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# THE VILLAGER

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## **Editorial:**

Welcome to the 70th 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 October issue by Sunday 21st October please!

I realise we have all been too busy lying in the sun and/or watering our gardens (with watering cans by the time you read this) but I have been a bit short of articles this quarter. Please remember we are always interested in poems, short stories, your travels, local history - indeed anything you feel like sharing with our community.

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## **Civic News:**

I am sorry to tell you that I have nothing to report on either the widening of Hilton Bridge or the repair of potholes – I am assured by the Highways Dept that the potholes will be dealt with in due course. We continue to lobby for priority attention as the state of the roads surrounding the worst of the potholes is beginning to deteriorate making driving in the dark extremely hazardous. I have also pointed out the increased road use by cyclists in recent weeks in the hope that something is done before there is an accident. Hopefully common sense will prevail and we shall see some action in the near future.

I would like to thank everyone who volunteered on the Community Clean-up. We had two work parties and were able to achieve most of our objectives. The dry ground meant we were limited to just clearing winter debris in the cemetery and trimming shrubs, but I must congratulate Tina Wragg and her team for the excellent way they have tidied up Hilton Lane. Many thanks to Mike Schug for removing all the weeds, and branches from the cemetery & churchyard. I would also like to thank those who kindly gave up time the day before to give the rest of us a head-start – it was greatly appreciated to find some jobs already started.

Talking of the cemetery, you have probably noticed the damage to the wall over the last 9 months. This has been a major headache for councillors as the cemetery is the main asset of the Parish Council. No sooner was one hole repaired than another appeared following the high winds, frost and latterly snow. The wall is also weakened by the size and proximity of the trees so rather than running in a straight line, the wall meanders around them which is undermining stability. Considering that it has been in place since the establishment of the cemetery in 1904, it has been very resilient and it is repairable at present. Hopefully next winter will be quieter so we can catch up with the essential maintenance and keep things going as they are. However, councillors are keeping both the state of the wall and the trees under review and would value any views you may have.

It is the Parish Council's responsibility to maintain the cemetery. We have a grass-cutting contract that allows for 6 monthly cuts over the summer starting in May which is one of our

largest items of expenditure. We appreciate all those who voluntarily look after their family graves - it all helps to keep the cemetery tidy and a welcoming, peaceful place to sit for a few minutes. However, we would ask you to leave biodegradable tributes on the grave to assist the grass-cutters.

Finally, we co-opted a new councillor, Alastair Bell, at our last meeting. Councillors have lacked a representative of the farming community in recent years so it is particularly welcome to have his experience to help us.

Barbara Govan, Chair

Murton Parish Council

## **News from the Institute:**

We had our AGM in April, at which the current officers were re-elected - Mike Schug as Chairman, Hazel Chappelhow as Treasurer, and Jules Price as Secretary. The committee was also re-appointed and Mike Schug thanked the secretary, treasurer and committee for their on-going work and commitment.

Since the sad loss of Harry Beadle last year, we have been a trustee down. Barbara Govan's nomination was accepted by all and Barbara kindly said that she was prepared to be a trustee.

In the open meeting that followed the AGM, there was some discussion around the article in the previous Villager that reviewed the results of the survey undertaken prior to the lottery application for funding of the new hall. One of the things people said they would like to see happening was a facility to scan old photos. We do not have that facility, however, Jim Hardman kindly offered to scan old photos that anyone would like in digital format. If the owners of the photos are amenable, these could be put on a photo archive on the website. Anyone interested in this should contact Jim Hardman and take photos and a memory stick or disc to him.

Look out for posters and emails about upcoming events. If you're do not receive the emails about events and would like to do so, please drop me a line with your email address. Email [Jules@hiltonworkshops.co.uk](mailto:Jules@hiltonworkshops.co.uk).

## **Fellsiders Update:**

. . .the Ladies have enjoyed two outings recently. June saw the group enjoy a guided tour at the glorious gardens of Winton Hall followed by a superb supper. The July outing included a visit to Hexham and Afternoon tea at the Railway Tearoom in Bellingham There is no meeting in August. The Autumn season starts with a bring and share Curry evening in aid of Curry Aid, more details mid August from Tina . Joy and Dorothy

## **Highlights . . . Advance Notice:**

. . . .next performance . . . SATURDAY OCTOBR 6th . . . MURTON INSTITUTE . . . KATE DOHERTY and THE NAVIGATORS, award winning folk singers, watch the notice boards for more info, tickets available from September 1st details from Tina , 01768353642.



**Coffee Morning:**

. . . . Tina and John would like to thank all those generous folk who supported their coffee morning at Scordale Leat on May 24th, an incredible sum of £385 was raised for the Children's ward at the R.V.I. We wish George a successful recovery after his bone marrow transplant.

**Potting Shed:**

On holiday! back in October!

## Am Buachaille – The Shepherd: Frank Price

There was definitely something wrong with the two gulls that were sitting on nests as I pulled over a small bulge in the rock to share their ledge. Their necks were bulging and with beaks wide open I was almost sure I could see their last meal somewhere down there. They were also making a dreadful hissing that really didn't sound good, they were clearly very upset. Then it dawned on me – they were fulmars, not gulls at all. Now fulmars have a very interesting way of discouraging predators or unwelcome guests, they projectile vomit on them: a bright orange oily goo that hits its mark with unflinching accuracy. Time to move on, and quickly.

Ugh. Not quickly enough. Half a cup full of goo ran all down my arm, dribbled down my neck and soaked into my hair and shirt. When I got home four days later, I still stank and the clothes had to be thrown out.

Happy memories of the Old Man of Hoy four years earlier came back to me as I pulled over a slight bulge in the rock to be confronted by two nesting fulmars...this time I was quicker, or they were slower and I escaped and left them in peace. We were climbing Am Buachaille, the silver medal Scottish sea stack (the Old Man gets gold!) just off Sandwood Bay in the far north of Scotland, so far north in fact you can see Cape Wrath from the shore.

A three year wait for the right conditions and companions had finally paid off and we were making our ascent of this wonderful sandstone stack. The whole affair was quite an adventure. Sandwood Bay is three miles from the nearest road down a stony track with a heavy rucksack. To get to the cliffs overlooking Am Buachaille itself it's a further mile over rough moorland. The cliffs opposite the stack have to be descended first to get to the shore, so that's 250 feet of nasty loose grass and rock to go down hopefully under control. Once you're on the shore 400 yards along wet slippery boulders brings you to



the shelf of rock opposite the stack. I say opposite, as the silver medal position goes to Am Buachaille because it isn't actually connected to the land– you have to swim out to it. I know that sounds dramatic as its only 15 yards but what with the Atlantic swell pushing through the channel and all the barnacles and what have you it's quite a challenge. [Our companion Dodi was first over with the safety line and even with a wetsuit found it a tad chilly even in mid-June.] With all that done and the reverse trip in prospect you only have the climb left to do!

Am Buachaille is not a particularly hard climb, its grade is only modest by many standards, but with overhanging parts, loose boulders on all the ledges and a fair number of wobbly holds too, it does have its moments. There are three "pitches" where the leader goes first, hoping to wedge some protection into cracks in the rock to prevent injury in case of a fall. On the first pitch, which was mine, such bits of protection were few and far between and a fall would have resulted in a large splat and a helicopter ride home. The overhanging rock pushed you out of balance and the sandy nature of the hand and foot holds made it all seem a bit insecure.



*Pictures: Am buachille from cliffs opposite (page 4) & opposite, Frank on first pitch, Jules belaying. Dodi looking on & swimwear drying.*

Our companion Tim took over for pitch two. This involved a precarious toe shuffle along a narrow horizontal crack with hands at full stretch above (well, he's only little) followed by a dramatic swing round a corner and he was out of sight. When he next appeared he was 25 feet above and seemingly further out from the bottom of the stack than we were on our ledge. Apart from the fulmars, the final pitch was straight forward and led quickly to a perched block on the summit. The view was tremendous, and the summit block was certainly a perch – the aroma of the accumulated guano was nauseating! Getting down was easy

enough: one long swooping abseil, 180 feet clear from the overhanging rock all the way down and back to a welcome sandwich.

Now for the return journey...swim, boulders, cliff climb, moorland walk, stony track... 10 hours from start to finish, quite a day.

## **Eurovelo 6:** Richard & Anne King.



Eurovelo 6 (EV 6) is a European cycleway which runs from Nantes on the west coast of France, through Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Serbia, Bulgaria & Romania before arriving in Constanta on the Black Sea. With our friends, Alan & Kate we set out on this journey 5 years ago and adopted an Eric Morecambe approach to our task - we cycle all the right tracks but not necessarily in the right order!

Until recently, some of us were still working, so we were limited to 2 week sections of the route each year. We started by cycling alongside the Loire from Nevers, to the Atlantic coast at Nantes; & in the course of the trip we discovered EV 6. Ok, so we were doing the sector in reverse but next year we would continue from Nevers to Basel. We then cycled from Basel to Vienna, & this year we went from Vienna to Budapest.



Travelling the route in sections poses logistical problems. We are now adept at getting bikes & panniers on & off trains, & cycling through capital cities; but the further we get from home the more complex the problems of getting the bikes, luggage & ourselves from UK to the start, & from the finish back to UK. Last year was something of a nightmare getting 4 bikes to the start (Basel) leaving one car in Vienna, with a 4 bike towbar mounted carrier & a roof box for the kit - then going back to Basel to re-unite with the second car & return home. This year we decided to take the easier alternative of a package whereby all we had to do was fly to Vienna, collect hire bikes, cycle with day packs whilst our heavy luggage was moved daily for us, drop the bikes in Budapest & return to Vienna by coach (pleased that BBC Sport worked on my phone on the coach for the England vs Sweden game)!

The cycling is easy to moderate. With the exception of the section from Lake Constance to The Danube, you are following rivers, and EU Regulation 19/2001 requires all EU rivers to flow downhill. The surfaces are generally good, with the odd earth flood bank. A hybrid, touring or mountain bike is ideal.

There are highspots of culture such as Vienna with its Music, Museums and Palaces, Bratislava & Budapest, but there are wonderful cities, towns and villages along the route which are much easier to absorb at cycling pace. The real highlight of the route is the journey - passing through towns & villages, staying in small hotels and guest houses, and getting to absorb the cultures of the regions and countries you pass through. Everywhere we have been people have been helpful, often taking themselves miles off their route to show us the way. Germans treat cyclists with uber respect (it's the law), but move to Austria or Hungary & it's a bit more like home! All hotel beds in Germany have a small pack of Haribo Starburst to revive the weary traveller! The cycle route is also good for nature watching (storks nests on most pylons). So, I am starting to plan next year's route from Budapest to Belgrade through Hungary, possibly Croatia & Serbia.

## **The A66.** by Anne King

A road we all must use on a regular basis. Heading east it is our link to the A1 and the southeast. Heading west to Penrith and the M6 it is our link to shops, hospitals, and to Carlisle. So it matters to us all and it was therefore with interest that I went to a meeting organised by Highways England to hear about plans to make the entire road dual carriageway.

The difficulty at present is that an accident on the single carriageway sections can close the road for hours. Over Easter the road was closed for lengthy periods on three days out of six. The diversion routes are narrow and tortuous and often become blocked by HGVs. So it was not surprising that everyone at the meeting was in favour of the plan.

Of course there is a big but. Most of us see the section around Kirkby Thore as a high priority because of the number of accidents on that section and the very difficult right turn from Kirkby Thore onto the A66. But Highways England are preparing a plan to upgrade all the remaining single carriageway sections rather than look at individual problems.

They explained the process in some detail. What is clear is that even if funding is eventually available, and if the plan proceeds according to schedule, construction is unlikely to begin before 2024. Some of us at this point may be forgiven for wondering if we will still be driving by then!

Part of the process will a safety audit, and it is just possible that the sections of road that are proved to be the most dangerous may be prioritised, it seems very unlikely even so that any work will begin any sooner.

One difficulty is that funding will only be available if a business case demonstrates that the scheme will bring benefits in cash terms, by reducing congestion. The political will to build a Northern Powerhouse is an important component of this. But of course financial pressures are being felt everywhere, so there is no guarantee the scheme will go ahead.

What Highways England suggest is the we all try and keep up the pressure by writing to our MP. So if you're as fed up as I am with the frequent road closures and lengthy delays every time road works are carried out, please do exactly that.

## **MOD Proposal To Deregister Common Land:**

This was mentioned in the December 2017 Villager. MOD are seeking to de-register CL26 (Murton fell), CL27 (Hilton fell) & CL122 (Burton & Warcop Fells). Cumbria County Council are holding a PUBLIC ENQUIRY at Kendal Town Hall 10am on September 13th, closing on September 14th. Further details can be found at the website below:

<http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/planning-environment/conservation/commons-registration-service/warcoptrainingarea.asp>



**Cumbria County Council**

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Commons Act 2006 – Schedule 3(2)

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC INQUIRY**

Notice is hereby given that Cumbria County Council as Commons Registration Authority has determined that a Public Inquiry should be held to consider applications which have been made by **The Secretary of State for Defence** ("the Applicant") under paragraph 2 of Schedule 3 of the Commons Act 2006 and in accordance with the Commons Registration (England) Regulations 2014.

The applications relate to common land register units **CL26 Murton Fell, CL27 Hilton Fell, and CL122 Burton Fell and Warcop Fell** ("the Application Land"). The Applicant seeks, by these applications, to de-register the Application Land.

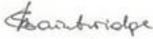
An independent Inspector, Alan Evans of Counsel, appointed by the Council will open the Inquiry at Kendal County Hall, Busher Walk, Kendal LA9 4RQ at 10 am on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2018. The Inquiry is due to close on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

Anyone can attend the inquiry. Anyone who wants to be heard on the subject matter of the application may, at the discretion of the Inspector, give evidence at the inquiry or arrange for someone to do so on their behalf.

The Inspector has made directions for the preparation for the inquiry. These directions, along with the Notices of Applications, can be viewed online by accessing Cumbria County Council's website

<http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/planning-environment/conservation/commons-registration-service/warcoptrainingarea.asp>

Other documents relating to the application are not available online; these are only available for inspection at The Commons Registration Service at Lady Gilford's House, Petteiril Bank Road, Carlisle, CA1 3AJ, strictly by appointment only. Please contact the Commons Registration Team on (01228) 221028 to arrange an appointment quoting reference number **CA14/5, CA14/3 and CA14/4**.

Signed:   
 .....  
 Svetlana Bainbridge  
 Commons Registration Officer

Dated: 18<sup>th</sup> July 2018  
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