
THE VILLAGER

Editorial:

Welcome to the 69th 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. Copy for the July issue by Sunday 22nd July please!

You will notice that I have put colour photos into this issue. Sorry about the Garden Gnome! Please let me know whether you approve or not! There is a small increase in cost of £20 for each 4 page section in colour. On the subject of finance, I need funds for one more edition to see me through the next 12 months, so if those running events at the Institute feel willing & able to repeat last year's generosity it would be much appreciated!

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Civic News:

It seems a lifetime ago since the last PC meeting on 5th February. In those few short weeks we have 'enjoyed' the worst of the winter with snow falls compared to 1963. That evening we noted that the road was closed and discussed the damage already affecting the road through Brackenber and several concerned residents attended to raise concerns about potholes and the MoD plans regarding the Commons. By the end of the month, the road reopened, the grit boxes were filled and within 24 hours the wind and snow arrived. Potholes had become a real traffic hazard – notably the one outside my gate even before the onset of the bad weather. Another month on, the pothole is still there but twice the size, joined by many others. Despite notification on CCC website, emails and photos of the worst areas, we 'are on the list' and will be dealt with 'in due course'. In the meantime enjoy the new sport of 'Pothole Slalom' and watch out for other drivers doing the same in the opposite direction – but please drive safely.

On behalf of myself and fellow councillors, I would like to thank all our wonderful residents without whose selfless actions the snow would have been catastrophic. Those who cleared the road benefited everybody and speaking personally I was so pleased to be released from 6 ft drifts after nearly three days of isolation. However I know that during the worst of it, neighbours looked after neighbours - helping with snow clearance, providing hot meals, sharing supplies & fuel, making sure the older residents were warm and dry and undertaking shopping runs once the road was open. The task of spreading the salt/grit within the villages was clearly undertaken with great effort and enthusiasm but must have been exhausting especially while the Helm wind was blowing. It has been a winter to remember & talk about but everyone should be very proud of their contribution, however small.

Would we benefit from a PC -developed Emergency Resilience Plan? There is some grant funding available to help us set one up and it will be an item on the Agenda for the next PC meeting. However whatever contingency plans we make, there is no practical help from outside so we have to continue to be self-sufficient. If you have any ideas or thoughts on the subject please talk to any of the councillors.

On other matters, the garden skips will be starting in May. We are still getting the usual 2 but EDC are reviewing the cost annually. Please use the skips responsibly as you did last year.

The grass cutting contract for the cemetery re-starts again also in May. However tidying the cemetery is an on-going task with weeding, raking the gravel and clearing twigs and branches needing some attention. There has been a suggestion that these jobs could form part of a community day to tidy up the parish. So far Hilton Lane and the environs of St Johns Church have been suggested as needing attention as well as the cemetery. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact either myself or Cllr Anne King (our contact details are on the parish pages of the Murton website) or our clerk June Watson. It is always difficult to organise a date that suits enough people to make it worthwhile but if you could suggest dates in May that you are free, we shall find a suitable day, I am sure.

There has been no further information about the MoD plans since the conclusion of the consultation period. I understand that the next step is for the County Councillors to discuss it, and that we should have prior notice of the meeting so that we can attend if we wish. Any information will be displayed on the noticeboards.

Our next PC meeting is on Monday 14th May 2018 at 7.30pm in the Institute and you are all welcome.

Barbara Govan

Chair, Murton Institute

Fellsiders:

The Fellsiders have enjoyed a busy year to date with an informative talk on older eye care, a fascinating demonstration on spinning, and a thoroughly enjoyable Ladies Dinner at the Golf Club. April's meeting is a talk by Julie Sandiland on alternative therapies, and May is an outing to Ullswater and Glenridding. More details available at April's meeting. A gentle reminder to our members that subs are now due, the same price £10. Details about the activities and membership from Tina 53642, Joy 52133, Dorothy 52798. Anyone can come to the meetings for a small visitors fee. Look forward to seeing you, we meet the first Wednesday of the month at Murton Village Institute, 7.30pm. Look at the village noticeboards for details. from the Institute:

Highlights:

An almost capacity audience braved the wintry weather to be entertained, puzzled and amused by three actors in the comedy production Good Evening: Tonight, set in the studio of an east Midlands radio station. Several members of the audience were "volunteered" to help out, much to the glee of their family and friends and organiser. Our next Highlights event will be in the Autumn, details of the production will be in the next Villager. We are so fortunate to have the opportunity to experience live music and drama in our own village hall. Please come and support, you will be in for a real treat.

News from the Institute:

We have had some great events at the Institute recently – film nights, community lunches, coffee and craic continue to be very well attended, the February quiz raised money for the Injured Jockey Fund and the recent Highlights event was a sell-out.

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

The **Institute AGM** will be held on Monday 16th April at 7.30 pm. We will start with election of officers and appointment of the committee, followed by an open meeting at which everyone is welcome. Your views and thoughts are important to the committee, so please do come along, and if you are interested in being on the committee or assisting in the organisation of events, you are doubly welcome!

Upcoming Events:

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

Film nights have now finished for the summer and will re-commence in September. We have had a few suggestions for the first film including *Molly's Game*, *Paddington 2* and *Three Billboards outside Ebbing, Missouri*. If you have any ideas, please do drop Jules a line – jules@hiltonworkshops.co.uk.

Community lunch: every second Tuesday of the month

Fellside Singers "Springtime Jamboree" Concert. **Tuesday May 8th.** Quiz & Finger Buffet.

Coffee and craic: *Saturday 21st April*

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 cereal and tinned rice pudding. There is a full shopping list in the box.

Church Matters:

We send our very best wishes to our Rector Rev'd Sarah Lunn who is leaving us after eleven and a half years of remarkable service and commitment to the churches of the Eden Valley to take an appointment as priest-in charge to the Chollerton benefice in the Diocese of Newcastle. She will be sadly missed throughout the Heart of Eden Benefice where she has been such a great support to so many people. Her last service will be on 27th May.

There will be countless folk who have received her compassionate help and support in all the ups and downs of life and there will be an opportunity to express your gratitude for this ministry of service at a final service on May 27th - details to follow. Sarah will be instituted to her new post on July 17th.

After May, you can continue to book requests for baptisms with Peter Boyles on 54161. For weddings, email our office manager, Joyce Keetley: applebymc@carlisle.org.uk.

Sarah did an extraordinary amount of work for our churches. However in the future, I think we will all have to (in addition to enjoying many services led by lay church members), get used to more joint services with other local churches. Just recently, we all enjoyed a joint service for

Palm Sunday with the Methodists. It is so much more encouraging to be part of a larger congregation - we certainly loved the singing.

We will keep you all posted of developments.
Peter Boyles Associate Priest Heart of Eden Churches

Gabriel Reed writes:

I send my very best wishes to Rev'd Sarah Lunn. She will be sadly missed by many of us. I should like to quote from Dave Sampson's contribution from St John's to the Annual Report for St Lawrence's and St John's.

"Over the past year numbers attending our little church has remained much the same as previous years, ranging from as little as four to nearly forty at special services. The Service of Nine Lessons and Carols was an example of how successful things can be but one wonders how much longer we are able to survive with such small regular congregations. I really believe that folk in the parish need to decide if they want a church or not in Murton-cum- Hilton and I would urge everyone in our community to consider this and come up with constructive ways in which to proceed."

We have three services a month, the 2nd Sunday being at 10.00 for those who find the time of 9.15 difficult.

I gave up being Church Warden a year ago but have continued to carry out most of the duties I did as Church Warden. I have decided to delegate some of these duties and give others up. In future I will not be phoning our kind flower arrangers when there is a special service, and hope that they will continue to decorate the church. Special services are Easter, the Patronal Festival which is on the Sunday nearest to 24th June (this year it is actually on 24th), Harvest Festival on 2nd Sunday in October, and the Carol Service which is at a different time and date each year, so I will be notifying flower arrangers for that.

Regarding the altar super frontal it is the responsibility of the Sidesperson to make sure it is the correct colour for that service. The colour is given on the rota sheet. The super frontals are kept in a suitcase in the top tier of the pulpit.

Our Patronal Festival service will be a Songs of Praise. Anyone attending is invited to choose a hymn if they have one that is special to them.

We are planning a day tidying up the church yard. Some of the bushes need drastic pruning. The date will be announced later and we hope there will be plenty of volunteers!

Thanks must go to all who help to look after the church and churchyard but special thanks must go to Rev'd Peter Boyles who looks after our spiritual needs.

Potting Shed:

Hello, my lovely gardening friends, how are you all? Filled with enthusiasm for the the fast approaching Spring season in the garden? It is ,after all, almost the Spring equinox, followed swiftly by moving the clocks to British Summer Timeoh joyI am writing this Potting Shed watching white, gossamer thin swirly, cold and sticky stuff cover all my shrubs, spring bulbs and herbaceous plant crowns who have only just emerged from the horrendous drifts of the " Beast from the East" . The mini " Beast from the East" can sling its hook, I have had ENOUGH I am desperate to get out in the garden, although I spent days in the Autumn gathering up tons of leaves and composting them ...guess what I seem to have just as many to rake up again!

Enough of this despair . . . shall we play a little game, let us pretend that this dastardly white stuff has melted and we can resume our gardening duties . . . some things to think of in our flower and vegetable beds.

In the flower Garden

Hardy annuals can be sown in trays indoors or under glass, but unless you live in milder climates, it is a bit early to sow half hardy annuals.

Give seed trays a good soapy wash and brush up. Don't reuse old potting compost . . . seeds deserve fresh seed compost, otherwise there is a good chance they will shrivel and die. Use large trays, fill right to the top with compost, use a fine spray to dampen, preferably luke warm water. Sprinkle the seeds, sparingly and sieve a little dry compost over the top. Sit them somewhere light, with an even temperature of around 18 degree C, 64 degree F. You should see results in a week or two. Remember, don't let the compost dry out, but don't over water either . . . Aim for a consistently moist compost.

This is an excellent time to prune certain types of Clematis, such as the late summer flowering and fast growing Jackmanii and Viticella types. They flower on new growth, so in early Spring, just when you see the new buds, they can be cut back hard, to a couple of good buds about a foot from the ground . They will quickly put on new growth from the base to flower in late summer.

Now is the time to FEED your roses, with a tailored rose feed. Please don't overfeed, you will end up with too much sappy growth. The next feed is due in April /May with a final feed in July, no later as that soft wood will make them vulnerable to the winter cold.

Mulch the flower borders, when you have cleared away the winter scowl. Cut off old Hellebore leaves, to stop disease and better display the new flowers.

When our daffodils have finished flowering, !!, cut off the flowering stem , but leave the foliage, and give them a liquid feed to build the corm up for next spring

*In the Vegetable plot*

Now is a good time to weed beds, clear away old debris, netting and bean supports, and rake over the surface.

Although it is far too early to plant veg outdoors, this far north, you can dig a bean trench, a couple of feet deep, and mix in organic matter with the soil and back fill. It is probably a good idea to put your bean poles up at the same time, so you have the trench marked out ! My Granny Mary used to tell me, you see the bean seed twice in May, at the beginning when you plant it, and at the end when the leaves push through.

Well Fellside Gardeners, it has been a challenging and somewhat dispiriting start to our new gardening year, but we know that Mother Nature has a wonderful way of redressing the balance, so Happy gardening The Potting Shed . . .

Harry Beadle

As a tribute to Harry, who sadly died recently, we are reproducing a conversation with him from a few years ago, you may remember it. Harry was a greatly admired and was the font of all local knowledge. He is sadly missed by all who knew him.

What are your earliest memories? My first memories are of going to school in Dufton where I was born. When I was older I went by bus to Appleby County School, the bus is still run today by the same company.

When did you move to Murton? My father took over the New Inn in 1936. *(Harry remembered all the exact dates mentioned throughout our chat, including which day of the week it happened)* Moving here from Dufton was like stepping back a bit as in those days Murton had no electricity or telephone – things we were used to in Dufton – so we had to get the old oil lamps out again and rely on telegrams if we needed to get in touch with anyone.



How did you start out in farming? I left school in 1936 when I was 14 and was taken on as 'hired lad' on a farm in Murton for £9 for a half year. We got half a crown at the start and then got the rest of our wages at the end. If you left in the middle you got no money and could even be prosecuted for it—sent to Van Diemen's Land! I spent 14 years as a farm worker ending up on four pounds ten a week.

What's the worst job you've done? I've had no bad jobs, I just took them in my stride. You just have to get on and do all of them. It was tough in the early days on the farms as there was no heating or washing facilities and it got cold in the winters. If you got wet during the day you could be freezing at night in your wet clothes; the best place to dry your coat was the stable as the horses kept it nice and warm.

The hardest job was during the war years. As a farm worker I was restricted so didn't join the army but had to serve in the Home Guard. We trained at the Institute with guns and Mills Bombs and then did guard duty. Once every three weeks or so we had to do a night guard of a railway bridge or some such. I worked for 12

hours on the farm then did from ten at night till four in the morning on guard duty and then had to be on the farm for another 12 hours the next day. I've never been so tired!

Was there any entertainment for the hired lads?

During the winter months there used to be a reading room in Murton, set up by a religious group I suppose. You paid 2/6 for the half year and from Martinmass to the 25th March you could use the reading room from six o'clock till ten. There was plenty to do, books and games, even a billiard table. But there was no drink and certainly no girls.

So how did you all get to meet the girls? They'd be hanging around outside waiting for us to come out!

How did you meet Joyce? Joyce came to Harbourflatt with her family in 1945. We got friendly but I had to move away to Asby for a few years. When I bought Bridge End Farm in 1951, I asked her to join

me. I thought, well, a farmer needs a wife! Joyce wasn't sure but eventually decided to marry me. We had a good time with cattle, sheep and hens. We delivered all the retail milk in Murton but not past Hilton Beck as that was delivered by another farm in Hilton and you couldn't deliver in someone else's area.

What's the biggest change you've seen over the years? Money! When I was starting out there wasn't any money, no one had any at all. Now there's lots of money around so far as I see. In those days you could have bought all of Hilton for the price of one house nowadays.

Whom have you most admired? Winston Churchill, he was the most important man in the world during the war years. He kept this country going. He also made some mistakes though. In the first war my father was an artillery man using mules to move the guns around. He was at Ypres and the Somme but then was sent to join the ANZAC's at Gallipoli and that was a terrible mistake. He went with a battalion of 1000 men and only about 15 came back. He wouldn't talk much about it at home but he must have seen some terrible things. So two people really, Churchill and my father.

Tell us a joke. A man goes into a pub and sits at the bar to drink his beer. A second man comes along with a large dog and sits next to him.

"Does your dog bite?", asks the first man. "No he's real friendly", says the second man.

The first man bends down to stroke the dog only to get bitten on the hand.

"I thought you said you dog doesn't bite, look at my hand", says the first man. The second man looks down and says, "he doesn't, that's not my dog".



Charity quiz for Injured Jockeys Fund:

Thank you to everyone who came to the charity quiz, donated money and donated raffle prizes. Katie and Anna have raised over £1000 for the Injured Jockeys Fund and they really enjoyed their day.

CUBA - An experience!

Before considering a visit to Cuba it is essential to understand it's historical, political & economic past. When Christopher Columbus "discovered" Cuba in 1492 there were three native tribes on the island. Whilst there was inevitably some cross pollination between the natives and the Europeans, within 100 years the natives ceased to exist - many preferring suicide to slavery. The next arrivals were African slaves, destined to work on the sugar and coffee plantations. By the middle of the nineteenth century slavery ended. Today Cuba is a totally colourblind society - with people ranging from Ayrian to the darkest black - with all shades in between. There is no colour hierarchy. Our Tour Leader, clearly of Spanish origin, said that one of his best friends was black.

When they met they would embrace and he would call his friend a black bastard (claiming this to be correct on both counts) while his friend would call him a Pygmy honkey, which was equally self evident.

After the emancipation of the slaves, people started to seek independence. The battle started in the mid 19th century. However, until the 1950's the movement repeatedly failed because the three main factions were unable to work together. Some wanted to remain under Spanish rule but to increase local sovereignty, a second group wanted independence from Spain but sought US protection, whilst the third group wanted total independence.

Shortly after the end of the Second World War Cuba was yet another Central American Dictatorship led by General Batista (a jumped up sergeant). Havana was a US playground for prostitution and gambling, controlled by the Mafia - with Batista getting a rake off. The United Fruit Company was the largest land owner in Central America, and agriculture was controlled by a few large landowners. In 1956 the independence movement managed to get it's act together and defeat Batista. Fidel Castro, his brother Raoul and Che Guevara were the military leaders and Fidel quickly became the figurehead after victory.

Fidel did not immediately announce a communist or socialist state, although he certainly saw agricultural reform as essential. He went to the US but no one in Government would even meet with him. On his return he nationalised agricultural land - giving each household 5 acres upon which they could build a house and farm the land for their private benefit. They could not sell or rent out the land, but they could pass title down the generations. Large landowners simply had their land taken into public ownership. This included the land of the United Fruit Company and Castro's father. Snr Castro had arrived penniless from the Canary Islands and built up a substantial cattle ranch. His wealth enabled him to send his sons to University and it is said that Castro's mother refused to speak to Fidel or Raoul after the nationalisation as it disrespected their father's life's work.

At this time McCarthyism was at it's peak in the US. Castro's actions were seen as communist, and so the US blockade of Cuba began.

Russia felt threatened by the US missile sites in Turkey and saw an opportunity to retaliate in Cuba. Cuba had no one to trade with as a result of the US blockade so Russia stepped into the breach, offering cheap oil. The 2 refineries on the island were owned by UK & US companies who refused to refine Russian oil. No surprise when Castro nationalised the refineries. Russia then persuaded Castro to agree to allow Russia to place nuclear missiles in Cuba in retaliation for US missiles near the Russian border with Turkey. At the end of a tense period Russia achieved it's objective in getting the US missiles removed from Turkey in exchange for it's removal of missiles from Cuba.



The US imposed worldwide embargo on trade with Cuba has effectively left Cuba with few trading partners. US banks and influence have meant that the US seeks to penalise anyone who trades with Cuba, severely restricting its access to world markets. As a result, Cuban economic development has been effectively frozen for 60 years.

As a socialist state, Cuba has had some clear success. Literacy, Education and Health Care are excellent. We saw no hunger or malnourishment, even in the most rural of areas. There is a food rationing allowance to meet basic needs. On the other hand, wages/salaries are very low. The national average is around \$ US 15 per month. Our tour leader was a Professor of languages at Havana

University. In his early 30's he earned \$33 per month. The highest paid civil servant, a neurosurgeon, earns \$60 per month. Our tour leader now has a \$15 per month salary but can make \$500 per month in tips. We heard similar stories from every guide we met, emphasising that anyone wanting to live above subsistence level had to move into tourism or private enterprise. The most common form of private enterprise is B&B or restaurants. These are invariably good and well run as opposed to their state run alternatives where staff get paid the

same pittance regardless of performance. We saw innumerable examples of staff sitting around state run hotels, chatting and smoking with no incentive to work. They got paid just the same. Another manifestation of the blockade is the goods in the shops. If the latest container ship from China included plastic buckets then every town will have a shop with 5000 buckets. Buy now to avoid disappointment! On the other hand, if you are looking for replacement parts for your toilet flush they may not be on order for a year or two. Whilst discussing toilets, always carry toilet roll with you and expect some of the worst loos I have seen anywhere in the world!

Every Cuban we met wants change, but there are serious obstacles to it's delivery. Cuba has no expertise in building and expanding a free market economy and, other than in tourism, it is hampered at every stage by the US blockade. The blockade has been the subject of UN debate every year with only two nations (US & it's lackey Israel) voting against ending the blockade.

So what does this all mean? Cubans are friendly, healthy & well educated but frustrated by their inability to move forward. The infrastructure is decrepit. Roads are poor, the rail network virtually useless. Reasonable busses are priced for tourists only, leaving local people in rural areas reliant on horses and carts. There are very few private cars outside the tourist areas. These are the wonderful 1950 US cars, lovingly restored but apparently often running with Toyota mechanics! There are also numerous Russian Ladas and Moskvich cars from the 1960's and early 70's, often running as private taxis. The state run taxis are generally Geeley's, a Chinese make - think of a very downmarket Kia! Lorries and busses are similarly ancient and again, if they post date the revolution they will mostly be Russian or Chinese. If you are on a bike, as we were, being passed by one of these belching out black smoke is not good.

Would I recommend Cuba? If you are looking for value for money - certainly not! The Cuban Government has hiked hotel prices to European City levels with dilapidated rooms and very mediocre food and service in return. The weather in January was mixed, not a patch on Goa or Thailand, and the beach resorts are full of the most dire all inclusive hotels, populated with people you don't want to meet. Food is very plain, limited in scope, mediocre quality - boring. However, if you are looking for an adventure, looking to experience a very different country, populated by lovely, friendly people - looking for some beautiful countryside, wanting to admire Spanish colonial architecture and stay in some magnificent, but run down Colonial buildings, wanting to understand a unique country with unique problems and imaginative solutions to those problems - in essence, looking for an experience - Cuba may be for you. Try reading "Slow train to Guantanamo" by Peter Millar for a longer account of the wonders and pitfalls of Cuba.

Mr and Mrs Foggy go nowhere!

The Foggys have been rather busy lately so their travels have been put on the back burner for a while. Mr Foggy has been honing his DIY skills whilst Mrs Foggy has been out bargain hunting. Needless to say she has been more successful than him!

Mr Foggy managed to put his foot through the ceiling in the hallway. His excuse was that it needed replacing anyway but he couldn't use the same excuse for damaging the newly papered kitchen wall. Unfortunately things go in threes and the final disaster was dropping a hammer on the newly professionally tiled hall floor (after the ceiling had been repaired.) Mr Foggy offered to cut it out and replace it with one of the spares but Mrs F wasn't having that. Through gritted teeth she said they would get the tiler back to replace it properly - Mr F had done enough damage.

Mrs Foggy has done much better with her bargain hunting. The most recent triumphs include a wheeled barbeque for £2.25. The reduced price was £2.50 but Mrs F pointed out that it was senior citizens reduction day at B and Q so she got a further 25p off. Fired with her success she went to Home Base and spotted two kitchen larder cupboards for £10 and £15 and a clothes airer for £2 - unfortunately no further reductions there! The final success

was a single duvet cover, pillow case and fitted sheet for £1 at Dunelm Mills. Mrs Foggy pointed out to Mr F that it was just as well she was good at saving money because he was good at creating more expense.

Hopefully by the time the next issue of the Villager is due Mrs F will have persuaded Mr F to take a well earned break from DIY and they can resume their travels.

Oh no – Mrs Foggy has just remembered – Mr Foggy has got to mend his car in time for the Classic Car Rally in May. She is holding her breath and glad that someone else is acting as navigator this time!

Hope The Flickering Candle.

Hope the flickering candle
That never goes out.
it's gentle glow,
Lights the room And spreads hope to all around.

The flickering flame,
That bends with every breath,
That shudders and sighs, And is so fragile, Amid the storms of life.

Hope the flickering flame,
That stays the same,
Is vital to life,
Helps me cope with all sorts of strife,
Is still gently glowing.

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Inspired by a Graham Kendrick song "Like a Candle Flame" from Complete Mission Praise.

Fell Running: Request for information:

Sam Rowan writes: I am currently reading a book about the history of fell running called "It's A Hill, Get Over It" by Steve Chilton. In chapter 3 entitled 'The Early Races – the 1800s', the author talks about some of the first fell races that have since ceased to exist. He quotes an article written in Cumbria magazine in 1975, in which R.W.Robson bemoaned the demise of several races he used to compete in. While acknowledging the importance of Grasmere and Ambleside on the fell running scene, he noted the demise of other races which were apparently well established at the time - namely Hilton-cum-Murton, racing to the top of Roman Fell, and Dufton Pike from Knock Sports field!

I wondered if anyone could shed any light on these two events ? They were clearly of some significance at the time.

Replies to the editor at: richard.anne.king@hotmail.co.uk

Dave Taylor – An Appreciation

Dave and his first wife Catherine moved to Hilton from Barrow in 1998. It was a wrench for Dave who had lived all his adult life in the town, and had provided a comfortable home for his family and founded a successful business; but he knew Catherine wanted to move to the country, so he willingly agreed. As his wife's health deteriorated he also sold his popular pottery business in Ulverston to give full-time care to Catherine which he did tirelessly and faithfully for over 3 years.

After her death in 2005, Dave was in the Wilderness for a while, but after major surgery in 2008 with the help of friends and family, he began to pick up. In 2009 we met, and very soon realised it was 'the real thing'. Two years later we married and celebrated with a reception in the garden, culminating with Wine and Pizza round the bonfire. (Dave's favourite pastime). We have enjoyed some wonderful times together and were happy to celebrate Dave's 75th birthday last year, with the aforementioned combo of Friends/Wine/Pizza/Bonfire.

A letter arrived the day after his death and I quote a little here:

'David was a true Christian – quietly doing good by hosting wonderful parties and unobtrusively befriending folk who needed a companionable word. Yes! He had his faults, but so have we all – he was a man one was glad to meet up with – basically an optimist. Heaven will be a whole new experience for him – and for Heaven!' To which Dave would add 'Don't forget, Parr Pottery: mugs from £3.99'.

Dave's funeral will be at Sands Methodist Church on April 16th, time as yet to be confirmed. Please wear something bright to reflect Dave's colourful personality.

On a personal note, I have been overwhelmed by the love, support and offers of help and accommodation that have poured in since Dave's death. Thank you all from the bottom of my heart.

Linda Taylor

What do you want from the Institute...?

We are now approaching the third anniversary of the opening of our new Institute building (three years, where did they go...?) and the committee have been wondering if there are other things that people might like to see happening. The events and activities that we have are all really well supported and many people have hired the Institute for private parties and functions. However, the committee just wondered if there might be other ways we can use the facilities.

Looking back to the results of the survey we did to support the grant application a few years ago, here is a short list of the things you said you would like to see happening. Not only that, this list is of the things you said you'd be keen to get involved with organising. So, if there's an activity on this list that you'd like to help run or be keen to support do get in touch, and remember the Institute has a small "*Community Chest*" of money that is there to help set up new activities or events that take place at the Institute.

To get in touch, contact any committee member or come along to an event and just say hello!

Adult education classes

Activities for the elderly

Activities for young children and toddlers

After school club

Art classes

Book club

Camera club

Cookery classes

Continental style evening café

Drop in café, eg similar to one in Orton Methodist Church

Gardeners' club

Keep fit sessions

Local history resource

Local information centre for visitors passing through or staying locally

Permanent outdoor play area

Photo exhibitions

Post office

Printer/scanner to copy old photographs of the parish

Pub nights

Suppers

Table top sale

Tuition and help with internet/computers

U3A branch

Village store or shop