

A newsletter for the community of Murton and Hilton

Issue 86 January 2023

Editorial

Welcome to the 86th issue of The Villager. Since I last wrote we've

experienced a cold and frosty Cumbrian winter...though I have a feeling these parts have seen much wilder, colder and frostier winters in the past. Although the weather can sometimes be a nuisance when you're trying to get the car started or heat your house it also makes our little part of the world so breathtakingly beautiful.



Full colour
version available
online at
www.murton.org.uk

This issue is a little shorter and a little less colourful than the last, due to the rising cost of printing and paper, (full colour online!) but it's still filled with all the wonderful articles from local (and not so local) people who so generously give their time to keep us entertained. With a quiz, children's competition, recipes, gardening tips and local history to keep you busy...it'll be spring before you know it!

Lane Clean Up

Back in October the lane in Hilton was transformed by a happy bunch of volunteers. Here are a few pictures from the morning. Shortly after these photos were taken our first customers tested the lane and left some steaming hot reviews! (See back page!)



...Hilton

An article by **John Wragg** encourages us to take a look at places that you may normally walk by without a second thought.



An Ale House, a Bakery and an old Post Office...

they are in fact the same place - Scawdale House.

The house is marked on a map of the 1750s, and a building of some description would have been on the site for at least a century before that. It served as an Ale House in the early 1800s, at a time when the village had three pubs; as a bakery (the present garage has a chimney and would have been the bake-house, separate from the main house); it later served as the village Post Office in the 1950s and is now a private house.

A Laundry

The large water trough at the foot of Hilton Street was not originally a drinking trough for horses but a communal laundry for the village. The clean water was provided by the London Lead Mining Company via a lead pipe from a small underground reservoir above the village.

The trough has two basins, one for soapy water and one for clean, though now they both act as plant pots. The grassy area of village green above it would have provided a drying area for the clothes. It was superseded in the late 19th century by a proper laundry, again courtesy of the company, in a farm building near the bridge which was fed water via a hydraulic ram placed in the beck near the old mill.



Scawdale House when it would have been a Post Office. Notice how the windows have changed and the house rendered.

St John's Church



It was great to have a congregation of over 20 for the Carol Service led by Rev David Wood. If that number could be repeated for most services then the future for our village church would be much more secure.

Services for the next three months (all at 3.00pm) are:
January 22 - Holy Communion - Rev Roger Collinson
February 26 - Evening Service - Rev Sandra Pearl
March 19 - Evening Service - Dr Andrew Brittlebank

We hope to have a service on Easter Sunday - **April 9** but much depends on the availability of clergy.
Happy New Year to everyone - **Dave Sampson**

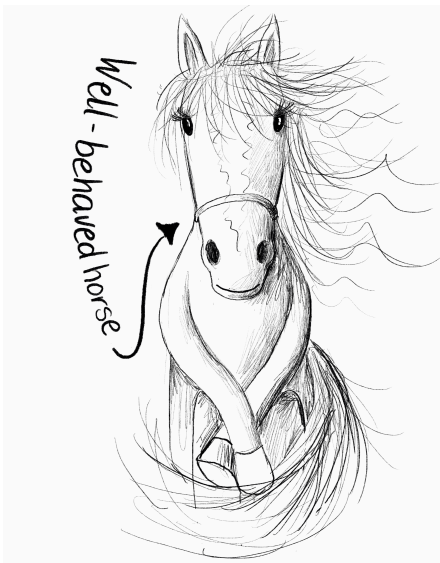


Upper Eden Food Bank

'A church led, community fed project'

The *Upper Eden Food Bank* has been running since 2013. It has representatives from both Methodist and Anglican churches on the Management Committee. The food bank supplies food parcels to individuals and families within the Kirkby Stephen, Appleby, Tebay and Shap areas, who find themselves in need of a little help. Donations are accepted at the Institute. Please put them on the table or in the green box (when it reappears!) in reception. Thanks.

Thanks also to all those that helped to raise £40 for the food bank by taking part in the Christmas hamper draw at the Village Institute.



Well-behaved horses in need!

A local lady is looking for some summer grazing land for horses in the local area.

Well-behaved horses and all maintenance taken care of... anything considered.

Please call

[07925783528](tel:07925783528)

Skolern2000@yahoo.com

Time to get walking!

Some information from **John Harrison** about a walking website.

With Spring on its way, we start to think about getting out to walk in the beautiful English countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks?

Walking in Cumbria <https://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/cumbria> has loads of walks to download and print, free. It also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Cumbria (part of the Walking in England website) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

John Harrison (Website maintainer)



Our regular article by **Tina Wragg**

January - Plan your veg patch

- If you've already done your winter digging (that's digging or forking over bare patches of ground, mixing in compost and organic matter as you go) you can cover the soil with black polythene or old carpet to warm it up ready for sowing early vegetables and salads in spring. If you haven't done any winter digging, do it this month or next.
- Plan out your vegetable patch on paper before working out what seed to buy so you don't over or under-buy too much of the same plant. Think about the four main crop groups - root veg, brassicas, legumes (that's peas and beans) and leafy salads. Plan to plant vegetables from each of the groups in their own patch and then rotate them each year. This is the best way to avoid lots of root pests and disease build-up.

General garden jobs

- Protect plants and containers from frost. Use horticultural fleece on tender plants in borders and wrap newspaper or bubble wrap around tubs, or move them into a porch, greenhouse or conservatory
- Keep paths clear of leaves and debris with a garden leaf blower or broom to prevent them from becoming slippery when wet and becoming a winter home for slugs and snails
- Clear out fallen leaves from greenhouse gutters
- If you've not done so already, insulate outdoor taps with a tap cover
- Clean, oil and sharpen the metal blades of garden tools; maintain mowers and other machinery, following the instructions in the user's manual
- Grit paths when icy weather is forecast or sprinkle de-icing rock salt

Flowers

- Plant early flowers like snowdrops to help attract early bees and pollinating insects – bulbs will already have been planted out, but you can buy potted snowdrops in store now that are ready to flower.
- Deadhead winter bedding plants like pansies and violas to encourage more flowers.
- Prune roses while they are dormant. Use sharp secateurs to cut back to just above an outward-facing bud. Remove any dead or diseased branches and any which are crossing or rubbing. If it's not too wet or frozen, bare-rooted roses can be planted in borders.

Pots and container plants

- Add winter colour to pots and containers with winter bedding including cyclamen, primroses and pansies. Space the plants more closely together than you would with spring or summer bedding as they won't grow as much in winter
- Wrap unglazed terracotta pots with horticultural fleece or bubble wrap to protect them from frost damage and cracking



Welcome to the brand new article, exclusively in the Villager, from me...**Lady Lemon Zest Peters**. Each issue I'll be sharing some of the delicious recipes from members of our talented community... I may even make and test them.

This issue I've been sent a deliciously simple recipe from **Nina Taylor** which didn't last long in my house....I found it worked well with breakfast, lunch and tea!

If you have any favourite recipes that you'd like to share please send them to me via ursula@artdaze.co.uk.

EASY BANANA CAKE

The easiest banana cake to make, ideal for using up those very ripe bananas. I sometimes add extra bananas to make it more of a pudding. This is a favourite in our house.

125G Butter
150G Sugar (I like to use brown sugar but caster would be fine)
1 Teaspoon Vanilla extract
1 egg (beaten)
2 very ripe bananas (mashed)
190g Self Raising Flour
60ml Milk

METHOD

1. Grease and line a loaf tin. (It can be done in a cake tin too).
2. Melt the butter, sugar and vanilla in a pan over gentle heat.
3. Remove the pan from the heat and add the mashed banana and mix together well.
4. Add the egg and mix well.
5. Stir in the flour and the milk.
6. Pour into the prepared tin and sprinkle with some brown sugar to give a crunchy topping if you like.
7. Bake at 170 C/ Fan 150 C / Gas 3 for 35 minutes or until a skewer comes out clean.
8. Leave to cool and enjoy.

I have done this recipe in the air fryer too which worked really well.

Enjoy!

Nina



Murton Parish Council Report 3rd January 2023

Happy new year to all our residents

The last Parish Council Meeting was held on the 7th of November last year. Matters arising were:-

New Councillor Appointment.

Following Jack Caldwell's departure to Australia, we looked for a suitable replacement.

We were delighted when George Slack who farms in and around Brackenber came forward.

George was co-opted onto the Parish Council at the November meeting. We were especially pleased as his appointment fills an important gap with other councillors living in Murton Hilton and Langton, as George lives in Brackenber we hope that the residents there will feel better represented.

I am sure you will join me in welcoming George on to the Parish Council.

George's contact details can be found on the Murton Parish Council website www.murton.org.uk

Appleby Horse Fair Update

Parish Meeting to discuss Appleby Horse Fair – 22 August 2022 – Following this meeting the Chairman had written to Eden District Council, Cumbria County Council, Appleby Town Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner.

In my last report, only one response had been received, June our Clerk chased the other parties and the responses were as follows:

- EDC – is a member of the Multi-Agency Strategic Coordination Group (MASCg) and passed the letter on to other members. Queries about licences were dealt with.
- CCC – referred the PC to MASCg.
- Appleby Town Council – responded to questions and agreed to a meeting with the Chairman which has yet to be arranged.
- PCC – responded to questions on policing matters only.

Copies of the responses are available on request from the Clerk.

Village work party Sunday 30th October

In the last issue of the Villager, I requested help in tidying up Mill Lane. I am delighted to report that a healthy number of volunteers turned out and cut back vegetation, strimmed the verges and swept the pathways. Mill Lane is now a much more pleasant cut-through. Many thanks to all who turned out.

The next work party will be our annual litter pick in early March, followed by our tidy-up in the Cemetery. Dates are to be confirmed closer to the time.

Murton Village Bonfire

I am sure that those of you that came to Bonfire night in Murton were impressed by the fireworks and bonfire organised by James Harker and the excellent burgers and hot dogs provided by Alistair, Marion and family. A really good event organised by the community that raised £605.00 for the North West Air Ambulance and the Beep doctors.

A big thank you to those involved.

Email Addresses

Following the last Parish Council meeting the PC has decided to create an e-mail list to extend the means of communicating PC business. The parish noticeboards are well-used and the numbers visiting the PC website have grown over recent years.

If you wish to receive announcements and updates about parish council business via e-mail please send an e-mail to this address: mailinglist@murton.org.uk Please include your full name in the e-mail. You will

then receive an acknowledgement and confirmation that the personal information you have submitted will be held in compliance with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

This e-mail list will not replace but will complement the excellent work done by Jules on the existing Institute mailing list.

If you are not on Jules's list then now is the time to add your email to ensure that you get details of all the events at the institute and other Village items of interest.

Cemetery Grass cutting

Our current contractor has retired and we are looking for tenders for grass cutting of the Cemetery. If you are interested or know of a person or contractor who may be available please let me know.

john.mcdarren@gmail.com

The next Parish Council Meeting will be on 6th February all are welcome to come along with items of interest or just to see what we discuss..

MURTON PARISH COUNCIL CALENDAR

Monday 6 February 7.30 pm - Parish Council meeting at the Institute

Monday 6 March 7.30 pm - Annual Parish Meeting – Chairman's report, topic to be decided!

April/May – nominations for those wishing to become Parish Councillors to be submitted to Furness & Westmorland Council. All current Councillors will stand down but can be nominated again if they wish. An election will be held on **Thursday 4 May** if there are more than seven nominations for the Parish Council.

Monday 8 May – this was the planned date for the Annual Parish Council meeting and Ordinary Meeting. As this date has been claimed by Prince Charles as the Coronation bank holiday the meeting will probably be rescheduled.

Further details about the above meetings and the election will be posted on www.murton.org.uk when available.

Thanks From Australia

An update on the 'Bench in Murton' article from **June Watson**

I sent Kevin Lothian in Australia the link to The Villager on the Murton webpage so that he could read the article in the last issue about the refurbished bench in Murton. Here is his response.

'Just had a look at The Villager and the article is wonderful thanks and very kind words. It is a great photo that you have added and please say hello to everyone when you all catch up next. I'm going to forward the download to my relatives in England who I know will love it and pleased to hear that others are looking at this type of bench - though, as you say, it will take a bit of beating!!!!'

Thanks so much again.

Kind regards

Kev'

Cryptic Eden

Here's a fantastic quiz to get the brains back in gear from **Dave Sampson**

Answers are villages or other features in the local area.

Small prize for the winner - in the event of a tie the winner will be drawn.

Please return all entries to Dave Sampson, Townhead Farmhouse, Hilton Tel 52133

Email dsamp90234@aol.com by March 1st 2023.

Answers in next issue of The Villager

1. Scottish church next to what sounds like ice melting (6,5)_____
2. Sounds like part of one of Tolstoy's novels with a policeman attached(6)_____
3. Building which catches fire (7)_____
4. Opposite of an Ancient Greek who stood up?? (5,4)_____
5. Squirrels money box? (5,4)_____
6. Not low; saucer's partner has a small cut!! (4,3,4)_____
7. This incline seem very heavy! (6)_____
8. Has this old building had a clean sweep? (8,6)_____
9. Sounds as though one of the Three Kings gifts was heavy! (6)_____
10. Angry insect who lived in the attic (6.7)_____
11. Traverse and chop down (5,4)_____
12. Biblical quote: "----- and it shall be open" (5)_____
13. Almost a fresh start ? (9)_____
14. Keeps the door secure (6)_____
15. Sounds like an amazing horse attached to an insect (5,4)_____

Update from Australia

*In September last year, we said goodbye to Jack and Alison Caldwell from Swindale House in Hilton who moved to their family in Australia. Here's an update from **Jack** on their progress.*

We're now in NSW in a village called Dungog on the edge of the Barrington Tops National Park on a farm called Cluney in a local area called Sugarloaf. And this is our adventure so far...

We arrived safely on the 29th of September, tired but cheerful. Our youngest son and his wife were good enough to put us up in Newcastle, NSW while we found our feet and started the processes that would make life easier in the coming months. That, we thought, would be the simple things like getting the dogs sorted out, opening bank accounts, securing Australian driving licences, finding our accommodation etc. However, nothing in Australia seems to be simple so far!



Carlos and Coco arrived in Melbourne as expected and after an uneventful 10-day quarantine we picked them up from their last flight up to Newcastle airport. Carlos had been pre-booked into a local vet for a small surgical procedure following the advice from Old Hall Vets in Appleby. He had been diagnosed with a growth that caused us some worry. Luckily, he was fine and the biopsy confirmed it was a benign growth and he should live happily ever after. So far that's been the case.

We managed to fight our way through the bureaucracy to open our first Australian bank account, we got our driving licences, bought a car and after realising we couldn't (didn't want to) afford to rent anything in Newcastle itself, we found ourselves a very nice farmhouse in the outskirts of Dungog, a village not too different from Appleby. Well maybe a wee bit different, but approximately the same size in numbers of people. We are still there and enjoying the village life and the local people.

We joined our local Rotary club not long after arriving, bringing its numbers up to a grand total of eleven. Like Appleby, the village has a swimming pool (though open air), a local cinema in its own building, a number of local hotels, its own butchers, yes two of them, bakers, newsagents, Co-op equivalent called IGA, PO, bowling club, railway station and river. It also has a large show-ground and a number of adventure playgrounds, bicycle tracks and the like for youngsters as well as open air cooking and eating facilities open for use by anyone who wishes to use them. It isn't quite a holiday destination but is most definitely a day-visit village and a stop-off place for campers and adventurers of all sorts.

As you might appreciate, the wildlife on and around the farm is all new to us (except for the occasional house sparrow and rabbit). We have a python in the garage rafters, praying mantis, huntsmen spiders, beetles the size of tea cups, biting ants and mosquitos. We are also getting used to the evening chorus of cicadas, frogs and lizards that's so loud we have to retreat to the centre of the house for peace. Birds are all exotic to us, but deer and kangaroos are what we expected along with 4 ft long iguanas, though we have to drive 10 kilometres up the road to see these big lizards. We are loving all of it and it was the reason for buying a second car, a four-wheel drive Jeep, to cope with the gravel roads and river crossings that you encounter as you drive into Barrington Tops proper.

We are enjoying the village lifestyle in Dungog so much that we looked for and found a house to buy. All being equal we complete the purchase on 30th Jan, but will not move in until we have made a few improvements and upgrades. We have the farm until April so provisional plans are to move in around then though sooner if we are ready.

My main reason for writing is to keep in contact with the village and our friends who we hold very dear, and to let anyone who is interested know we are happy and enjoying all that Australia offers us, not the least of that is our sons their wives and our grandsons. Our love and best wishes for the new year go out to all of you. We do miss all of you.

What's On...

January

27th **Film Night** - doors open at 7 pm for a 7.30 start. Suggested donation of £5. Showing CODA

February

1st **Fellsiders** 7.30 pm. When our guest speaker Paul McDowell. Will share his adventure of trekking to Everest Base Camp. This is a fundraiser for MND so £2 admission for Fellsiders, £3 for guests and there will be a raffle. Do hope you will be able to join us. Open to all. Any queries - Tina Tel 017683 53642

11th **Coffee and Craic**, 10.30 – 12.30; tea and coffee, refreshments, stalls. **Including a cake stall** to raise funds for the **Motor Neurone Disease Association**.

14th **Soup and Pud** 12.00 till 1.30. Choice of two soups, bread roll and choice of two puds, tea/ coffee. All for £3.50. The Institute is open from 10 am on Soup and Pud Tuesdays so if you would like to share a WARM space do come along.

15th **Highlights** 7.30 pm. **See below...** Booking essential - Adults £10 Online booking preferred via the Highlights website. Details from Tina 017683 53642. MA BESSIE'S Prohibition party A mixture of jazz and blues from the past 50 years. Highlights events do book up quickly so please book early to avoid disappointment!

24th **Film Night**, doors open at 7 pm for a 7.30 start. Suggested donation £5. Showing 'Knives Out II: Glass Onion'

March

14th **Soup and Pud** 12.00 till 1.30. Choice of two soups, bread roll and choice of two puds, tea/ coffee. All for £3.50. The Institute is open from 10 am on Soup and Pud Tuesdays so if you would like to share a WARM space do come along.

24th **Film Night**, doors open at 7 pm for a 7.30 start. Suggested donation £5. Film TBA.

April

22nd **Coffee and Craic**, 10.30 – 12.30; tea and coffee, refreshments, stalls.

11th **Soup and Pud** 12.00 till 1.30. Choice of two soups, bread roll and choice of two puds, tea/ coffee. All for £3.50. The Institute is open from 10 am on Soup and Pud Tuesdays so if you would like to share a WARM space do come along.



Junior Villager

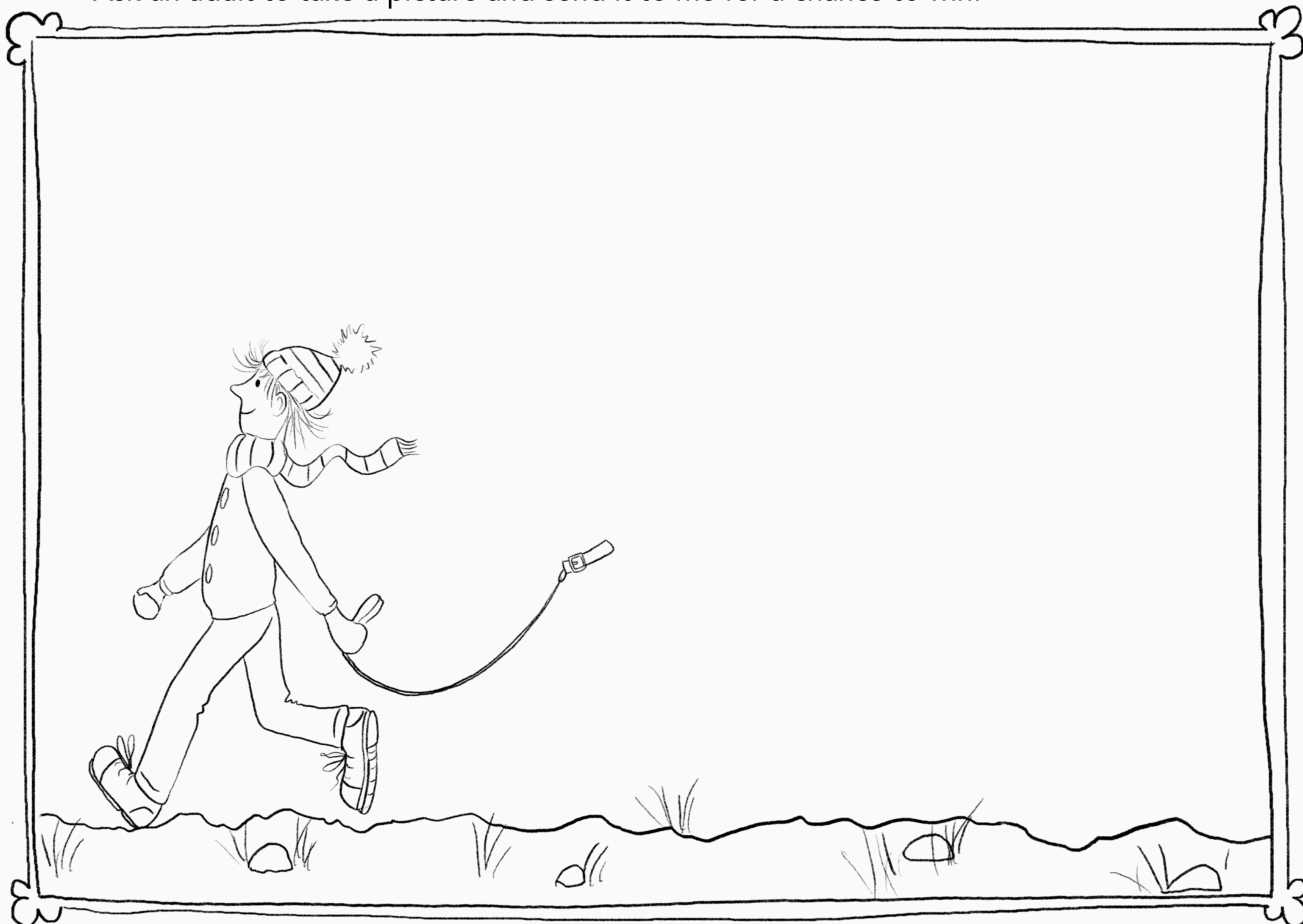
Hello to the younger members of our community. I have another exciting competition for you with a chance to win one of two sets of these fabulous washable felt pens.

One for KS1 and one for KS2 so don't forget to put your age on.

This issue needs your wild and creative imaginations.

When I was out walking I came across a walker with the most amazing pet. I've never seen anything like it! It may have been from outer space! Draw the pet and colour the picture.

Ask an adult to take a picture and send it to me for a chance to win.



Bird Cake

We need to look after the birds in the winter as food is harder to find in frozen ground and the days are shorter for feeding.

Ask an adult to help you make some bird cakes using this recipe and give them a helping hand.



1. Pour melted fat (suet or lard) onto a mixture of ingredients such as seeds, nuts, dried fruit, oatmeal, cheese and cake.
2. Use about one-third fat to two-thirds mixture.
3. Stir well in a bowl.
4. Make a hole in a yoghurt pot and tie a string through.
5. Fill the container with the mixture and put it in the fridge overnight to set.
6. Cut away the pot and tie a big knot in the string. Hang in the garden.

Autumn Competition Results

Thank you for all the fantastic entries to the competition in the last issue, it was so difficult choosing a winner....but I did! Congratulations to Georgia. You can see her beautiful work here.



And Finally...

Towards the end of the lane clearing mentioned earlier, we were greeted by an eager, woolly crowd of locals. Peter and Paul Hogg were walking their sheep through and mentioned that they like to keep an old tradition going. I was curious to know more and contacted Peter later to find out what he meant. I was so pleased to get this very informative response. Note that he refers to the lane as the 'Shop Lonnin'. Many years ago there was a shop at the top of the lane and Lonnin is the Cumbrian word for lane.

'Me and Paul have been using the Shop Lonnin to take sheep and horses down for over 50 years now and remember as kids talking to old farmers who used to be able to drive a horse and cart down after they had been leading lead from the mines in Scordale.

It's narrowed in a lot over the years as the walls have moved inwards. It's said that when it was built they made it with a curve so that you can't see from the top to the bottom, this was to stop a horse wanting to run away with you when it saw daylight at the end of the lane. If you noticed the sheep they just walked slowly down until they got to the end and could see daylight then they went faster.'

Peter Hogg



Thank you...

Thanks to all the contributors to this issue... John Wragg, Dave Sampson, Tina Wragg, Nina Taylor, John McDarren, June Watson, Jack Cardwell, Peter Hogg and Lady Lemon Zest Peters.

Thanks also to all those who kindly helped raise an amazing £95 to fund this issue by donating bottles and buying tickets for the Bottle Raffle at the Institute.

Deadline for articles and competitions in the next issue 10th April 2023