesday 9th: Community lunch, 12 – 1. £3 for soup, dessert and tea or coffee.

Saturday 27th: Film night. The Revenant. Cert 15. Leonardo di Caprio and Tom Hardy star in an epic story, inspired by true events, of survival and transformation on the American frontier. Doors open 7 pm for 7.30 pm start. Bring your own drinks and snacks.

February:

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

Saturday 17th: Coffee and craic; 10-12.

Saturday 24th: Film night. The Viceroy's House. Cert 12A. Hugh Bonneville, Gillian Anderson and Michael Gambon play out the transition of British India to independence, meeting with conflict as different sides clash in the face of monumental change. Doors open 7 pm for 7.30 pm start. Bring your own drinks and snacks.

March:

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

Saturday 24th: Film night. Hell or High Water. Jeff Bridges and Chris Pine star in a bank heist meets modern Western film, played out in West Texas. Doors open 7 pm for 7.30 pm start. Bring your own drinks and snacks. NOTE – moved from the usual last Saturday in the month because of Easter.

Foodbank @ the Institute:

Thank you for all donations so far – you have been donating a couple of large shopping bags' worth every couple of weeks; it is very much appreciated.

You can donate whenever there is an event, or on a Thursday evening when the badminton group meet and the hall is open. Please do not leave food outside the Institute. There is a box behind the reception desk, clearly marked **FOODBANK DONATIONS**. Current shortages include tinned fruit, tinned meat, coffee and jam. There is a full shopping list in the box.

Community Chest:

The Institute Committee have started a community chest – a fund of money to be used on new ideas, community projects or events that could take place at the Institute. At the end of the lottery grant to build the new institute we had a small amount of money left over. This was the tag end of the contingency fund we had to pay for any unforeseen items (there were lots!) and we kept it separate in case there were any other issues that cropped up after the opening. At the last institute committee meeting it was agreed that we were now unlikely to need the money for the structure of the building and the money could be used for something else.

The idea the committee came up with was to set up a community chest. This is a (small) fund of money that has been set aside to pay for ideas that anyone might have for new activities or events that may take place at the Institute. You may wish to start a new activity and need some money to buy equipment, or you may wish to hold a special event and need some help with the funding, or your new idea may require someone to be specially trained (for example if you wish to work with young people or vulnerable adults). If you have such an idea the committee may be able to help with the costs.

So, if you have an idea for a new activity that could take place at the Institute and be open to all to attend you may be able to get some money from the new community chest. The committee will decide on all ideas and suggestions and will be able to make small payments up to £150 to help fund your good idea. Please contact any committee member to get your ball rolling.

Murton Bonfire:

This year's bonfire was a little further down the Green - well placed. A week before the first items came and then later all sorts of things began to appear. By Thursday there was a slight cause for concern - everything was rather spread out. Help was at hand: Stanley Harker 'heaped' everything into an orderly shape. The day before the fire Brian and Jonathan Longstaff put the last lot up high. A good crowd arrived for the party - many more than usual as we had heard that some surrounding villages had not been allowed their fires. Alistair and Marion Munro set up their splendid bbq. The main bonfire was cordoned off by the Fire Safety Officer, Pat Laverty. We were ready to go. The fire was lit and gave out great heat and light. The fireworks organised by James Harker were impressive. Jonathan Longstaff was up early on Sunday to start the clearing up and was followed by Brian and Joyce - the fire kept burning for some time. A splendid evening was enjoyed by all. Thanks to everybody who supported this annual event and here's to next year.

Eileen. Rumney Green.

Fellsiders: Update and program for 2018

The Fellsiders have enjoyed some interesting presentations, demonstrations and a shopping trip over the past three months. Most of the ladies who came to Barton Grange garden centre and Boundary Mills struggled back onto the bus with bags a bulging., I think the most productive and fulfilling evening was joining in with the Step by Step flower arranging workshop lead by Marion Monro who showed us all what a talented florist she is. Over a dozen ladies created their own masterpieces of festive flowers to take home and enjoy. A very BIG THANK YOU to Marion who was so patient and kind.

Our program for 2018 is being finalised as we go to print, but I can confirm the first 3 months dates . . .

Wed January 10th . . Mike Addison will be talking about eye health care and possible problems.

Wednesday, February 7th Ros Milner will give a spinning demonstration and talk, and show some of the beautiful items she has created from her own wool.

Wednesday March 7th, LADIES NIGHT OUT, venue to be confirmed, options suggested, The Inn at Brough, Mrs Miller's at Culgaith and Appleby Golf Club. Some of the ladies have already voted for their choice, so please contact Tina tel 53642, Joy 52133 or Dorothy 52798 to state your preference.

Other outings include a trip down Ullswater, a Christmas theatre trip, a garden visit to Winton Park , including supper, and talks by representatives from the Dementia team and Hospice at Home, oh , and most importantly a SHOPPING trip to YORK . .!

I have been asked by Jesse Oddy of CURRY AID , to pass on a very big thanks to the Fellsiders, friends and family, and the villagers of Hilton, Murton and Brackenber and Coupland Beck for their continued support in all of Jesse's fund raising activities. Jesse and Alan will be taking a large donation to the orphanage in Southern India in the new year.

Wishing you all a Happy and Healthy New Year

Fellsiders subs remain at £10 per annum. They are due in the New Year. Remember, any one can come to Fellsiders meetings, we look forward to seeing you. All the very best for 2018.

DVD collection:

The film club has amassed a number of DVDs over the years. These are available to borrow, preferably for a small donation to Institute funds. They are in a box on the reception desk – please leave your donation in the box. And please return the DVD!

LOOKING AFTER OUR VILLAGES:

We all take pride in our lovely villages, and a lot of people take a great deal of time and trouble to keep things looking tidy. But issues do arise, many of which are brought to the Parish Council, and the purpose of this article is to mention some of these and to suggest ways in which people can help maintain our surroundings.

Firstly can I mention dog fouling. There are still instances of this. Please do not let dogs out in the villages unaccompanied, and please keep an eye on them when they are running free. Out on the open fell is one thing, but no one wants a nasty mess outside their front door.

Various assets are “owned” by the Parish Council on behalf of us all. These include most of the benches some of which are not in the best state of repair. If a bench near you is looking a bit tired, do please feel free to tidy it up with a lick of paint or varnish.

The village greens are also registered to the Parish Council. Many people do sterling work mowing areas of green, and planting some of the troughs, and many thanks to all of you. I am working on the triangular area of green in Hilton to try and reduce the dense coarse grass and encourage a wider range of wildflowers. Some seeds have been set this autumn and some plug plants will be arriving in the spring. To encourage the wild flowers the green needs to be mown a couple of times a year, and all the clippings removed. These have been placed in the old sheep fold next to the telephone box, as I understand this is now rarely used for stray sheep. In due course there will be some compost from these clippings, so feel free to help yourself. The top green in Murton has also had some seeds planted in an effort to reduce the grass and improve the appearance of the green. Many thanks to Alan Ormrod for mowing a play area on the top green. But Alan had mower trouble this summer, if you could offer assistance to Alan when needed please do so.

Unusually the cemetery is owned by the Parish Council. The grass cutting and any necessary repairs are paid for from the money that comes to the Parish from our council tax. But the cemetery would benefit from further tidying up. If you would be willing to help please contact me or any of the Parish Councillors. It is important that the cemetery is kept tidy and so we are incorporating it into the village green management plan. The practical effect of this is that we will be including it in our annual walk round in the summer, which gives the Councillors and residents the chance to look at and discuss the upkeep and appearance of the village greens and cemetery.

As always, if you have any comments or suggestions about the village surroundings do contact me or one of the other Councillors.

Anne King: email: Felldodderers@btinternet.com

Another brilliant success for HIGHLIGHTS:

A full house enjoyed an entertaining evening of folk songs and banter with two of the U.K. 's most influential song writers. Many thanks to the Highlights team who brought Jez Lowe and Steve Tilston to our own Institute. Many thanks too, to the hardworking team who set up the hall, manned the raffle, acted as ushers, and then took it all down again.

The next evening's entertainment is on Saturday March 10th, when it is our turn to offer a play; a comedy observing the UPS and DOWNS of an online radio show going on the road for the first time. The two radio presenters are a dysfunctional married couple who have their own agenda. I am told it is hilarious, so I am really looking forward to seeing it. I do hope you will be able to join us that evening, and support the Highlights scheme. Tickets remain the same price . . . £9 for adults, £25 for a family of 4, and £4.50 for children, a real bargain. Bookings and details from Tina tel 01768353642 .

Christmas Coffee & Craic:

Well attended as always and there were some new stalls. Rachel and Louise were selling delicious cakes to raise funds for the Institute (diet starts again today!). We must encourage them! Julie had her book stall. Phillip had a stall with his wonderful wood turning wares. And of course, there were the regulars.....

No Christmas C&C would be complete without Carolyn and John's Christmas raffle and Tina had her lovely festive plant stall.

The bacon butties were not bad, either! And Tom Tarn had his Christmas tie on.

Lynda Osborne (former Murton resident) who keeps coming back).





Institute Lunches:

Many thanks to the teams who monthly produce an appetising and nutritious lunch. This December around 40 people enjoyed their soup; a choice of parsnip with rosemary or red peppers and tomato; with a bread roll followed by Christmas pudding or fruit salad. Tea and coffee rounded off a very pleasant occasion.
Jackie Watkinson



GRANNY HEYDEN'S CHRISTMAS CAKE:

Christmas this year has gone but I thought I would share my mother's Christmas cake recipe, equally as good of course as any special occasion fruit cake. My mother died more than 20 years ago but I know how pleased she would be that I'm still making the cake!

250 gms flour

¼ teaspoon baking powder

250 gms butter

250 gms soft brown sugar

1 kg mixed dried fruit

4 eggs

2 tablespoons brandy

2 tablespoons black treacle

Cooking Instructions:

Set the oven to 125

Line the base and sides of a 7-8inch cake tin with non-stick baking paper

Soak the fruit in a bowl with a little extra brandy

Mix the butter and sugar until smooth

Beat the eggs and add to the mix a third at a time

Add baking powder to the flour and stir into the mix

Add the brandy and black treacle

Add the fruit

Mix well together

Spoon mix into cake tin

Put in the oven and cover top of tin with a piece of baking paper or foil

Bake for 2 1/2 -3 hours. Check by sticking a skewer into cake, if it comes out clean it's done!

The cake should be kept for 3 to 4 weeks before use. remember to "feed" the cake by pouring brandy over it once a week during this period!

