

A newsletter for the community of Murton and Hilton

Issue 88 August 2023

Editorial

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

Welcome to the 88th issue of the Villager at the start of the summer holidays. The roads are filling with excited visitors from far and wide, children are free of the classroom and gardens are bursting with colour.

It's been a busy few months since the last issue. To celebrate the Coronation of Charles III and Camilla on 6th May Hilton and Murton held two fabulous parties. Everyone took home a specially designed commemorative mug to mark the occasion. Here's a few pictures from the two events.



VOLUNTEERING FOR EDEN ANIMAL RESCUE CHARITY

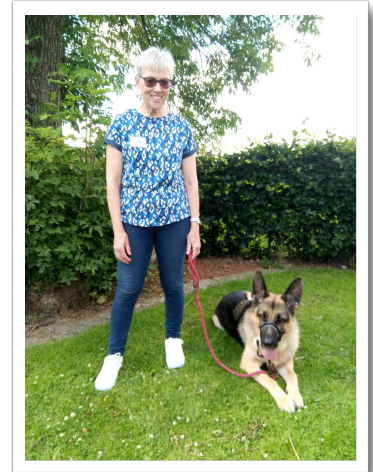
An article by Gill Jacobs



Hello to all our readers.

This is just a small piece about my time volunteering for our local Eden Animal Rescue Charity. To me it is a valuable way of giving my time to such a very worthy cause and something close to my heart, having owned dogs since my childhood.

When I was offered the position of shop manager we were just about to move from our small shop on Great Dockray to Devonshire Street Penrith. This was a big move and gave us the opportunity to expand our shop over two floors selling a huge selection of items so generously donated by our supporters. I feel being a volunteer allows me to make a difference to the animals that come into the care of our centre at Moorlands Head Farm as the money raised, not only from the shop, but also the fund raising team events throughout the year, allow us to pay for vital food, vets bills and the care needed to give all the animals a new start in life and a loving forever home.



It's not only the animals that need rescuing, often they are the ones rescuing us. They give so much love and companionship, something we all need. My husband Roger, who also volunteers, and I adopted Rags in April this year. He is a very large German Shepherd dog who had been at the centre for one year. We walked him for about 3 weeks then felt we had to take on this beautiful boy. Here are some pictures of his time with us.



At Eden Animal Rescue we are always looking for volunteers both at the centre and in our charity shop. If you are considering becoming a volunteer please email us at admin@edenanimalrescue.org.uk or call our centre on 01931 716114.

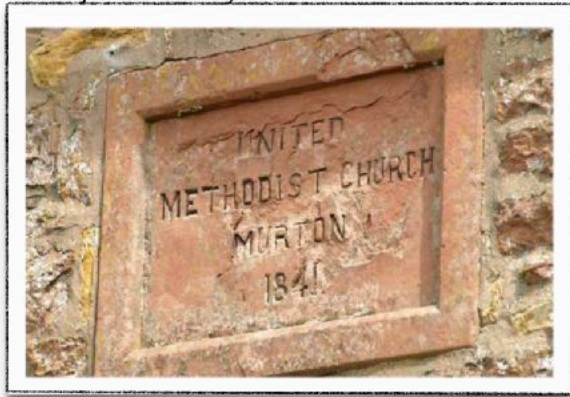


...Murton and Hilton

A little history teaser by **John Wragg** (Answers on back page)

How well do you know Murton?

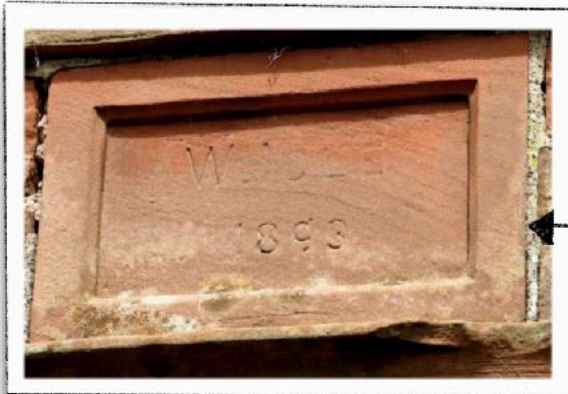
Can you identify where these date stones can be found?



A. _____



B. _____



C. _____

How well do you know Hilton?

Can you identify where this picture was taken from and what you are actually looking at?



Your answer _____



Cattle Droving Through

Cumbria: 1600 - 1850

Article by Tricia Jagger and Anne Taylor from a talk by Peter Roebuck.

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, it made it much less dangerous for drovers and their herds. By the early 19th century, the growth of the British army and navy created a demand for beef through which the droving trade grew into sizeable proportions. 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 is 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 by but the middle of the 19th 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 have seriously underestimated the enterprise 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. Peter's response to members' questions here and throughout his talk brought a wide subject into perspective, warming his audience to this with a combination of thorough scholarship and anecdotal detail.



An update on the next exciting events by Tina Wragg

We are delighted that Murton Institute has been chosen to host two Highlights events in the Autumn of 2023.

We will be hosting folk duo, Basset, from Canada on Saturday November 18th 7.30pm. Basset are full of timeless heart. Acoustic songwriters Sam Clark and Yasmine Shelton will take you through the city streets in the hours before the world has woken.

Tickets £12 adults/ £6 children

Bookings preferably done online at

www.highlightsnorth.co.uk

Details Tina [01768353642](tel:01768353642)



We are also able to offer a Saturday craft workshop, December 9th, making a willow Christmas Angel. Work with Northumberland based willow artist Ruth Thompson to create a willow angel – a beautiful Christmas decoration and which can also be used for plants to grow up in the summer.

This half day workshop is suitable for beginners, as well as those with some experience.

This workshop starts at 10.30 and costs £30. Includes all materials and tea and coffee

Do hope you can join in.

CHANGE THE WORD

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

Answers to Dave Sampson, Townhead Farmhouse, Hilton, by 31st August.

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

Answers in the next issue of The Villager

Change **ONE** word in each of the following **untrue** sentences to make each sentence completely **true**.

1. The exhibition in the Smithsonian National Air & Space Museum is dedicated to the Chuckle Brothers.
Answer: _____
2. In 2018 Theresa May presented Chinese premier Xi Jinping with a DVD box set of *Blue Peter*.
Answer: _____
3. First sighted in 1775 and still one of the least hospitable places on earth, South Shields is home to king penguins.
Answer: _____
4. The lead characters in the 1988 film *Dead Ringers* are twins, both played by Rotary Irons.
Answer: _____
5. Noel Coward wrote 27 plays, many of them centred on drawing pins.
Answer: _____
6. In 1642, King Charles attempted to have MPs arrested – an action that led to world war.
Answer: _____
7. The opening words of Herman Wouk's novel *Moby Dick* are 'Call me Ishmael'
Answer: _____
8. In the sitcom *Blackadder*, Baldrick was played by Robert Robinson.
Answer: _____
9. Germany were finalists in the 1998 World Cup but lost to France.
Answer: _____
10. King George II appointed John Dryden as the first Poet Laureate.
Answer: _____

Answers to the TWENTY QUESTIONS in the last issue:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1- Audrey Forbes Hamilton | 2- H E Bates |
| 3- Jomo Kenyatta | 4- David Vine |
| 5- P D James | 6- Margaret Thatcher |
| 7- Tom Browns' School Days | 8- Basil Brush |
| 9- Tobermory | 10- Osborne House |
| 11- Hercule Poirot | 12- Nick Hancock |
| 13- Anode | 14- His boomerang |
| 15- Pele | 16- Ernest Hemmingway |
| 17- The Forsyte Saga | 18- Preston |
| 19- Albania | 20- Annie Lenox |

Sadly there was only one entry, which was not totally correct!!

Murton Parish Council Report 11th July 2023

There have been a further two meetings since the last Villager, **The Annual Meeting of Murton Parish Council** and **The Ordinary Meeting of Murton Parish Council**. Both meetings took place on Friday 12th May

Annual Parish Meeting

At the Annual meeting the Parish Council officers were elected.

I was re-elected as Chairman and Jim Hardman was elected as Vice Chairman following Anne Kings decision not to stand for re-election. I would like to thank Anne for her contribution as Vice Chair and am happy to report that she will remain as a Parish Councillor

The Annual Meeting was followed by the Ordinary meeting.

Co-option of Parish Councillor

As I mentioned in my last report we had a vacancy for a Parish Councillor, the Parish Council was able to co-opt somebody to fill that vacancy. I am delighted to report that William Patterson agreed to join us bringing a wealth of experience from his time as an Eden District Councillor and Chairman of the Planning Committee.

B4RN - Super fast (1000mb) Broadband

As you are no doubt aware by now B4RN have been told that they cannot proceed with installation of Fibre Optic superfast broadband to Murton Parish and our inclusion in the voucher scheme has been withdrawn.

Fibrus who are a commercial broadband installer have been appointed to install fibre Optic broadband in Cumbria.

We are waiting to understand the Fibrus offer, which on first impressions does not look as attractive as the B4RN offer and from our initial enquiries will be several years away.

The team working with B4RN have had a meeting with Tim Farron MP to see if it is possible to get the B4RN project back on the rails, Tim Farron has raised the matter in Parliament and the Secretary of State has promised to look into the matter with BDUK who are the government agency running the initiative. We also have a meeting coming up on Friday the 14th July with Neil Hudson MP to see if he can lend any weight to our quest to reinstate B4RN and get back on track to have Full Fibre Optic broadband installed and working within the next 6 months

Cemetery Mowing

I am pleased to report that Fixit4Eden have taken over grass cutting of the cemetery and are doing a very good job.

Replacement Benches

Jim Hardman and I installed the replacement benches, one at the top of Brackenber Moor, just over the cattle grid on the left kindly donated by the Patterson family.

The second through the gate to Murton fell on the left kindly donated by the Knowles family.

The Benches are made of recycled plastic and look very good, they should last a good few years.



Coronation Plaques

Have you all seen the super Coronation plaques in both the Murton and Hilton bus shelters? These were made by volunteers under the watchful eye of local artist Ursula Hurst.

That's all from me. John McDarren



Do you remember the Atkinsons of Bridge House, Murton?



An article by Alex Hurrell... who needs your help.

My four sisters and I would love to know whether anyone knows more about the Atkinson family, formerly of Bridge House in Murton.

Our late mum, Jay, and her two younger siblings (Gerry and Mary) were all born in Bridge House between 1928 and about 1934. Their mother Sarah Jarvis, née Atkinson, was one of a large farming family who lived there. Sarah married a scientist, Hugh Jarvis, from London and they lived in the south of England but she returned to her parent's house in Murton to have her three children.

Mum, who died last year aged 93, had very happy memories of spending summers with her grandparents at Bridge House. She remembered her beloved granny's parrot sitting at an open window mimicking the shepherd's whistles and scattering the sheepdogs in completely the wrong directions. Mum and her little brother and sister would also sit and watch fascinated as the parrot delicately removed each hairpin from their granny's bun as she snoozed by the fire.

Mum had wartime memories of the village children running off to try and find the pilot of a plane which crashed in the nearby fells. They all got into big trouble with the grown-ups who had to waste precious time organising a separate search-party to find the children, as well as one to find the pilot.

And her little brother Gerry (Gerard Morland Jarvis), is alleged to have literally started a bun fight at a tea party in Murton to celebrate the coronation of George VI in 1937. Mum also remembers her granny taking her to the dentist in Kirkby Stephen in a pony and trap.

Tragically, Jay's mum, Sarah, who was still in her 30s, died from pneumonia in June 1939 – just three months before the Second World War began. From that point mum's life became very fractured and unhappy. Her father was doing vital secret war-work, helping to develop radar, and was too busy to look after his three motherless children. They were separated and shunted from pillar to post, mostly living with strangers.

We think that mum's grandparents probably both died during, or soon after, the war, as her visits there ended around that time. We know that one of her mother's brothers, Bill, was the last Atkinson to live in Bridge House, with his wife, Hilda. We believe they were probably still there in the 1990s. We know they had a son, Donald, who lived in Penrith and who has also since died.

Sarah's premature death, the havoc caused by the war and the fact that neither my parents nor my sisters and I ever lived in Cumbria have meant that our knowledge of our family history is very limited. However, I moved from Norfolk to Appleby last year and see it as a chance to find out more.

We believe Sarah's father, Mark, was possibly a retired gamekeeper, or farm manager, who had been based at Tufton Lodge, Stainmore. He may have been given Bridge House as a retirement gift by his employer – but that's speculation.

Mum didn't have many opportunities to revisit Murton as an adult. She trained as a nurse in London and married our dad, an RAF doctor. Our family moved all over England and the world. However, on the handful of occasions when she did go back to Murton, she would go into raptures about how happy she had been there.

She remembered brother Gerry tickling trout in the becks, High Cup Nick, helping on the farm, and I have a precious recording of her, made a few months before she died, reciting a Westmorland dialect poem she was taught by her grandfather.

Mum was christened Ruby, but was later known as Jay. She spoke with a cut-glass accent rather like the late Queen's but she would always say, with great pride: "Of course, I'm really a north-country lass".

If anyone has any memories of the family, I would love to hear them. I can be contacted by email: Hurrell.alexandra@gmail.com or on 0750 1927 059.

Many thanks, Alex Hurrell



The Atkinson family, of Bridge House, Murton, probably pictured in about 1920. The parents are Jane, née Sowerby (born in Culgaith), and Henry. Alex Hurrell's grandmother, Sarah, is far right. Other names include Mark, Mary, George, Hannah, Annie (Nancy), John, Francis, William (Bill) and twins Tom and Gerry (!).

Curry Aid

In May this year Fellsiders enjoyed a fantastic evening of delicious Indian food hosted by the wonderful Jessie Oddy. Jessie has been running these amazing events for years to raise money for an orphanage in the Tamil Nadu region of India where she grew up. Here's a pictures from the night.



Fellsideers

Update from Tina Wragg

FELISIDERS have enjoyed an inspiring flower demonstration by Daisy Rocke and a delightful visit to Winton Park gardens over the last couple of months. The rain clouds dispersed and the sun came out for more than 20 FELISIDERS and partners who were truly amazed by the colourful borders and staggering statuary at Winton Park



The group also enjoyed a wide range of scrumptious cakes and tea to round the visit off.

The next meeting is on **Wednesday September 6th** when Keith Jagger will entertain us with a presentation about the Upper Eden area. We will have a little quiz to test our knowledge!!!

Following meeting...Wednesday October 4th - Ashley Liston will come and tell us about a newish project called Linking Lives. This operates in Penrith, Kirkby Stephen and soon Appleby too.

All meetings start at 7.30pm in Murton Institute
Any queries phone **Tina 01768353642** or **Joy 01768352123**

What's On...

Regular events...

Badminton - Every Thursday- 7:30pm - Murton Institute

Line Dancing - Every Monday at 7pm - Murton Institute (starts again on 18th September)

August

7th **Parish Council meeting** at 7.30 pm - Murton Institute.

19th **Coffee and Craic**, 10.30 – 12.00; tea and coffee, refreshments, stalls.

September

6th **Fellsiders** "Where do you think you are?" A tour of Upper Eden Valley by **Keith Jagger**

12th **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.

October

4th **Fellsiders** "Linking Lives" A new service for those on their own by **Ashley Liston**.

6th **Quiz Night** - more details to follow.

10th **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.

21st **Coffee and Craic**, 10.30 – 12.00; tea and coffee, refreshments, stalls.

23rd **Parish Council Meeting** - 7.30 pm - Murton Institute.

November

14th **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.

18th **Highlights** - Basset Folk Duo - 7:30pm - the Murton Institute

December

9th **Highlights** - Willow Christmas Angels - 10:30am - The Murton Institute

12th **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.

16th **Coffee and Craic**, 10.30 – 12.00; tea and coffee, refreshments, stalls.



It's the summer holidays...Yay!...but it keeps raining...Boooo! Here's a few activities, and lots of doodles for you to colour in until the sun shines again!

Can you help Smudge get to his bone?



Last Issue's Competition Results

Congratulations to Casey for not only illustrated what may happen to the falling boy...she wrote a short story to go with it!. Fabulous work, thanks Casey. Your prize will be with you soon.

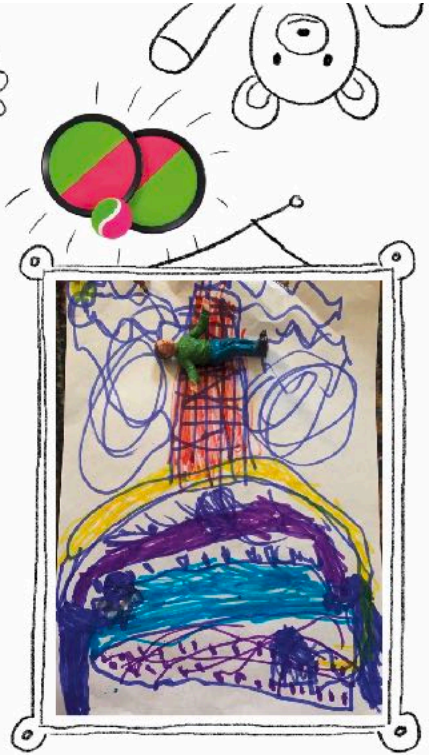
Casey's Story

The boy was out walking collecting firewood for his family when he fell down a deep, deep hole. Luckily he fell onto a magical pile of blankets sitting on top of a trampoline.

The boy had no way out! He searched around for an exit and found a key to a tiny little door. He tried the key and the door opened.

He discovered magic yellow brick road. He followed it for what seemed like miles and miles. Eventually he saw day light and appeared right back at the hole where he fell!

He ran back to his home to tell his parents what had happened. They all went to have a look at the hole but the hole was gone.....!



Summer Wordsearch

E	S	P	I	H	C	L	L	A	B	T	O	O	F
T	F	U	N	S	A	I	S	P	A	D	E	E	C
B	M	A	L	H	E	S	S	U	N	H	A	T	H
S	U	N	S	H	I	N	E	E	T	N	B	T	O
L	F	I	S	H	E	O	E	I	C	T	E	E	L
I	E	F	I	C	E	C	R	E	A	M	A	I	I
D	M	C	A	M	P	I	N	G	F	N	C	P	D
I	E	K	H	S	Y	E	E	S	S	I	H	T	A
H	C	O	G	S	H	H	D	S	A	S	T	O	Y
E	M	A	H	O	A	L	I	P	A	N	S	N	S
S	H	A	D	E	S	A	S	B	U	C	K	E	T
I	A	T	D	D	P	L	A	Y	I	N	G	H	S
N	R	B	E	D	E	S	E	L	E	I	D	L	D
I	F	O	S	A	I	P	S	A	L	S	C	A	E

CAMPING
BUCKET
BEACH
SEASIDE
SUN HAT
PLAYING
ICE CREAM
SHADES
CHIPS
SUNSHINE
FISH
SPADE
HOLIDAYS
FUN
FOOTBALL

Draw your favourite ice cream!



What can you see?

Draw the view from your window. Add a magical creature hiding in the garden!



Eye Spy Answers - Date-stones Redstone Chapel in Murton, originally a Methodist Chapel;

And two plaques from Melbourne House in Murton, one from 1736 when it was built by Joseph Idle, and the second from 1893 when it was rebuilt by William Idle....Photo from 1890s of Hilton Beck taken from Hilton Bridge looking upstream. The old bridge at Mill Lane can be seen in the foreground, with Hilton Mill visible. To the left is Mill Farm, and in the distance is the remains of the smelt mine chimney in Scordale.

And Finally ...Thanks as always to all our contributors and deliverers. If you have any ideas for an article or to improve the Villager please contact me on 07875481077 or ursula@artdaze.co.uk