

THE VILLAGER

Parish Council News: John McDarren (Chair).

New Councillor

I would like to welcome Jim Hardman on board, Jim was co-opted onto the council at the last meeting, to replace Debbie Hewitt.

Highways.

On the 15th February, I had a meeting with Sean Mitchell the New Highways Network Engineer, Sean has taken over from John Banks who always very helpful, John has been promoted. Sean has been with Cumbria Highways for 30 years so knows his way around. We had a drive around Hilton, Murton, Brackenber, Coupland Beck and down to Flakebridge. noting potholes, puddles leaving the car on occasions to check on drainage. We also noted overhanging shrubbery, crumbling road edges and some road markings in need of redoing. Sean has promised that their Jet pothole filling machine will come up within the next few days!!!!

Don't forget anybody can register road issues on the Highways website.

The Cemetery.

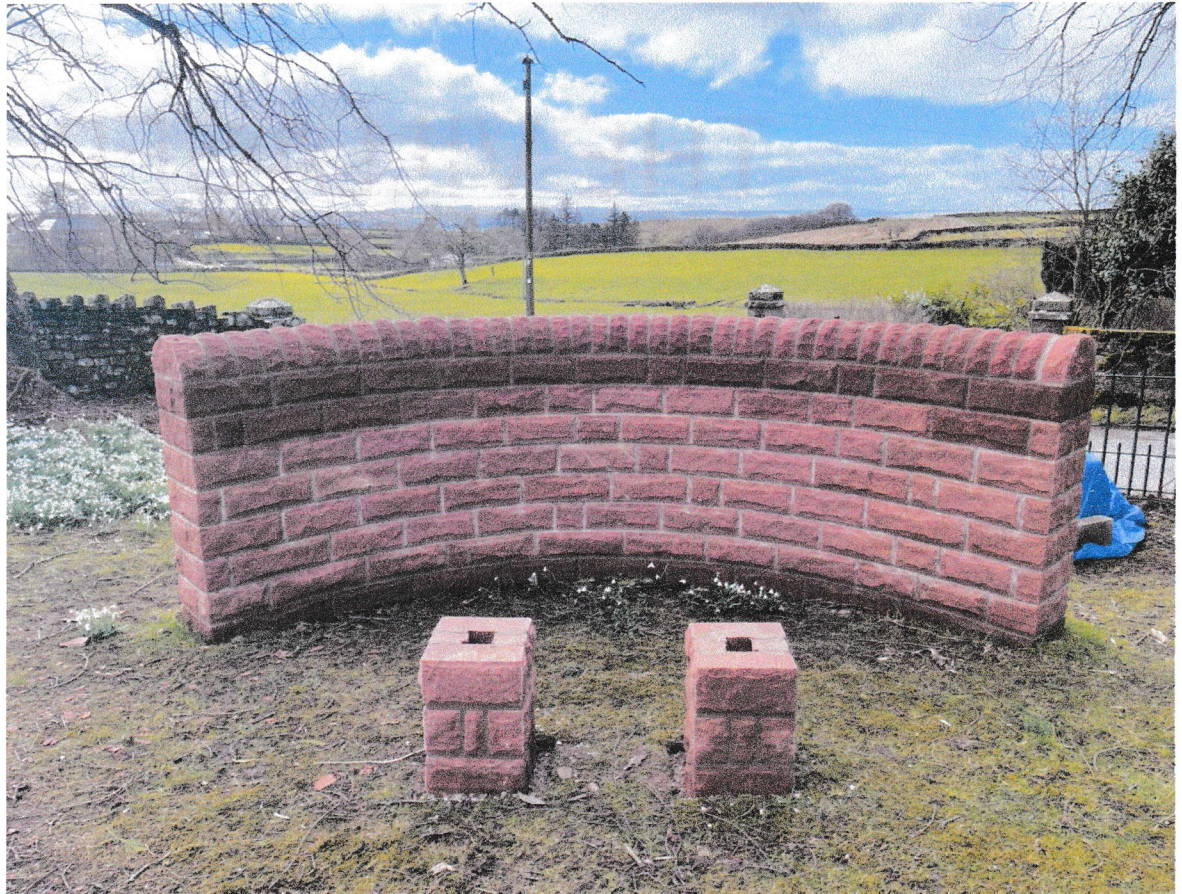
On Sunday 9th January we had a Cemetery clean up. – 17 volunteers (a record) turned out to clear/ clean up the cemetery, cutting back at the base of trees to try to protect the wall, cutting back laurel that had got out of hand and clearing fallen branches, creating two huge piles of debris which were subsequently removed by Mike Schug with the help of some councillors. Thanks to all who helped.

The Memorial Wall has been completed with outstanding work by Hilton's Nigel Fields' a real craftsman, together with a few apprentices.

The bench supports are in just waiting for the oak bench top to be made.

If anybody would like to have a plaque on the wall to commemorate a deceased relative then please contact our Parish Clerk – June Watson, clerk@murton.org.uk.

The Cemetery wall was damaged in the recent storms and we are awaiting tenders to get the breaches repaired.



Volunteering

Following the success of the cemetery clean up we will be asking for volunteers for some other projects.

The beck at Murton – clearing low hanging branches and any debris
Mill lane at Hilton usual annual clean up.

Our Annual litter pick is first on the list on March 21st at 10.30am. I have litter pickers bag rings and bags.

Murton Play Area

James Harker has proposed a children's play area on Murton village green, the Parish Council support this community venture and James is busy getting advise, quotes and information on any grants before planning fund raising events.

Thank You

A thank you to Alan Ormrod who has kindly sponsored a bookcase in the Murton bus shelter. This is in the process of being built, and will help keep the exchange books in good condition.

Next Meeting – annual Parish Council Meeting followed by Ordinary Meeting Monday 9th May 2022 starting at 7.00pm

Appleby Rotary Club: Alastair Bell: Email: atbell@btinternet.com

Apologies to Alastair whose phone number was incorrect in the last issue. Sorry to anyone inconvenienced by the error. I repeat the message below:.

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 and 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 51547

The Potting Shed: with thanks to Tina Wragg.

I have just spent several hours in the garden today scrutinising the flower beds to see how much greenery is showing on the herbaceous perennials and some of the early flowering shrubs. This is always an exciting time of the year, although I keep my fingers crossed that late frosts do not damage the emerging leaves on the shrubs and roses. When the late frosts came last April they almost killed off all the Hydrangeas in the village . . . fortunately they did survive, but didn't flower at all.

One of the most useful things to do in the garden at this time of year is spring pruning . . . from mid march to late April we need to prune those shrubs such as dogwoods that we grow for their beautiful stem colours, and winter flowering shrubs such as jasmine and Virburnum Bodnantense. Winter flowering shrubs flower on the previous spring's growth. One can prune them by removing about a fifth to a quarter of the flowering stems This is also a good time to prune late summer flowering shrubs that flower on growth that is produced this year, such as Buddleia, Fuschia, and some hydrangea. I like to leave this kind of pruning until at least mid April as we know that shrubs suffer after frosts. With a Lace Cap or Mophead Hydrangea, gentle pruning is all you need to do; just cut back the old flowerheads to the next pair of swollen buds, which will grow into this year's blooms. Lavender also appreciates a hair cut at this time of year, but don't prune too hard, just cut back above the start of last year's growth. I have quite a few grasses and evergreen rushes in the garden and I wait until I see new growth before cutting back, although I leave Pennisetum and Miscanthus a few more weeks.

As we move through to late April and early May we can think about tidying up and pruning the larger leafed evergreens like Holly, Laurel and Box balls. Even Camellias

benefit from a tidy up after flowering. However it is not advisable to get carried away with the shears and secateurs and prune away carte blanche, as some shrubs only flower on the previous year's growth., shrubs like Rhododendrons, Spiraea, Ceanothus , Lilac, Pieris, Deutzia , and Mock Orange. There is another pruning technique called the chelsea chop. I am not a big fan of this as we live at the foot of the Pennines at nearly 800 ft , , , our growing season is comparably short. If you cut back hard into the herbaceous perennials and Buddleia in mid May you can wait rather a long time before they decide to flower . . .

I usually wander around the borders with a pair of secateurs in my pocket so I can do some gentle tidy up , snipping off a bit of die back or something that has grown to vigorously, but I take care not to be too heavy handed. I really hope that all our border shrubs and bulbs flourish this spring. Happy gardening !

FELLSIDERS : Tina Wragg

. . . .our first evening of 2022 on Wednesday March 2nd was extremely well attended when our guest speakers Ali and Steve spoke of their experiences on Small ships and Tall ships . . .a lifetime on the waves. Many thanks to the pair who enlightened us on the different styles of sails and rigging and sailing methods needed for a variety of craft . . .

Our next meeting is on **Wed April 6th** when the Bryce Street Ukulele band will entertain us with their skillful strumming. It would be helpful to know numbers, please give Tina 01768353642 or Joyce 01768351368 a ring to book a seatentrance is £4 for all

Our guest speaker at the meeting on **May 4th** will be talking about the beautiful Fell ponies here in Cumbria. A herd of these ponies once raced down the side of Roman Fell and hurtled towards us and our black Labrador, mistaking my red jacket and a black dog for their mistressthey screeched to a stop inches away from us and could barely hide their disappointment that we carried no treats.

All evening meetings start at 7.30 pm at Murton Institute, usually on the first Wednesday of the month. Fellsiders is open to all ladies of the parish and membership remains at £10 p. a. Guests, both ladies and gentlemen are £2 a meeting. Do come and join us.

Anne Robson Trust:

I am writing to ask for your help to let people living in your local community know about the services we offer.

The Anne Robson Trust is a pre-bereavement charity that passionately believes that "**no one deserves to die alone**". Liz Pryor, our founder and Chief Executive

has recently been awarded the **Member of the British Empire Medal (MBE)** in the Queens 2022 New Year's Honour's list, for services to end-of-life care.

We work alongside NHS hospitals to train volunteers, who sit with patients in the last days and hours of their life to provide company and companionship, so they know they are not alone. However, due to COVID restrictions the volunteers were unable to visit hospitals, and in response to this, we set up a free, **National Helpline** so that we could continue to offer comfort and support where needed. As restrictions have lifted the volunteers are gradually starting to return to hospitals and in addition the introduction of the helpline is showing to be a valuable resource for anyone in the community to access support from the comfort of their own home.

The helpline is for anyone who is struggling to cope with a **terminal diagnosis or the imminent death of someone they care about**. Whether they are family members, friends, neighbours, work colleagues, or even a member of the care staff who may just need someone to talk to; we understand the pressures of working and caring for people who are end of life. We are fully committed to ensuring that people facing end of life and their families have access to as many layers of support as possible.

Suzanne Brown

No One Deserves To Die Alone – We are here to support you.
Call our Helpline: 0808 801 0688

Donate

Suzanne Brown

Office Administrator

t: 01438 873257

e: suzanne@annerobsontrust.org.uk

w: www.annerobsontrust.org.uk

Registered Charity: 1178352

Editorial: Next Issue:

Thanks, as ever, to those who have contributed to this issue. Please note the closing date for entries in the next issue, **SATURDAY 24th JUNE**.

Mauritius: Your next holiday destination? Richard & Anne King.

Why did we go to Mauritius? Simply because we have had a 3 or 4 week holiday in the sun since our youngest son joined his brother at Loughborough University almost 20 years ago. We have travelled extensively in India & Asia, but Covid closed the doors to us. However, Mauritius welcomed Brits and with an average daytime temperature of 30C & night temperature of 24C, this Indian Island destination seemed ideal.

Mauritius is an Indian Ocean island, approximately 1200 miles off the south eastern coast of Africa, east of Madagascar. The country has a population of 1.26 million, Of whom around half are Hindu, around a third Christian and 17% Muslim. The official language is English, although the majority speak Patois, a mixture of English & French. The first colonial occupation was by the Dutch in 1598. The French ruled from 1638 to 1810 when the British took over. In 1968 Mauritius gained it's independence. The island is 30 miles wide & 40 miles long, with mountains in the centre.

The hottest (& wettest) months are November to March, with the temperatures given above. The driest months are June to September, with daytime temperatures around 26/27C & night temperatures of 17/18C.



There are differences between the coastal resorts. The North East has the most international flavour with Greek, Turkish, Italian restaurants etc, The South coast is quieter, but possibly more beautiful (see above). The East Coast is perhaps between the two.

Mauritius has bird watching & wildlife trips to sites on the mainland & neighbouring islands. There are a lot of Tortoise sanctuaries as the Government seeks to undo the damage done by the Dutch, who took tortoises onto their ships for food and water. Unfortunately, you will not see the Dodo, Mauritius' most famous, but now extinct, resident.

Elsa McTaggart presents

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out of music!'



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Haunting Celtic Melodies, Stunning Scottish Airs, Jigs, Reels, waltzes and fompipes
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Highlights presents
At Murton Institute
Saturday April 23rd 7.30 p.m.

Tickets: Adults £10 Children £5

Online bookings preferred - www.highlightsnorth.co.uk

Enquiries : Tina Wragg 01768353642

Dog Fouling in Scordale: Editor

I have been asked by 2 dog owning residents to raise the issue of dog fouling in Scordale. The law on this issue is complex & I have had little time to research or consult, so I hope I have got things right!

Dog Fouling in public places is generally illegal. Local authorities can introduce public protection orders making it an offence not to clean up dog mess. Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) with a fine of up to £100 can be issued. A dog owner has no excuse if he/she claims they were unaware of the mess. However, Scordale is not a public place & so not covered by FPNs.

My understanding is that the land is owned by the MOD & would be classed as agricultural/moorland. In that case, The Dog (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 will not apply, and FPNs are inapplicable.

The Forestry Commission have issued guidance on the treatment of dog mess on their land. The advice is that dog owners should move the mess from the road/track/path and kick or flick the waste into the long grass.

It is my amateur opinion that Scordale would be covered by the same law as most Forestry Commission land and the minimum requirement we can place on dog owners is a polite request to bag their dog's mess & take it to the bin in the car park at the top of Hilton or, failing that, to "kick & flick" the mess into nearby long grass.

I understand that some individuals may wish to enforce collection of dog mess by owners in Scordale but I cannot see that there is legislation which supports that view.

I have no doubt that many of us, myself included, would support polite requests to dog owners to help protect children who play on the riverbank by bagging the waste & carrying it to the bin, or kicking the mess into the long grass.

If anyone wants to research the law & consult with Eden District Council I will happily publish their findings.

Over to you.....