
THE VILLAGER

Editorial:

Welcome to the 71st 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 themselves. I am sure this will help you integrate more quickly into our community.

A huge thank you to those who contribute to the costs of The Villager. The Parish Council pay for 2 editions & the remaining 2 editions are funded by your donations at various events in The Institute. Thanks to the sterling efforts of Carolyn & John who organise the raffles/collections, and the generosity of those who contribute, I have sufficient funds well into 2019.

Copy for the January issue by Sunday 13th January 2019 please!

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

Naturewatch:

Late in the evening on Saturday September 8th Amanda Klein found a distressed Tawny Owl in the road. She managed to get the owl safely to the verge. Despite various searches the following day the little fella could not be found, but he turned up under Mo



Roberts car on the Monday morning. She was unable to catch him, but the vets put her onto Richard Coper at Silverband Falconry who rescued him and took him to the vets. A suspected head injury turned out to be a nasty ear infection. The owl remains with Richard, who hoped to release him last weekend but Storm Callum was not ideal weather. Release planned for about

the time you read this. Thanks to everyone involved in this happy saga.

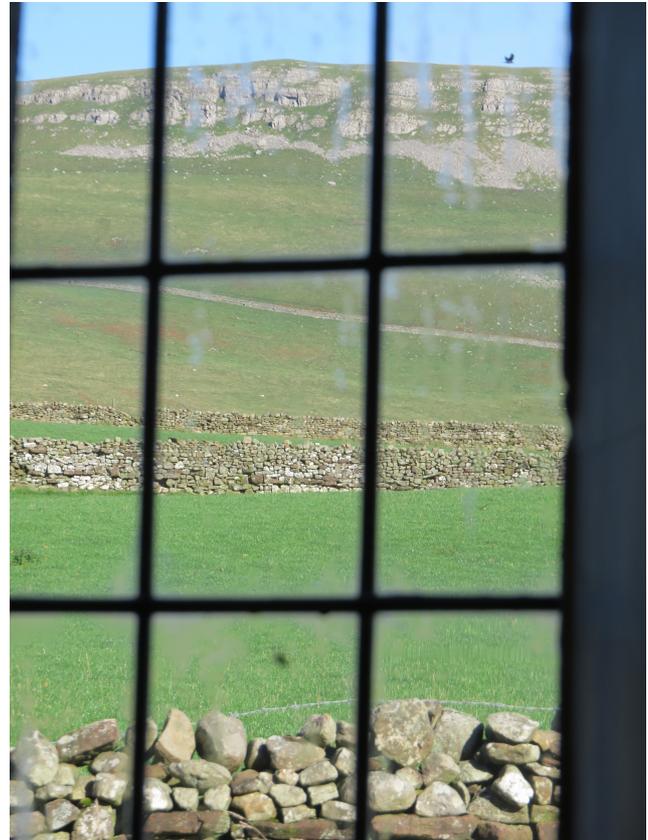
Church of St John the Baptist, Murton cum Hilton - Paula Ellis

To all the volunteers who so kindly cleared the ground around our little Church, grateful thanks for the excellent work; it is much appreciated.

The Church is open to all who live on the Fellside, of every or no denomination, and all have the right to ask for baptism, marriage or burial services.

We are a daughter Church of St Lawrence's Parish Church, Appleby and most of our collections go to the Treasurer of the combined Parishes who pays our housekeeping bills along with our contribution to the levy towards the Clergy's salaries & pensions. From time to time we receive donations specifically for our Church and we are allowed to keep the collections from the services on St John's Day & Harvest Festival.

St Lawrence's is an old, historic building which needs a great deal of money for upkeep, leaving nothing available for St John's for some years. Our Church was built in stone in 1856 and some repair is always necessary (when I dropped in to take the photos there was a warning of danger from falling plaster - Ed). We depend on donations from local people and will only be able to keep going with your continued generosity. Do come along to our services, if only to contemplate the wonderful view of our fells through the clear glass Altar window. Where else in this busy life can one enjoy an hour or so free from mobile phones & electronic gadgets? We do need more people to attend if we are not to be in danger of closing due to lack of support. Even once or twice a year would help boost our numbers. The times of our services are published in The Helm.



Rowan Trees at St John's

In the Centenary Year of St John's Church in 1956 Tom Tinkler, the People's Warden, wanted two trees for the two corners in front of the Church. He had a native Rowan & Mrs Dorothy Hinchcliffe gave him a Sorbus Hupehensis, a very hardy Rowan from the Hupeh Province of China. It's leaves are finer than the native Rowan with a purple hue. The berries are pink, quite distinct and slightly smaller than the orange-red of there native Rowan. The two trees donated by Mr Tinkler & Mrs Hichcliffe marked the dedication of the present clear glass which replaced the old ecclesiastical glass in the east window and enables all visiting St John's to "lift up their eyes unto the hills". The funds to pay for the clear window were organised by Mr Edgar Hinchcliffe (Vicar's Warden). Canon W R M Chaplin was the Vicar and the Bishop of Penrith dedicated the window on St John's day in June 1956.

On 29th November 2008 the Herald reported a sighting of a flock of around 20 waxwings on a Sorbus Hupehensis on the Newton Rigg campus so we may be lucky.

Remembrance Day Service - Dave Sampson

On Sunday 11th November there will be a service held at the church starting at 10.30am. The two minutes silence will take place at precisely 11.00am in the church after which we will walk to the war memorial in the Cemetery where wreathes will be laid followed by a further short period of silence.

I am grateful that Rev Peter Ridley has accepted our request to conduct the service.

At 11 o'clock it will be exactly one hundred years since the end of the First World War and it is to be hoped that there will be a good attendance at the service to pay respects, in particular to the nine men from our parish that gave their lives during the 1st World War and the four men in the 2nd World War.

"At the going down of the sun and in the morning.
We will remember them"

Christmas Day: - Dave Sampson

Unfortunately there will not be a service at the church on Christmas Day this year. Please check the December edition of The Heart of Eden for services on that day at nearby churches.

There **WILL** however be a **Carol Service** on Thursday 20th December at 6.00pm to which all are very welcome. Last year the corresponding service was well attended. Everyone enjoyed it and thought it was a great start to the Christmas celebrations.

CURRY NIGHT SUCCESS:

The Fellsiders Ladies and their guests enjoyed a wonderful Curry evening when Jesse and Alan Oddie treated us to some mouth watering, authentic southern Indian dishes. The ladies also rustled up some fabulous curries and delicious desserts. Over 40 people attended and a magnificent amount of £600 was raised for Curry Aid, a charity that Jesse and Alan started more than 10 years ago. A huge thank you to all those who attended, made curries and desserts and who provided raffle prizes. We received a charming thank you letter from the orphanage in southern India, a few days before the event. See Below.

St. Mary's Home for Children:

Shenbaganpur Post, Pragasapuram, Kodaikanal – 624 104. Dingigul District, Tamil Nadu, India.

Dear friends.

Greetings from Franciscan Sisters of St. Aloysius Gonzaga, doing ministry in India at Kodaikanal hill station, with the poor St. Mary's Home for Children. We are all doing good. Hope you are all keeping well.

Thanks a lot for supporting us to feed our home children by your generous help. Every time when Jessie Oddy and Alan come to India they visit our home children and make them happy. It's all your sacrifice for our little ones to have a life. We appreciated your valuable and lovable service. This is a big support to us to continue our ministry to the poor and the needy. We are grateful to you for your supporting.

This year we have 20 new children in our home, 10 of them semi-orphans. Every year with your financial support we try to fulfil the basic needs of home children. Once again we express our sincere thanks to everyone who are all helping our St. Mary's Home children through Jessie Oddy and Alan. Each one of your sacrifices is helping to bring up the poor children in education and social status. You and your family are remembered in our daily Prayer. May the good God bless you more and more and keep you with good health.

Thank you

With love & prayer
Correspondent
St. Mary's Primary School
Pragasapuram
Kodaikanal – 624 104.



Little Fell Walk -

Every year there is a guided walk up Little Fell, which is right in the heart of the restricted area, organised and led by Simon Wilson who works for the North Pennines AONB. Local residents don't always get to hear about this so I have asked Simon if he would consider leading a walk for us, and he has said he will consider it if there is sufficient interest. It would be held next summer.

If you are interested in this can you please let me know; depending upon the level of interest I will either make arrangements for a walk for local residents or find out the details of the annual walk and pass this on to anyone who wants to do it.

Anne King - 017683 52308 - richard.anne.king@hotmail.co.uk

Highlights gig October 6th 2018

Highlights concert, a SELLOUT.

A packed Murton Institute enjoyed an evening full of sweet melody and haunting song, when Katie Doherty and The Navigators, the latest artists from Highlights, shared their musical talents and skills. Katie played keyboard, Shona made her fiddle dance and Dave enthusiastically joined in on his melodeon. He did admit to being a little tired after a full day of a children's music workshop in Barnard Castle. His enthusiasm was infectious. The audience tapped their toes, and willingly joined in on a couple of the choruses.

We are most fortunate to have Highlights giving us the opportunity to access such a variety of music drama and dance from artistes who will happily come and perform in our village hall. There will be another Highlights event in the Spring of 2019; details will be in the next Villager.

Fellsiders:

There are two outings being offered in November and December. There is an all day trip to York on Wednesday November 8th, leaving approx. 9.30 am, arriving home approx. 5.30pm. Cost is £18 coach fare. We need a minimum of 20 people to make the trip viable. Booking and money to Tina or Joy by October 25th.

The trip in December is on Sat December 8th, to Keswick to see the matinee performance of BEAUTY AND THE BEAST, Theatre by the Lakes Christmas show. We will depart approx. 10am, returning home by 5.30 approx. There are a limited number of tickets available, first come first served. Theatre tickets are £14. The bus fare is £11 for Fellsiders, £13 for guests. Please let Tina or Joy have your booking and money by Oct 25th. I have to pay the theatre by end of October.

We will be having a planning meeting in mid November for next years programme, suggestions for guest speakers and outings would be welcome.

Times of pick up points for the two outings will be posted on the noticeboards nearer the time.

Tina, 01768353642, Joy 01768352133.

News from the Institute:

Table Tennis: - Mary Anne Sadler

Table tennis will be starting on 9/10/18, at 6pm.
Every 2nd Tuesday of the month. 6-8pm. Cost £2
I hope to see you there.

We now have 2 tables as Linda Taylor has very kindly donated a table to the Institute.
Also thanks to Mike Schug for transporting it for us.

Dates for your diary:

- **Friday 26th October:** Film night. Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri. Doors open 7 pm for 7.30 start. Bring your own drinks and snacks. £5 donation.
- **Saturday November 3^{ed}.** Bonfire on Murton Village Green. BBQs & Fireworks from 6pm. If you wish, please bring your own fireworks to be let off by the staff. Parents are requested to supervise their children. Thanks to all for their help.
- **Monday November 5th.** Parish Council Meeting. 7.30. All Welcome
- **Saturday Nov 10th:** Quiz night. With guest quizmaster John Sibson.
- **Sunday November 11th.** Armistice Day, remembering 100 years since the end of The First World War.

Battle's Over - A Nation's Tribute



Beacon on Murton Pike

- 16.00 Assemble in Murton car park
- 16.15 Walk to summit
- 17.00 Light memorial beacon
- 17.30 Descend

Murton Institute

- 18.00 Barbeque.

Contributions, including salads and deserts are invited.

Bring your own nibbles and drinks - and glasses or cups.

There will be an opportunity to join in the singing of WW1 songs.

- **Friday 16th November:** Film Night. Paddington 2. Get your marmalade sandwiches ready...
- **Saturday 15th December:** Xmas coffee and craic

Foodbank Donations:

Please leave your donations in the box behind reception in the institute.

Brush up your English:

I take it, you already know
Of tough and bough and cough & dough
Others may stumble, but not you,
On hiccough, thorough, laugh and through.
Well done! And now you wish perhaps
To learn of less familiar traps?

Beware of heard, a dreadful word
That looks like beard and sounds like bird.
And dead! It's said like bed, not bead
For goodness sake don't call it "deed".
Watch out for meat and great and threat
(They rhyme with suite and straight and debt).

A moth is not a moth in mother
Nor both in bother, broth in brother.
And here is not a match for there,
Nor dear and fear for bear and pear.
And there's dose and rose and lose –
Just look them up – and goose and choose.

And cork & work and card and ward,
And front and frond and word and sword.
And do and go and thwart and cart.
Come, come I've hardly made a start!
A dreadful language? Man alive,
I'd mastered it when I was five!

Civic News: October 2018

This week has been full of contrasts in the weather – the heavy rain and winds associated with Storm Calum have given way to the best of autumnal sun and frosty nights. I was away over the weekend and missed the worst of the bad weather, returning to water-logged plant containers and piles of leaves everywhere.

The leaves are blocking drains and culverts which are already full of gravel, mud and road debris. Despite our best efforts, the County Council can only tell us that there is only one specialist vehicle for clearing culverts and drains and so we have to be patient. In the meantime, I know how resourceful you can be and ask anyone who sees that a drain is blocked with leaves to clear it and report it on the CCC website or contact one of the councillors or the clerk, June Watson. We shall continue to raise the matter with the Highways Dept too.

I am pleased to report that the worst of the potholes have been repaired at last.

As I reported in the last issue of The Villager, the cemetery walls have become a major issue for the PC. Last winter strong easterly winds combined with the snow and ice in March appeared to have weakened the wall to the extent that sections collapsed. Once the weather improved, councillors decided to repair the damaged sections, and look at more long term solutions to safeguard the walls. Our discussions with drystone wallers and past councillors indicated that the eastern wall is particularly vulnerable to wind damage, it is thin in its construction and built using local stone which is very friable and crumbly. The trees appear on the original plan of the cemetery dating from 1898 and were clearly planted within a few years of the cemetery opening in 1903. They are now very large, growing far too close to the wall. We were advised that it was a waste of time and money to repair the gaps without giving some consideration to the trees. The leylandii trees sway in the wind and their shallow roots have undermined the wall and caused much of the damage.

Therefore we consulted a tree surgeon and will discuss his recommendation to thin out some of these trees at the next Council meeting on 5th November.

11th November: Remembrance Sunday. We have confirmed with Major Lynch that the Army Cadets will be taking a gas beacon up to Murton Pike trig point (weather permitting) and will light it at 5pm as part of the nationwide tribute called **The Battle's Over - A Nation's Tribute - 11 November 2018**. There will be a community event at the Institute, rather than a gathering on the Fell because of the time of year and weather. Hopefully the beacon will be easily visible, and we can enjoy it from the comfort of our village hall.

Finally, Cllr King and I attended the first part of the public enquiry into the de-registration of the commons. I was able to speak on your behalf and represent the views that have been made at the last few council meetings. There is a report elsewhere in this edition for you to read and I urge you to support the opposition by signing the on-line petition and writing to our County Councillor.

Barbara Govan

Chair, Murton Parish Council

CYCLING THE BALTICS: - LOS REYES

We were looking for 10 days away, somewhere we had never been, but to which we were attracted. We had heard of Riga & Tallinn as weekend break destinations but decided to try a cycling trip taking in the capitals & countryside of Estonia, Latvia & Lithuania.

The least enjoyable part of the whole trip was getting there & back. With hindsight, there are better ways than flying Baltic Air from Gatwick to Riga, a four hour stopover & a short flight to Tallinn. However, on arrival in Tallinn we had our first glimpse of a beautiful city, with an old town full of buildings dating back to the Hanseatic League. We wandered around looking for a meal and, only yards from our hotel, found an excellent restaurant. Tallinn is renowned for it's own take on modern Scandinavian cooking at a third of the price. We had a simple 3 course tasting menu for half what it would have cost in the North, and a quarter of the cost in the home counties.



The next day we started with a walking tour of the City, learning it's history, & learning about Estonia's role in the modern world. This small country, only gaining independence from Russia in 1991, has made itself the IT capital of the EU & NATO. Our Tour Leader (Lina) was Lithuanian & explained to us that whilst the 3 countries had gained independence from Russia at the same time, they had different histories & languages. Estonian, we were told, is close to Finnish & incomprehensible. For this reason, the people of the Baltic States did not generally speak each other's languages, but rather talked to each other in English. Certainly we found that except in very rural villages, we could get by everywhere in English. Similarly, the countries have very small populations. Estonia 1.3 million, Latvia nearly 2 million & Lithuania around 3 million. However, the countries have beautiful forests, lakes & hills, as well as a Baltic coastline. Even those living in former soviet tower blocks enjoy an outdoor lifestyle. Lina also explained the differences between the peoples. The Estonians, she said, were very serious and literal. Lithuanians say that if an Estonian wife asks her husband if he loves her, her husband will reply, "I answered that when we got married. If anything changes I will let you know"!

Latvians are said to be closer to Russia, seeking to maintain links with wealthy people who had Dachas (Holiday Houses) on the Baltic coast. Needless to say we got no stories about Lithuanians from our Guide other than their fanatical devotion to Basketball, a sport in which they once beat the USSR in the Olympics. It seemed a bit like England & those who still dream of winning the World Cup in 1966.

From Tallinn we moved East, along the North coast of the Baltic. We learned that the Baltic is a very shallow sea so it freezes easily, but also warms up quickly – although High Season is really only the last 2 weeks of June to the end of August. The roads are very quiet, but well maintained, & there are innumerable tracks through the forests. Basic campsites are everywhere, so an ideal motorhome destination! We stayed in a former distillery at Palmse for a couple of nights and thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. We cycled through the Lahemaa National Park & along the shores of Lake Peipsi (Russia on the other side) to reach Tartu. From there we travelled through Otepaa to cycle through an area known as Estonian Switzerland & then to Riga. Now in Latvia, we enjoyed the art nouveau centre of the city before setting off for Jurmala on the coast. A bit like the South of France with 19th Century Russian seaside villas, modern infill and 33k of sandy beach.

We then moved to Lithuania and lunched in a seaside town which might have been in Les Landes (France).



We spent the rest of the day cycling through pine forests, alongside the sea, to the town of Klaipeda. This was a small fishing port, but now has a large commercial port attached. From here we explored the Curonian Spit, a thin strip of land creating a barrier between the Baltic & a large lake. Again, a fascinating insight into rural life, the traditions of local fishermen & nature.



Finally, we move to Lithuania and it's capital Vilnius. Perhaps our opinion of Vilnius is coloured by our first evening in a restaurant employing a local version of Basil Fawlty – quite the rudest & most incompetent waiter I have encountered anywhere on the planet. Even his colleagues were apologising to us! The next day we cycled to Galve lake through a gently undulating, hilly countryside. Our final evening was a rip

roaring success. Before a quick city walk we visited the rooftop bar in the Marriott where one of our number (a wealthy ex-pat Bar Owner from Hong Kong) ordered bottles of Mumm Cordon Rouge . We then moved to a beautiful courtyard restaurant for a wonderful meal and the best venison I have eaten anywhere.



Young Black Stork. Confused as everyone else has migrated!

XX

Mary-Anne at Neat Feet is going full time!

I am qualified in foot care and at the moment run a part time business. I am now looking to do this full time, as I find it so rewarding helping people to maintain their mobility and consequently their independence.

So if you are finding it hard to cut your toes nails, have hard skin or feet that just need a treat.

Why not give me a call me for treatments in your home?
I am also qualified in Indian Head Massage and Swedish Massage.

I hope to be able to meet you soon.

Diploma in Chiropody. WMSch
International Register of Massage Therapists London. AIRMT
International Institute of Health and Holistic Therapies. Level 2 Certificate in Nail Treatments
Level 3 Diploma in Indian Head Massage

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Editors Note: I am happy to accept adverts from local people, subject to space. I am restricted to 4, 8 or 12 pages. Colour not guaranteed as each batch of 4 pages with colour costs extra. Phone or email me if you are interested.

THE APPLICATION BY THE MOD TO DEREGISTER THE COMMONS

I think most people are aware of the background to this issue but for those who aren't, it can be briefly summarised as follows. In 2003 following a Public Inquiry the MOD were allowed to compulsorily purchase the grazing rights from those villagers whose properties had 'right to graze animals' ie 'stints' on the fells. However as part of the extinguishment process, the MoD were legally required to agree to several legal undertakings which included 'the Common Land Undertakings' that they would not apply to de-register the land as common land which meant that the land would remain on the Register of Common Land in perpetuity. In 2012 they issued a consultation document proposing that the land be de-registered as common land. They subsequently withdrew the application, but renewed it last year.

- It is clear that there is a lot of opposition to this, from local people, the Commoners, Friends of the Lake District and the Open Spaces Society amongst others. The land concerned amounts to one percent of all the common land in the country.

The County Councillors have to decide whether to allow the MoD application. CCC has instructed an Inspector to hear both sides of the argument at a public enquiry, but as we have discovered the terms of reference were very narrow and the views of local residents were not of any interest or relevance - the only issue the inspector will cover in his report is whether the council have the power to remove common land from the register. The first two days of the enquiry were held on 13th and 14th September in Kendal. Barbara Govan, as Chair of Murton PC represented your views . John Mc Darren spoke on behalf of the Hilton & Murton Commoners making the important point among others that in his experience one party cannot unilaterally cancel part of a legally binding agreement. A number of concerned residents also attended the enquiry.

The MOD are in the fortunate position of having access to taxpayers' funds which has enabled them to employ a very eminent QC. The Open Spaces Society also have legal representation, a lawyer who has a special interest in common land issues who is leading the Opposition arguments. The hearing is to reconvene **on 30th October** for a further four days to discuss the very complex issue of whether the land is waste of a manor or common land.

We still do not know why the MOD want to do this. Initially it seemed as if it was a matter of administrative tidying up, but the huge expenditure they are incurring makes it plain that there must be more to it than this. People are concerned that the live firing area might be extended to Murton Pike with consequent loss of access, and that the MOD might withdraw from the area and sell the land which having been removed from the register cannot then be re-instated as common land.

The final decision will lie with the County Council at their meeting **on 6th December**. If you are concerned please write to Andy Connell, our county councillor, and to our MP. We cannot compete with the MOD in matters of funding and the legal expertise that gives access to. But we can make our views known. So, please, do.

There is also a petition that can be found at <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/229352>. If we get 10,000 signatures parliament must respond.

