

THE VILLAGER

Editorial:

Welcome to The Villager. Another year older & hopefully, in some cases, another year wiser. What a year it has been, with ever changing rules & regulations to fight Covid19. What is most evident to me is that everyone has their own opinion on how the UK, & indeed the world, should proceed. I only ask that we each respect the views of others who disagree with us. It seems that our Government is clear that we should start to move towards what we used to call normality & so let's hope they are right.

As ever, I need all of you, the readers, to provide the content for The Villager, whether it relates to Hellos & Goodbyes, forthcoming events from local Clubs, Groups & Societies, articles on Local History – in fact anything you wish to share with your fellow parishioners of Murton cum Hilton.

Thanks to all who have provided articles for this issue. The next issue is planned for March, so copy to me by Saturday 12th March please.

Richard King: 07831 637 927 richard.anne.king@hotmail.co.uk

New Arrivals: John & Sandra Turnbull at Green Tree, Hilton write:



We moved in October from Orton, just the other side of The Scar. We are feeling at home already. Thank You to everyone who has made us feel welcome by stopping by to say hello, or for a chat as we walk around the village, meeting us at the recent film night or giving us information about the Institute & local events.

Prior to moving to Orton in 2014 Sandra & I were living and working in The Netherlands (Sandra is Dutch). I had moved to Holland in 1999 and worked for The European Space agency, whilst Sandra worked for TNT. We both retired last year.

We both love the outdoors and love to hike, especially in the hills, as much as we can. Cycling is another passion for me. When at home we both like reading, cooking and during those more relaxed moments, watching movies.

We hope to meet more of you as and wherever we can & in the meantime hope you all had a Happy Christmas & have a healthy & prosperous year to come.

A Recent Loss: Len Champion

Many will be sorry to hear that Len Champion has died. He moved to Rose Cottage in Murton after farming at Asby & more recently living near Doncaster. Active until a month before he died, he lived just ten days short of his 98th birthday & six months short of 70 years marriage to Marjorie. His funeral was arranged by all the family – called Grandad's Army! – including 18 Grand and Great Grand children.

Editors Note: Please remember that I rely on you readers to tell me of new arrivals to the Parish & of the loss of those who have sadly died.

Memory Club in Appleby:

A group of volunteers from Church & local charities are proposing to set up a Memory Club in Appleby. It will offer a chance for people with memory loss to attend a regular social event along with their carers.

There will be light refreshments (a drink & biscuits) and activities such as crafts, dominoes, quizzes & singing.

Family carers will be able to join in with the activities, if they wish, or move to another room to relax or chat.

If this is something you wish to attend there will be a meeting on Wednesday 12th January at 10:30am at sands Methodist Church Hall to assess interest, with proposed future meetings on the second & fourth Wednesday mornings of each month if interest is shown.

For further information please contact:

Anne Crosby Tel. 017683 51219

Tim Parkin Tel. 017683 52640

Highlights:

Martin Harley: Review of December Concert

Just over 50 people were entertained to a varied and spellbinding evening of wonderful blues and slide guitar at the beginning of December, at Murton Village Institute. Martin Harley was an engaging musician who was happy to be on tour, despite our smaller audience due to the covid regulations. We are enormously grateful to the Highlights organisation who organise the Artists and musicians who play at our village halls

STOP PRESS THE NEXT HIGHLIGHTS EVENT: SATURDAY APRIL 23rd, MURTON INSTITUTE 7.30 pm WHEN THE WORLD STOOD STILL with ELIZA JEAN McTAGGART . . .

Through fiddle, banjo, bazouki, mandolin, penny whistle and accordion a performance of Hebridean melody will celebrate life, sorrow, joy and laughter . . . We should be in for a super evening. Information from Tina Wragg 01768 353642

Coffee, Cake & Craic: Tina Wragg. Email:tinawragg7@gmail.com, Tel:+441768353642

Although the restrictions of recent months have meant fewer activities at Murton Institute, we were able to resume the Coffee and Craic Saturday morning get togethers in November and December, when our loyal and supportive villagers came to enjoy a hot drink and cake, all socially distanced, and a wander around the craft sales tables and have a flutter on the raffle or pick up some delicious cakes from the laden cake stall. The sum of £105 was donated to our local Food Bank, from the proceeds of the November event. The sum of £100 was given to the Eden Animal rescue after the December coffee morning

Thank you to all those who helped set up and run the stalls and to all those generous villagers who attended . . . We are very lucky to live in such community spirited villages. We do hope everyone remains healthy and safe and we wish you all a more productive New Year

Hopefully we will be able to resume regular Coffee'n Craic in early spring.

Regards, Tina Wragg.

Fellsiders:

Although we haven't been able to start a regular program of meetings during the Autumn , Fellsiders was able to arrange a couple of craft classes on Saturdays for a group of more than a dozen ladies. Great fun was had at the wet felting workshop where a new arrival to Hilton, Ursula Hurst, guided us through the wet stages of creating felt that we could turn into a clever Christmas gnome head . . . we all produced at least one if not two . . .and at the end of the session we all felt rather proud of our endeavours.

A month later Val Stamper ,who moved to Hilton a couple of years ago, guided us through the lengthy process of very carefully decorating glass baubles with snow flakes and holly berries. We had to let the layers of paint dry between the stages, so we were able to enjoy several extra coffee breaks!!! The ladies took such care, trying not to splodge the acrylic paint on the wrong areas. Each bauble decoration was unique. .and each one was wrapped in bubble wrap and taken home.

Many thanks to our two patient Tutors. We hope to organise more Craft Days in the Spring.

It has been another topsy-turvey year. However, Fellsiders has been able to book a few evening events and guest speakers for next Spring. Talks on Sailing Ships , Fell Ponies , a ladies dinner and in April a super evening with The Bryce Street strummers, a Ukulele group from Kendal. The dates for these events will be confirmed in the New Year, via the email list.

Remember Fellsiders is open to any lady in the Parish . . fees remain at £10 for new members . . . details from Tina Wragg 01768353642, Joy Sampson 01768352133, Dorothy Macfadzean 01768352798 . .

All the best for 2022

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Regards, Tina Wragg. Email:tinawragg7@gmail.com, Tel:+441768353642.

Autumn Art Exhibition:

Thankyou, thankyou , thankyou . . to all the talented artists, needle workers, woodturners, wood carvers, felters, authors , photographers and all who made the SECOND ART AND CRAFT EXHIBITION such a roaring success at Murton Institute at the end of October. More than 30 talented villagers displayed their incredible skills and despite Covid regulations, more than fifty family groups visited. A big thank you too. to the team of super volunteers who helped to mount the exhibition . . . I am sure there will be another exhibition some time in the future.....but not in the next few months !!!!!

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Regards, Tina Wragg. Email:tinawragg7@gmail.com, Tel:+441768353642.

Parish Council News:

Murton Cemetery

Following on from Barbara Govan's write up in the last issue about the construction of the Memorial wall, the wall is progressing as you can see.



Just waiting now for the coping stones to be delivered and construction of the seat.

My thanks to our resident expert stonemason Nigel Fields who has done an excellent job of building the wall with the help of his 'apprentices' who he taught how to dress the stone for the inner and exterior curves, many thanks to Jack Caldwell and Richard Govan (who also provided the tea).

Whist on the subject of the Cemetery, some of you will have noticed the damage caused by storm Arwen which brought down a large bough of one of the pine trees, my thanks to Mike Schug, Richard Govan and Jack Caldwell for helping me to cut it up and clear it away. Three areas of the wall have fallen caused by the swaying of the trees that are very close to the wall, we are waiting for estimates to rebuild those areas.

Murton bonfire

It was good to see the new location of the Murton bonfire working so well, it was a fine night that had a record numbers attending. Well done to James Harker for organising the

bonfire and fireworks and to Alastair and Marion Munro for providing a scrumptious BBQ of Sausages and Burgers. The event raised quite a lot of money for charity. A real community event.

Village Walkabout

Several Parish Councillors did the village walks on the 24th October noting any remedial works needing attention, as a result there will be a number of work parties in the new year to tidy things up.

One area by the beckside in Murton. Some tidying up is needed to remove overhanging branches that are trapping debris along the course of the beck. Volunteers to be sought to do some work here, also trimming back undergrowth impeding the footpath.

In the cemetery a work party needs to be arranged to cut back the laurel bushes and trim the base of the lime trees.

I will post these dates on the notice boards in the hope that a few volunteers will come forward to help.

Parish Councillor Vacancy

Those of you who check the village noticeboards will have noticed that there is a vacancy for a Parish Councillor, if you are interested please contact our Clerk June Watson, her email address is clerk@murton.org.uk

Next Meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting will be on the 7th February at the village institute at 7.30pm. You are welcome to attend current covid regulations permitting.

John McDarren: Chair Muton Parish Council

Keith Jagger's photos:

I attach these two photo's taken just before the storm by my trail camera.

They show a female and male Goosander.

They were taken on Hilton Beck in Coupland Beck.

I haven't seen them since.



Appleby Rotary Club: from Alastair Bell email: atbell@btinternet.com

Appleby Rotary club is supporting Physionet, a UKI based humanitarian organisation dedicated to helping some of the most marginalised people in the world by:

- Supplying children & adults with disability equipment considered surplus or redundant in UK. Physionet supplied almost 8,000 items of physiotherapy pediatric equipment.
- Wheelchairs, mobility items and some hospital hardware otherwise destined for landfill.
- If you have any surplus/redundant equipment please contact us and we will arrange collection.

Phone: 07970597536 or 017683 51537

The Parish Mastermind Quiz

A. Where are you? You shouldn't have travelled far! Some are anagrams - those in italics.

- a) They're *not rum* here
- b) *Brays Gate*
- c) *The corn packer*
- d) You do this at a bus stop
- e) Yearn for the auction not to take off - two words
- f) Mad near the attic
- g) They sort out chocolates here
- h) *Miser do*
- j) In protocol by tradition
- j) King Charles hid in this

B. Trees, shrubs and flowers.

- a) Tearful small bill
- b) Remembered in Flanders
- c) Interferer
- d) Could be faster
- e) Sweetens babies bottle
- f) She has no one to dance with
- g) Angry Welsh symbol
- h) Keeps Reynard's paws warm
- i) Outdated form of punishment
- j) Perfumed field (two words 6-5)

C. A Miscellany.

i) Animals:

- a) Bridge that is left
- b) Sink stopper left out
- c) Now Beijing at 112½ degrees
- d) A ---- of geese

ii) General:

- e) Who ran the first four-minute mile?
- f) Who exercised his little grey cells on a trip up the Nile?
- g) What is the square root of 9 + the square root of 16?
- h) In anatomy what is the organ that has no known purpose?
- i) Which is the rugby team in stripes?
- j) The Beatles' picking grounds?

Any answers to

Tinawraqq7@gmail.com

There will doubtless be a suitable prize –
(probably a reject from the last raffle at
the Institute !)

Good luck – and no asking Siri !

Whatever happened to?

Over the past 20 years The Villager has undergone several changes of format under the stewardship of three different editors. In its first incarnation, under Alan Ormrod it often featured articles on local history and personalities. Having recently re-read a number of these early editions I was struck by a contribution from Carolyn Sykes (formerly of Townhead Cottage, Hilton) on George Hilton, the last member of the Hilton family to be "Lords of the Manor" of Hilton & Murton. As roughly 40% of the properties in the Parish have changed hands since that article was written there will be many readers who never saw the article. Rather than simply reproduce the original, I thought today's readers might like to hear "poor" George's story in the words of his diaries of 1700 – 1705.

To put things in context: The Hilton family which had owned Hilton for over 200 years, bought the Manorial rights to Murton from the Musgrave family in 1614 – effectively turning the two villages into a single unit. Thomas Hilton then decamped to Murton Hall, leaving Hilton Manor at Lane End to fall into ruin. Over the next 80 years the Hilton family made the mistakes of dying too young, having too many children to inherit a dwindling inheritance, being on the wrong side in the Civil war and being Catholic after the Glorious revolution of 1689. George never stood a chance!

George Hilton (1673 – 1725) was a Westmorland Catholic and a Jacobite. As Heir to the mortgaged manors of Hilton & Murton he and his widowed mother hung onto two properties, The Parsonage House and Hilton House, rebuilt after his father's death in 1691.

George was dealt a poor hand. He could not take a University Degree, pursue a profession or hold County Office because of his Catholicism so he was strapped for cash from the outset. In 1696, turning 21, he sold a large slice of his inheritance, including the heavily mortgaged Manor of Hilton. In riposte, his outraged sister Mary, launched a suit against him for her portion in the Court of Chancery in 1700. George was embroiled with the lawyers until February 1701, when, with the judgement going against him, he was arrested at Mary's behest & taken into custody. Even more disastrously, he had married and lost a wife, all before the age of 26. The identity of the bride and details of the breach are unclear though George complained of "unkindness" from his wife and mentions an attempt at reconciliation by letter. In his cups, George had a ferocious temper. At Appleby in August 1701, "being much in drinke", he struck a man so forcefully with his stick that the unfortunate man lost an eye, costing George £50 in damages. Spirits were as firewater with him. Unsurprisingly, his wife never re-married and he lived, to all intents and purposes, a bachelor for the rest of his disaffected life. When his diary opens in 1700 George was already, at age 26, galloping down the highroad to ignominious ruin.

In an attempt to re-establish his standing and perhaps to entice back his errant spouse, he leased the medieval manor house of Beetham Hall in 1700 which he made his base for 12 years, whereupon he bought Park End, a late Stuart House typical of the local yeomanry. George was also forced to take London lodgings to fight his chancery suit, renting rooms in Grays Inn. On his death, George's inventory values his total personal property at £88. His possessions were modest, containing no evidence of tea parties or genteel dinners, no

clocks or scientific instruments. Most of his personal wealth lay in his cattle, 2 horses, saddlery, gun, sword & pistols.

Hilton was a slave to strong liquor. He easily “fell a drinking”, invariably drinking himself to oblivion. Hilton asterisked his “fuddle” days in his journal. He was easy prey to others and to loss and accidents. However disreputable, George was no social outlaw & on easy terms with the northern squirearchy.

When arrested at the suit of his sister George caroused all night with the lawyers and was immediately bailed. After a day in court he dined at the castle with the judges “all night dancing”. In London he went on drinking binges with the Vice Chancellor of the prerogative Court of Lancaster. Cronies, elite and plebian were never lacking, although there is no evidence that he was a domestic guest of the northern gentry, but then it would be one thing to shoot with such a rogue but quite another to bring the rogue home to feast on one’s daughters! Apart from his mother, Hilton had scanty interaction with ladies of his own rank whilst women of lower rank were quite another matter. In October 1704 he boasted “Friday, Saturday & Sunday last past I laid with my housekeeper all nights & did my utmost efforts to her”.

Hilton’s diaries detail frequent and persistent drinking, sex with numerous women and frequent doses of clapp. He is clearly conscious of his failings, reviewing each year and setting out plans for a reformed character. However, nothing ever came of these plans.

In 1714 matters came to a head as constables were ordered to seize all Papists. On 28th August 1714 the Constables for Milnthorpe & Beetham were issued a warrant to search for arms, weapons or gunpowder in the custody of George Hilton of Beetham. A final warrant requires the Chief Constable of Kendal ward to search for George & convey him to the Common Goal of the County.

Editors note: Thanks to John Wragg for a more detailed version of this brief history of the last Lord of the Manor of Hilton which I have been forced to precis.

Appelby Arts Society:

The Appleby Arts Society meet monthly, usually in the Market Hall or, by Zoom if Covid regulations so require. A wide range of topics are covered & this year’s topics include Klimpt and Colour in Garden Design.

Take a look at the picture on the next page. Can you believe your eyes? Was there really a baby walker in the 1400s?

If you are interested in joining the Arts Society (a national organisation) please contact: Jackie Watkinson: 017683 52050 jlwatkinson@hotmail.com



SOLATION
AITH



THE HOLY FAMILY AT WORK
MASTER OF CATHERINE OF CLEEVES 1440
Pierpont Morgan Library, New York



*Winter Sunset Hilton December 2021 (above)
View Eden Valley from Helton Fell. Cloud inversion over the valley.*

