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# THE VILLAGER

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## **Editorial:**

Welcome to the 74th edition of The Villager. Many thanks to those who have contributed. Your contributions in the form of news, views, stories, poetry, photographs, local history etc are welcome. I look forward to hearing from you.

Changes to the [murton.org.uk](http://murton.org.uk) website are under way, primarily because of new regulations applying to Parish Councils. I am hoping that it will be possible to take advantage of these changes to enhance the accessibility of back copies of The Villager. We have electronic copies of issues 56 onwards & these will be moved to the new platform. I have paper copies of Editions 1 - 55 and wonder whether there are any IT literate volunteers out there to help scan the paper copies to the new site. In addition, I would like to see if we could integrate a search facility so that people can use The Villager in years to come as a source to research people and events in our community. Please get in touch if you feel you can help.

Copy for the next issue by **Sunday 8th December Please.**

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## **Fellsiders:**

The Fellsiders enjoyed a brilliant day out to Newby Hall near Ripon, North Yorkshire, at the beginning of July. The weather was glorious, which certainly encouraged the group to explore all the colourful areas of the fabulous herbaceous borders, delicate rose garden, sculpture trail and take a tranquil cruise along the river. The tour of the house

with two enthusiastic guides certainly brought the history of the family to life. Many thanks to Barbara Mills for organising the visit.





Forthcoming talks and fundraising meals include a talk by a FIRE SAFETY officer, Wed SEPT 4th, "Looking at hazards in the home" . . . do come along, I learned a lot when I attended a meeting a while back. There will be a raffle in aid of the Firemen's Benevolent fund.

October's meeting is our annual fundraiser for Curry Aid, a bring and share supper, BUT this year the meal will be based around " Flavours from the Mediterranean" main courses and desserts . . . something a little different.

As Robinson's coaches have closed, we are looking into other avenues for our pre Christmas shopping trip in November . . . if any one has any suggestions for other coach companies or dates for other organised trips, please let us know. We round off the year by an afternoon trip on Wednesday December 4th, to the SUNBEAMS CENTRE near Penrith, a custom built centre that uses music and drama with disadvantaged, vulnerable and disabled people of all ages in the North West. This will be by car share. Fellsiders is open to any lady who lives in Murton, Hilton and Brackenber area. The membership remains at £10 a year. you don't have to join, just dip in and out of the meetings that appeal . . . gentlemen are also welcome to come along as guests. Details from Dorothy, 52798, Tina 53642 and Joy 52133.

### **St John's Church Murton-cum-Hilton:** Dave Sampson

An update of the progress made at the Church. The work on the west wall has been completed and we are most grateful to Chris Morphet for that. We also thank Chris Bullock and Richard Oates for their hard work in redecorating the wall and also the inner walls of the porch. The organ is now back in action thanks to Leigh Harding.

There is still work to be attended to on the electrics and Rosemary Mandale has been successful in obtaining a grant to go towards the cost of repairs.

Since the church reopened just before Easter, numbers on the first Sunday of each month have been good due to the fact that the choir and congregation of St Lawrence's have joined us. However numbers attending the Informal Services on the third Sunday each month have been very disappointing and so

for the foreseeable future these services will discontinue. This means that there will only be one service a month, namely Holy Communion, at 10.45am on the first Sunday of each month.

Special services such as Harvest Festival, Remembrance Day, the Christmas Carol Service and the Patronal Festival Service will continue to take place and it is to be hoped that these services in particular will be as well supported as they have been in past years.

On Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> September we will host a joint Service with congregations from St Lawrence's together with other local churches at 10.45am.

On Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October we will join the congregation of St Lawrence's Church for their Harvest Festival at 10.45am. Consequently there will not be a service at St John's Church.

We hope to have our own Harvest Festival service on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October at 6.30pm. This will take the form of a "Songs of Praise", when the congregation from St Lawrence's will join us. There will be refreshments served at the Institute after the service. Please do come and join us, and if you have a favourite hymn that you would like to be sung please let me know.

## **Highlights:**

**GREAT NEWS, . . A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY . . NEXT HIGHLIGHTS GIG . . WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 9th: 7.30p m at MURTON INSTITUTE**

We are delighted to have been chosen to host the internationally known FREE PLAY, a Canadian duo who will share their beautiful and unique a capella style music from around the world, without leaving your seat. WOW, how lucky are we, only two dates in Cumbria . . .and Murton Institute plays host to one . . . . .

Tickets . . .Adults £10, Family £25. Details from Tina Wragg, tel 017683536 42

**BOOK EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT . . .** Hope to see you there, bring your own drinks, nibbles and glasses . . . .

## **Local History: Cattle droving through Cumbria 1600 - 1850**

Peter & Tricia Jagger (Coupland Beck) have forwarded me a copy of an article published in the Herald, following a talk given by Peter Roebuck to The Upper Eden History Society.

Having retired as Emeritus Professor of History at Ulster University, Peter Roebuck came to live south of High Hesketh in 2007. Here, a neighbour told him of the Parker family who built his house. Researching into them through a will fired Peter's interest in droving, a major trade which had become organised from the 1620s. Following the eradication of the reivers, who were given no quarter during James I's rule, life became much less dangerous for drovers and their

herds. By the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, the growth of the British Army and Navy as a result of the Napoleonic Wars created an increased demand for beef and created opportunities for the drovers. The growth of droving contributed greatly to victories by land and sea against French revolutionaries.

Acknowledging the help he gained from the works of Haldane (1952), Raistrick and Bonser on "The Drovers", Peter Roebuck saw there was not much information about the trade in Cumbria. From 1617-18, there is a record which details some 5,641 cattle were transported from Ireland as part of "a constant flow" shipping cattle to ports like Whitehaven. Consulting J. D. Marshall's book, "Old Lakeland" published in 1970, as well as figures from the Musgrave Estate at Edenhall, he found that following the permanent ban on importing cattle from Ireland from 1667 to 1790, many of these were reared in western Scotland and some 94%, came into England through or past Carlisle. A herd could be between 100 and 400 cattle but records show that four drovers and a total of 1600 arrived in one area on one night. Cattle would gather at "The Sands" in Carlisle, Sandgate in Penrith and at other places with "sand" in the name which leads Peter to ponder whether the sand was used to cover the manure.

More examination of actual figures from the Musgrave Estate in 1712 show that the cattle driving period was usually April to October, peaking in August and September which made the annual total possibly as high as 15,000 going through a single estate. Peter added that Haldane's estimates of 30,000 across the entire border in 1707 and 80,000 in 1750 are "under-estimates" as he discovered more documents relating to Hartley which gave greater numbers, so the total in 1712 for Edenhall and Hartley could have been 30,000. During 1745-59, cattle plague became particularly virulent in the south of England where tens of thousands of cattle had to be slaughtered, but due to government action this did not reach Scotland. Westmorland and Cumberland were affected, but nothing like the 85% infected in Yorkshire. Demand for new stock followed, so the ban on Irish cattle was lifted and despite the high costs of transporting from Ireland to Portpatrick in Scotland, the droving trade grew. Brough was an important droving town, one where the north/ south routes met the east/west routes, its importance to lessen with the coming of the railways which bypassed the town.

The railways allowed for 24 hour transportation of "fat" cattle and this marked the heyday of the droving trade. The growth of metalled toll roads from 1660 onwards and enclosure of land which took place much later in Cumberland had reduced the area available but by the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century the railway opened up trade. Before then, the introduction of steam ships became very important for transporting cattle from Carlisle to Liverpool, for example, with reliable and regular scheduled services. Official figures seriously underestimated the enterprises that came with servicing this trade: tallow, horn and tanning created industries manufacturing candles, soap, cutlery and providing 33 tanneries in the north east of Cumberland with a further 57 in the south of

Lakeland. The latter industry required lots of water, machinery and oak bark which was acquired locally: another spin-off activity generating income. Local economics were evidently vastly improved by the scale of the droving business. Cumbrian farmers got the pick of the herd, charged drovers for their accommodation and food, a penny a head for grazing and some of them acted as bankers too, lending money to the drovers on their way south to the markets and being repaid, possibly with interest, on their return.

The oldest drovers' road in Cumberland was that from Dumfries to Wreay. Concluding his presentation, Peter described how drovers plied this trade which led to selective breeding of cattle for meat. The leading drover or "topsmen" had dozens of helpers: all were contracted workers. Owners led their own animals which were allowed to find their own pace.

Tricia Jagger and Anne Taylor.

## **The Institute; Forthcoming events:**

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup>: Film night, 7 for 7.30 pm. Very exciting** – we'll be using our new film equipment for the first time. *Bohemian Rhapsody*. Donation £5 on the door. Bring your own Queen-themed drinks and snacks.

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup>: Afternoon tea, 2-4 pm.** In aid of St. John's Church repairs. We would be grateful for any homemade cakes, scones or biscuits. Please contact Rosemary 52852; Anne 51547 or Susan at [susan.moncaster1@mypostoffice.co.uk](mailto:susan.moncaster1@mypostoffice.co.uk), if you can help with anything.

And dates for your diary:

**Wed 4<sup>th</sup> September** – Fellsiders – see Page 3 or <http://www.highlightsnorth.co.uk/whats-on-info.aspx?sid=773>

### **Film nights:**

**Fri 27 Sept:** *Mandela*. Fund-raiser for Appleby Grammar School South Africa trip.

**Fri 25 Oct:** Film to be announced.

**Fri 29 Nov:** Film to be announced.

**Foodbank donations:** You can now leave donations for the Upper Eden Foodbank in the box behind reception.

## **CITIZENS ADVICE NEEDS YOU!**

The Citizens Advice service is looking for volunteers to train to be advice workers in the Eden area.

Citizens Advice Carlisle and Eden ask volunteers to give a regular one day a week over an extended period of time. Whilst specific qualifications or

experience are not required, to train for the role volunteers need to be good at listening, have a good manner when talking to people, be open minded and non-judgmental and enjoy helping people. It is also necessary to have competent skills in using a computer. All volunteers are given free training to help them assess people's needs, either face-to-face or over the phone, and identify the most appropriate course of action.

If you are interested in volunteering, please send an email to [volunteer-recruitment@ca-ce.org.uk](mailto:volunteer-recruitment@ca-ce.org.uk) with a daytime telephone number, or call 03300 563037 to leave your details. Alternatively you can call in to our office at 2 Sandgate, Penrith.



ONE OF THE MOST DRAMATIC STORIES OF MOUNTAIN SURVIVAL EVER

## *A Crawl down The Ogre*

*Mountaineering talk by Doug Scott CBE*

*Appleby Grammar School – Friday 4 October 2019*

Doug Scott and Chris Bonington made the first ascent of The Ogre [Baintha Brakk 7285m] in the Karakoram, extending the boundaries of what had been achieved before at that altitude. But it was the subsequent descent from the summit in the dark which turned into an epic which has since entered mountaineering folklore. The Ogre was not climbed again for 24 years.

Proceeds from the evening will support the work of the award-winning charity, Community Action Nepal [www.canepal.org.uk](http://www.canepal.org.uk). Doug will show a short video about CAN and will provide a brief update the audience on progress with the charity's post-earthquake reconstruction and plans for the future.

The evening will also include a sale of Nepalese goods, an auction of signed framed mountaineering prints and Doug will also be signing copies of his posters and books.

**Date and time:** Friday 4 October 2019, 7.30 -10.00 pm. Doors open 6.30 pm.

**Venue:** Appleby Grammar School, Battlebarrow, Appleby-in-Westmorland, CA16 6XU.

**Tickets:** £15 general admission / £13 concessions (group of 10+; U18; student)

**For tickets direct and further information:** email John Herington on [Johnmherington@gmail.com](mailto:Johnmherington@gmail.com) or call him direct on 07860 173261

**Or book online:** <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/appleby-in-westmorland-a-crawl-down-the-ogre-by-doug-scott-cbe-tickets-56118477878>

## Civic News - August 2019



At our recent PC meeting, we were able to use the new projector to put the Agenda and relevant documents on the screen for all those attending to see. I must thank the Institute Committee for installing it and allowing Councillors to be fully compliant with council requirements. District Cllr William Patterson remarked that it was far better than the system in Penrith Town Hall - well done!

At the same meeting Councillors agreed to commission a website for Murton Parish to replace the existing website as the software currently used is being withdrawn by the provider. Parish Councils are required to be 'fully transparent' which means that all

documentation relating to our meetings such as agendas and minutes, finance and data protection have to be published online. The current website, which was setup as part of the Institute Lottery application in 2014, will no longer be available after September. After some discussion, it was agreed to commission a local Carlisle company to design a new website for the parish council. There is the potential for expansion into a more community-based website if the need arises. There will be a set up charge for the design of the website with a small annual cost for hosting and ongoing technical support. The website address will remain the same: [www.murton.org.uk](http://www.murton.org.uk).

Where has the summer gone? True to form the sun disappeared when the school holidays started and this co-incided with the closure of Hilton Bridge. The contractors have had to contend with heavy thundershowers, humidity or constant rain on a daily basis. They have experienced Hilton Beck in spate on several occasions and had to retrieve materials and dumpy bags of aggregate that had been washed away. Still, we have watched the demolition of the old bridge until only the arch remained, and now we can see the day-by-day re-building. Work on facing the concrete and building the parapets has started now the concrete arch is in place alongside the old. So far, so good.

The bridge closure has isolated half of the parish and caused some inconvenience to the residents of Hilton. I hope you will think it has been worth it when the bridge re-opens in September. I am sorry about the delay in delivering the garden waste skip in August to its temporary home at Townhead. We have been assured that the September skip will be delivered on time.

You may have noticed that a new lamppost was put up in Hilton on 12<sup>th</sup> August. Once the lamp head with LED bulb has been fitted and activated, the old light will be removed from the electric pole. Suggestions for the location of the new pole were passed to EDC, but the location had to be left with the engineers.

On behalf of the PC I have been asked to thank all those hardy volunteers who braved the humidity and the midges to clear Hilton Lane, and tidy up both Hilton and Murton. Also a thank-you to those who provided the refreshments – a much-appreciated boost to morale. There was much discussion among the workers and it was felt that we should do it again next year, but a little earlier in the year to avoid the midges!

As usual, you are very welcome to join us at our next Parish Council meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> November in the Institute, and if there are any matters you would like to raise please speak to any of the councillors or contact our clerk, June Watson

Barbara Govan, Chair

**Photos of Hilton Bridge works, courtesy of Richard Oates - Many thanks. Hopefully copies of the final stages & completed job in the next edition of The Villager.**





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