

A newsletter for the community of Murton and Hilton

Issue 87 May 2023

Editorial

Welcome to the 87th issue of the Villager. As I write it's a beautiful sunny spring morning and the dandelions are dazzling on Hilton green, much to the delight of the bees.

We're only days away from the Coronation of King Charles III and there's a feeling of excitement as the villages prepare for street parties and family gatherings. Two plaques to mark the occasion have been created by the community to be placed in Hilton and Murton bus stops and all families will receive a commemorative mug during the weekend.

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



FANCY HELPING OUT?

Have you ever considered helping out at the Institute? We have lots of regular events that take some organising, and we're always on the look out for willing helpers. It's a great chance to meet people and get involved. If you're interested, please do give Jules or Tina a shout: Jules, julesprice9@icloud.com; Tina, tinawragg7@gmail.com, 07507 727760.

Ma Bessie's Prohibition Party

Back in February this year we were lucky enough to have the fabulous 'Ma Bessie's and her Pig Foot Band' at the Institute thanks to the hard work of Tina and the Highlights team. A mixture of jazz and blues from the past 50 years the 'Prohibition Party' show celebrates the life of the great Bessie Smith. Julia Titus and the talented band had us all tapping our feet and singing along to old familiar tunes. Even when Julia's pearls decided to break free from her bracelet and join the audience it didn't stop this smiles and laughter that filled the evening.



The Gaol on the Bridge A fascinated history article from Keith Jagger

St. John the Baptist's Chantry used to sit on the end of the old Appleby Bridge on the opposite side of the road to where the Kings Head stands. Reformation suppressed the Chantry's use and the chapel building became the town's gaol, this was in place of one housed in the castle. The gaol fell into disrepair in 1714 and was condemned much later in 1761, a good example of Appleby's timely decision making! A house replaced it and this too was lost as the entrance to the new bridge (known as St. Lawrence's Bridge) was widened in 1889 replacing the old Norman bridge which was then considered unsafe.

**In 1888 demolition began and in the same year the foundation stone of the central pier of the new bridge was laid. In the demolition, so the story runs, a bottle of antique form was discovered among the foundations, and this appeared to contain a piece of parchment. It was thrown by the*



Engraving from a drawing by Thomas Allom 1847



Detail showing house on the end of the bridge which was built on the site of the town gaol. The large building behind it is "The Kings Head".

workman finding it to the foreman on the bank; he failed to catch it and it fell back into the river and was lost.

The new bridge is built of red and grey sandstone in the Georgian style. It has two segmental arches flanked by three-sided cutwaters with quarter foiled Gothic circles in the spandrels. This grade II listed building shares its name with the adjacent church. The gaol on the bridge saw many prisoners ranging from petty thieves to political activists. More serious criminals would most certainly have preferred a custodial sentence against being hanged on Gallows Hill. Amongst the political activists held here were the Quakers of the 1660s, notably Francis Howgill and James Nayler, two of George Fox's "Valiant Sixty" and founders of the Quaker Religious Society of Friends. Howgill came from Grayrigg (then called Gray Ridge), on the Appleby to Kendal road

and was responsible for bringing Fox to Firbank for his famous preaching to thousands of Westmorland Seekers in 1652. Francis Howgill was jailed in his own beloved county for refusing to swear allegiance to King Charles 11 and was incarcerated in Royalist Appleby. The Rev. Will Hayes writes in his biography of Francis Howgill:

Francis Howgill never saw Gray Ridge again with his mortal eyes. He died in Appleby Gaol – his first prison and his last – four years later; i.e. in 1668. These four years were really busy years, as we gather from Howgill's writings. The prisoner made many friends. Even his gaoler became his friend before the end. And the Mayor of Appleby and other persons of note were among his visitors. And from Appleby Francis Howgill sent letters to Quakers. These are preserved in his writings. They are chiefly letters to the persecuted and the imprisoned. One of the last of them is addressed: "From Appleby Gaol, the place of my rest, where the days and hours are pleasant unto me."

Next to the bridge stands The King's Head which looks like it has seen better days and it has. The 1890 guidebook to the town features a full-page advert for the hotel and boasts its being "The only hotel in the town with hot and cold baths" and proclaims that "The hotel omnibus awaits the arrival of all trains" and welcomes "Tourists, Visitors and Commercial Men visiting Appleby. They will find every Accommodation and Comforts of Home at the old established Family Hotel and Posting House".

Adapted by Keith Jagger from "Odd Corners of Appleby" by Gareth Hayes (2002) and "Gray Ridge- The Book of Francis Howgill" by Will Hayes (1942) **"History of Appleby" by Sir Martin Holdgate (1956).



Broadband for Murton Parish from B4RN, the 'Best Internet Provider 2022'

Superfast broadband is coming – there has been enough interest to secure the UK funding & allow B4RN planners to start planning the route.

How? - Using field edges & green spaces, a vibrating mole cutter to bury the cables and local contractors to lay them right to your home. Your individual cable offers 1000mb download/upload speed so that is the minimum B4RN offers (& no sharing!)

When? – Hopefully completed by the end of 2023. We'll know more when the land surveys are completed and the route finalised.

Where? – Starting in Coupland Beck, to Brackenber, Hilton, Murton, Harbour Flatt, Flakebridge, and Langton, ending at Well House.

What? – Those who sign up will be fitted with a small grey box on the house external wall and a master socket on the internal wall for the 1000mb router. The B4RN surveyor will talk to each householder about the siting of the cable & the box, and specialist staff can advise on individual needs at installation & set-up. B4RN offer a VOIP telephone service @£9 pm if you want a landline service.**

How much will it cost? – B4RN has formulated a business plan which has been accepted for UK Government funding through their broadband voucher scheme. It is anticipated this will allow the maximum available funding for a scheme of our size, a set amount which should cover at least 70% of the total costs. The total build cost will be matched against the money awarded. Then we'll know what the shortfall will be. The balance will be covered by investment through the B4RN Share purchase scheme. **

INVESTMENT in Broadband for the Rural North: investment is between £100 and £100,000; invest £1500 before you go live and save the £60 connection fee. Shares are held for a minimum of 3 years & offer an annual return of **5%**. If you are interested, please speak to one of the volunteers for further details or Email shareregistrar@b4rn.org.uk.

SPONSORSHIP – if you would like to offer sponsorship, please contact our volunteers for further information.

What will it cost me?:

One-off connection fee - £60.00 (charged monthly @£5.00)

Monthly subscription fee - £33.00

B4RN offers a social tariff of £15.00 pm + connection fee to those who qualify. **

For those in a broadband contract which has some time before it expires, B4RN offers a scheme called

Connect Plus. 2 options are available:

1. Connect to B4RN straightaway at a cost of £5 pm while paying your current broadband provider until the contract ends – limited to 12 months
2. Delay the connection, where the current contract has 12 months to run and then sign up to Connect Plus.

****For further information, visit the B4RN website b4rn.org.uk / tel: 01524 555887**

Volunteers: Co-ordinator : Barbara Govan Tel: 017683 51663

Team: John McDarren, John Wragg, Alex Varty, Jim Hardman, Martin Foreman & Richard Govan

Cheap Superfast broadband is coming, don't miss out, future-proof your Internet – contact B4RN and register an interest today!

B4RN is a Community Benefit Society, regulated by the FCA and must be run as a not-for-profit company for the benefit of the community.



Hello food lovers, it's me again...**Lady Lemon Zest Peters.**

Each issue I'll be sharing some of the delicious recipes from members of our talented community... This issue I've been sent the most delicious *Easter Egg Rocky Road* by **Ned**...already made for me to taste! Luckily this budding chef also sent a recipe so you can dive into chocolatey heaven too!

Easter Egg Rocky Road

Ingredients

200g dark chocolate (chopped)
200g milk chocolate (chopped)
50g butter
1 tablespoon golden syrup
100g Rich Tea biscuits (broken into small pieces)
2 Crunchie bars (chopped)
100g mini marshmallows
40 mini eggs (we used a selection of Cadburys mini eggs, Lindor, Smarties eggs, Milky Bar eggs)



Method

1. Line a 22cm square tin.
2. Melt the chocolate, butter and syrup in a heatproof bowl over a pan of simmering water.
3. Stir in the biscuits, marshmallows and Crunchie bits.
4. Tip the chocolate mix into the tin and level out as much as possible.
5. Push the mini eggs down into the surface.
6. Put in the fridge to set for at least 3 hours or overnight.
7. Cut into squares.



If you do not have any mini eggs, you can use any small chocolatey treats like Maltesers.

If you have any favourite recipes that you'd like to share please send them to me using the details on the back page.

A Question...from a curious reader...please send your answers/thoughts to Ursula.

"I wonder if any of your readers would know what the purpose was of the area at the bottom of Shop Lonin, on the left hand side?

Was it for livestock a long time ago?"

...Hilton

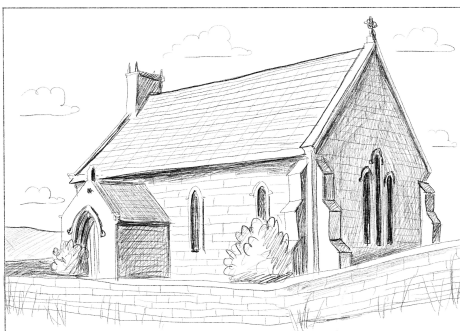
Another great history article by **John Wragg**
How well do you know Hilton?

Do you recognize these three houses in Hilton, the pictures are taken in 1911, 1971, and 2011.



Answers on the back page.

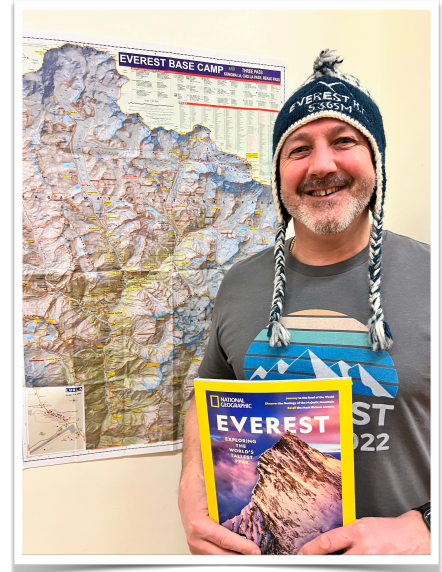
St John's Church An update from Dave Sampson



At this point in time I am unable to give any information re times of services over the next few months. You may have already heard that the Rev Andrew Burrell and the Rev Fran Parkinson have been appointed in a job-share to replace The Rev Clive Hicks. They are being licensed and will be installed as Priests in Charge at St Lawrence's Church, Appleby on Wednesday 17th May at 7.00pm. It would be good if you are able to come and support them on this very special occasion.

Paul's Everest Base Camp Trek

Back in February this year the Fellsiders hosted a fantastic guest speaker, **Paul McDowell**, who shared with us his trekking adventure to Everest Base Camp raising money for **MND**. His beautiful photographs, which have since been exhibited at the Warcop Art Exhibition, really captured the stunning landscape and were a super visual aid to those of us who find Murton Pike a bit of an adventure! If you missed it, here's an extremely condensed version from Paul...



'I set off on my Trek on the 13th November 2022, flying into Lukla, described as the most dangerous airport in the world! The trek would take 8 days there and 4 days back walking 7-8 hours a day and covering 130km in total. I summited Everest Base Camp so to speak on 21st November 2022 at 2.40pm at an elevation off 5364 metres. I was raising for Motor Neurone Disease and reached a total of £4501.23'

If you'd like to help Paul raise more money for MND please visit his **Just Giving** Page by searching 'Paul's Everest Base Camp Trek'.



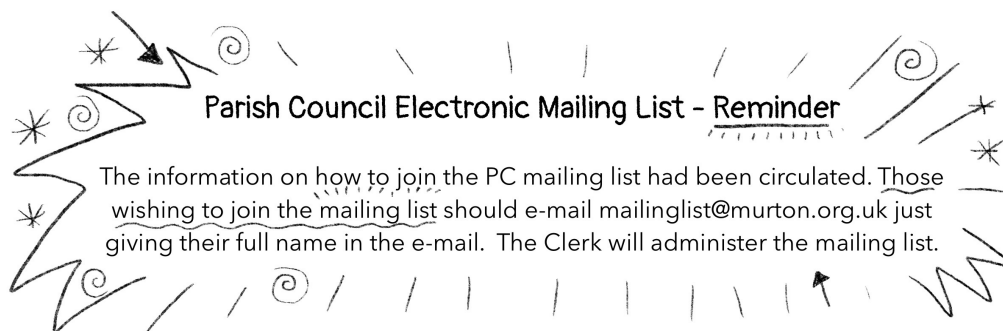
Murton Parish Council Report 5th April 2023

There have been two meetings since the last Villager, **The Parish Council Meeting** on 6th February 2023 and **The Annual Parish Meeting of Murton Parish Council** on 6th March 2023.

Matters arising from the 6th February **Parish Council meeting** were:-

Village Litter Pick

This took place on 20th March 12 volunteers braved the drizzly weather and did a sterling job of collecting 20 bags of litter. My thanks to all for helping to keep our Parish tidy.



Cemetery Mowing

The PC had advertised and circulated information asking for quotations for mowing the cemetery. We decided to accept the quotation from the Penrith-based charity *Fixit4Eden*, *Steve Roberts a Fix it Team leader lives in Hilton and manages a team of people with learning disabilities*.

Elections

All Murton parish council seats were up for election this year. This means the current Councillors stood down and had to be renominated if they wish to stand again. Six nominations for seven seats on the Parish Council were submitted. This is therefore considered to be an uncontested election. This means that the Parish Council has the option to co-opt a seventh Councillor. Details of how the process for co-option will be available after the next PC meeting. Council Elections due to take place on 4th May will now not take place.

Matters Arising from the **Annual Parish Meeting** were:-

Westmorland and Furness Council

New Local Councillors Andy Connell and Graham Simpkins came to the meeting to answer questions about the new authority. The following comments and issues were raised:

Q) Murton gets more visitors than might be thought – poor road markings are a significant issue, particularly where cyclists are involved.

A) Poor road markings Government funds not sufficient for all needs.

Q) Highways – potholes are a huge problem not helped by the Cumbrian weather. Murton roads are not a priority, busier roads are prioritised.

A) Faults on the current CCC electronic Fault Reporting System will transfer to the new authority. Residents are encouraged to use this system themselves.

Q) Council Tax – levelling up - there is a bigger increase for Eden residents than those living in Barrow as their Council Tax was already higher than Eden's.

A) The difference in levels of services were commented on despite the same Council Tax rate: buses are not subsidised and only run where they are commercially viable; gritting is prioritised where there is a higher volume of traffic

Both new councils have inherited debt. Officers will be based at Voreda House in Penrith. This has been upgraded and is fit for a modern council base in Eden. The alternative could have been services being delivered from Kendal.

To summarise, there would be a transition phase where existing systems would be reviewed, aligned and some new developed. Graham and Andy aim to be working hard for residents in the Brough and Appleby ward.

B4RN - Super fast (1000mb) Broadband

David Ryall described B4RN, a community-led, Community Benefit Society installing full fibre broadband speeds to hard-to-reach rural areas. Key points include:

- B4RN can provide full fibre broadband speeds of 1000mbps for around £33 per month, plus a £60 connection fee.
- - They are a not-for-profit company, which accesses Government funding for extending broadband in rural areas, in order to develop the service.
- They are based in Kirkby Lonsdale and develop projects with communities. They are currently working in Warcop. They would like to work with Murton.
- It takes about a year from initial meetings with a community to all those who have signed up to be connected.
 - The planning team works with landowners and residents to lay cables across fields and to individual houses.
 - Most outages are dealt with immediately and fixed within 24 hours at no cost.
- Current broadband provider contracts can be run alongside B4RN at a minimal charge until the switch to B4RN.
- A public meeting was held to help residents find out more. A show of hands in the room was unanimously in support of taking this project forward.

The B4RN website has more information: www.b4rn.org.uk

To quote one of our resident 'techies' this future proofs us.

A team of local residents has been formed to support the project and will help answer any questions that you may have.

TWENTY QUESTIONS

Here's another great quiz from **Dave Sampson**

Answers to Dave Sampson Townhead Farmhouse Hilton by last Sunday in May.

Email dsamp90234@aol.com. Winner to receive a small prize.

Answers in the next issue of The Villager

1. Who did Penelope Keith play in *To The Manor Born*? _____
2. Who wrote the novel *The Darling Buds Of May*? _____
3. Who was the first president of Kenya? _____
4. Who was the first host of *A Question Of Sport*? _____
5. Who created the detective Adam Dalgliesh? _____
6. Who earned the name "Milk Snatcher" after abolishing free milk for schoolchildren?

7. Flashman was the school bully in which novel? _____
8. Which puppet is known in Germany as *Balduin Schwupp*? _____
9. Which Womble wore a bowler hat? _____
10. Which house on the Isle of Wight was one of Queen Victoria's homes?

11. Which detective makes use of his "little grey cells"? _____
12. Who hosted *They Think It's All Over*? _____
13. What is the opposite of a cathode? _____
14. What wouldn't come back for Charlie Drake? _____
15. Who is Edson Arantes do Nascimento better known as? _____
16. Who wrote *The Old Man and the Sea*? _____
17. *The Man of Property* was the first part of which series of novels?

18. Tom Finney was known as the "what" Plumber? _____
19. In which country do 100 qindarkas make a lek? _____
20. Which singer's 1992 album was called "Diva"? _____

Winner of Cryptic Eden in the last issue was **Julie Richardson**.

The answers were:

- 1). Kirkby Thore. 2) Warcop. 3) Milburn. 4). Roman Fell. 5) Acorn Bank.
- 6) High Cup Nick. 7) Hilton. 8) Brougham Castle. 9) Murton. 10) Crosby Garrett
- 11) Cross Fell. 12) Knock. 13) Newbiggin. 14) Bolton. 15) Great Asby



Upper Eden Linking Lives.

A much needed befriending scheme addressing the problem of loneliness in our community

The problem of loneliness has increased since the pandemic with 3.7 million people in the UK (7.2%) stating that they were chronically lonely or felt lonely often or always. Over the past year the churches in Kirkby Stephen and Appleby have been working together to set up a befriending



scheme in the area to try to help address this issue. The model involves recruiting volunteer befrienders who meet regularly with people experiencing loneliness. This is usually weekly and can be face to face or on the phone. The national charity Linking Lives UK has been helping us to set up our scheme and we have also been supported by the three other schemes currently operating in North Cumbria.

During the past year we have registered ourselves as a new charity

which is being overseen by a team of experienced trustees. One of the essential requirements of a successful scheme is to recruit a coordinator who trains and supports the volunteers as well as matches scheme friends with the volunteers. Covering the salary costs has been the main focus for our fundraising efforts and we are delighted to say that we are well over halfway to meeting our target for year one. We are extremely grateful for support from Cumbria Community Foundation, The Hadrian Trust, Benefact Trust and the Methodist District.

We are hoping that we will be able to recruit a coordinator in late spring and launch our scheme in summer 2023. We would like people in our community to consider whether they might be able to help as a volunteer befriender. This will require about 1-2 hours each week and we suggest an initial commitment of 6-12 months. There will be training and ongoing support from our coordinator but the experience of volunteers from other schemes is that this work can be enormously rewarding. Please consider whether this is something that you might be able to contribute to. Our aim is to be helping 20 lonely people in Upper Eden by the end of our first year.

For more information contact Ashley Liston at ashley.liston@gmail.com and keep a look out on our webpage <https://linkinglives.uk/uppereden>

Coffee and Craic for MND an article by Sam Rowan

This was the busiest Coffee and Craic to date, with over 70 people throughout the morning. Aside from the usual tea, coffee, bacon rolls and raffle, there were additional stalls selling local cards and prints by John Sibson, precious jars of Hilton honey and wood turning from Chris Bulloch, and a vast array of home-baked cakes! This was alongside the very generous donation of 3 Spring/Valentine themed hampers with much grateful thanks to Kim and the Appleby Co-op which were raffled with other gifts and goods.

The incredible sum of £450 was raised in total for the Motor Neurone Disease Association, and I wish to personally thank everyone who attended and contributed to this amazing amount of money. As well as those people who baked delicious cakes for the event. Thank you!



Hopefully there will be another cake sale at a future Coffee and Craic!

My 7 challenges are now in the final stages! I have the Rob Burrow Leeds Marathon on 14th May, followed by the 100 mile Ride London cycling sportive on 29th May. I am quite apprehensive about both as I am sure that they will be emotional undertakings. I will be wearing kit to promote the work of the MNDA, and of course will be thinking of both my sister and anyone else battling the daily struggles faced by sufferers of MND.

Should anyone wish to donate to these challenges, or my ongoing fundraising efforts, please feel free to take a look at my Just Giving page:

[Sam Rowan is fundraising for Motor Neurone Disease Association \(justgiving.com\)](https://www.justgiving.com/Sam-Rowan)

Many thanks once again to our wonderful community for all of the support and kindness shown to me throughout this past year and always!

Sam

FELISIDERS

An update from Tina Wragg

We have some interesting events and outings over the coming months and more recently over 30 ladies enjoyed an extremely sociable meal at Appleby Golf Club.



Our meeting on 10th **May** will host a fundraising Curry Aid meal with Jesse Oddie. Places are limited and tickets are selling quickly at £15 each. Bring and share dessert. Please book and pay for tickets by May 1st. Jesse is also asking for donations of vegetables e.g. potatoes, onions, carrots, cauliflower, spinach, tomatoes, and basmati rice. If you can donate please let Tina know and drop off by 9th May

Our **June** meeting on June 7th welcomes back the engaging Daisy Rocke who will create an arrangement using summer bedding. 7.30 pm at Murton Institute. There will be a small entrance fee for FELISIDERS and visitors

We have a garden visit in **July** to Winton Park near Kirby Stephen. £14. This is £6 entrance and £8 for hot drinks and cakes.

Saturday afternoon, July 1st, exact time TBC. Car share. Please contact Tina to reserve a place

FELISIDERS is open to any lady who lives in our parish. Membership, which is now due, remains at £10. Gentlemen and friends are welcome at the meetings for a token fee of £3. We are always pleased to receive ideas for guest speakers or outings. Just contact Dorothy in Murton or Tina and Joy in Hilton

Hope to see you soon

Contacts; Tina 01768 35364 Joy 01768 35213 Dorothy 01768 352798

What's On...

This issue I've gone a little further afield to bring you local events. Maybe we could attend some to get ideas for the Institute as we're always looking for new events to raise funds. All feedback welcome.

May

- 10th **Music in Art** lecture 11:00 - Appleby Public Hall - **£8**
- 10th **Fellsiders - Curry Night** - 7:30pm Murton Institute, fundraising Curry Aid meal - **£15**.
- 14th **Car Boot and Tabletop Sale** 10.00-16.00 - Warcop Parish Hall - **£10 table, £8 in advance**
Contact Debbie on 07785 100 642 to reserve a space outside or inside. Refreshments.
- 16th **Soup and Pud** 12.00 till 1.30. Choice of two soups, bread roll and choice of two puds, tea/ coffee. **£3.50**. The Institute is open from 10 am if you would like to share a WARM space.
- 27th **Makers Market** - 09:30-15:30 - Appleby Public Hall - **FREE**
- 27th **Craft Fair** - 10:00-16:00 - Orton Market Hall - **FREE, Tables £10**
- 27th to 4th June **Exhibition and Scarecrow Festival** - Orton Village **FREE**

June

- 7th **Fellsiders - Daisy Rocke** - 7:30pm Murton Institute, creating summer bedding arrangement.
- 8th - 13th **Appleby Horse Fair** - Appleby - **Free**
- 13th **Soup and Pud** 12.00 till 1.30. Choice of two soups, bread roll and choice of two puds, tea/ coffee. **£3.50**. The Institute is open from 10am if you would like to share a WARM space.
- 17th **Coffee and Craic**, 10.30 – 12.30; tea and coffee, refreshments, stalls.
- 24th **Makers Market** 09:30-15:30 Appleby Public Hall - **FREE**
- 25th **Eden Valley Fun Run & 10k** 10:30 & 12:00 - Appleby Grammar - **£5 fun run, £12-16 for 10k**
- 29th **Rushbearing** Procession from **Warcop** Reading Rooms to St Columba's Church. - **FREE**

July

- 1st **Fellsiders - Winton Park** - Afternoon (Time tbc) **£14** (£6 entrance and £8 for hot drinks and cakes).
- 22nd and 23rd - **Art in the Hills** - Art exhibition - Dufton Village Hall
- 2nd **Warcop Village Show** 13:00-16:00 - Warcop Parish Hall
- 11th **Soup and Pud** 12.00 till 1.30. Choice of two soups, bread roll and choice of two puds, tea/ coffee. **£3.50**. The Institute is open from 10am if you would like to share a WARM space.
- 29th **Makers Market** 09:30-15:30 - Appleby Public Hall - **FREE**

If you know of any local events that you'd like to appear on this page for the next issue please let me know and I'll do my best to get it in.

Ursula

Junior Villager

Hello to the younger members of our community. I have another exciting competition for you with a chance to win this great velcro catching game.

The poor boy bellow could do with something to catch him!

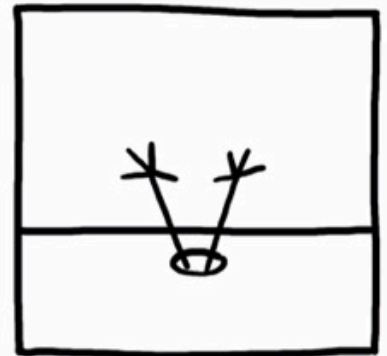
Can you draw something silly to soften his fall?

Ask an adult to take a picture and send it to ursula@artdaze.co.uk for a chance to win.



Just For Fun!

Roger Price created 'Doodles' in 1950's. Can you work out what's happening in the doodle below?



Answer on the back page.

Last Issue's Competition Results

Thank you for the fantastic entries to the competition in the last issue.

Congratulations to **Casey** (KS1 prize) and **Georgia** aged 9 (KS2 prize) who won with these creative creatures.



Casey has drawn a fantastic beast. It is half unicorn, half dinosaur. The things at the top are called "Golden wing nuts" they fly around and keep the owner safe.



Georgia created a 'Rabdoggenman' creature with a wonderful rabbit head that looks as if it may have spotted a tasty carrot.

Lights in the Sky

On 26th February we ran out into the garden with our cameras like excited children and saw a fantastic Aurora over Murton Pike. Moments before we'd been alerted to it via an app called 'Aurora Watch UK'. This app has alerted us on many occasions when we lived in Lancashire but we didn't have the fantastic dark skies that this area gives us. I thought I'd let others know about the app (I'm sure there are other great ones too but this has been great for us) so we can all run out together next time!

Picture looks better online!
Full colour
version available
online at
www.murton.org.uk



And Finally...

I was browsing through past issues of The Villager this week and came across two familiar faces from Christmas Coffee and Craic 2017. It's good to know the future of the Institute is in safe hands. Thanks Rachel and Lucy.



Thanks you

Thanks you to everyone who has contributed to this issue, I couldn't do it without you. But also a huge thanks to the kind team who deliver the Villager to your doors. Without them this would have to be online only.

So thanks to **Judy Riley** (Hilton) **Chris Phelan** (Murton) and **Carole Thorpe** (Brackenber)

Answers from this issue... **Just For Fun**...An early bird who caught a very strong worm.
Eye Spy...It's the same house!

Please send any articles, recipes for Lady Lemon Zest etc to ursula@artdaze.co.uk - Deadline 10th July