

A newsletter for the community of Murton and Hilton

Issue 90 April 2024

Editorial

Welcome to the 90th issue of The Villager. As I write the howling winds and torrential rain of storm Kathleen are battering my horizontally daffodils, soggy lambs are wearing little raincoats and my dog is tired of been washed after every walk due to knee deep mud. Though we're longing for sunshine it's comforting to know that our little community is still smiling and that, whatever the weather, a 5 minute walk can still take an hour if you see a neighbour.



It's also a comfort to know that our community is full of such kind people. After my call for help with raising money for printing the Villager I was so grateful that four generous offers arrived in my inbox. Which means we can continue to have a paper copy for another year. This issue has been brought to you because of sponsorship by the wonderful people at Langton Farm Caravan Park.



Spring Bulbs

A request from Ed Evans

If you are having a spring bulb clear out over the next month or two please consider passing your unwanted bulbs to me at Fellside House. I will then look to plant any bulbs I get in the verges at Hilton Townhead and around the car park. Snow drops, daffodils, tulips, crocus and even bluebells would all look super planted across this area and give early colour and be a welcome source of food for early flying pollinators. White tail bumblebees are out and about already.

FELLSIDERS update from Tina Wragg

By the time you read this over 20 ladies will have enjoyed a meal and get together at Appleby Golf Club at the end of March. It was a fun affair with delightful food.



We are most fortunate to have **Archie Spence** from the Appleby in Westmorland Society talking to us in April about 'Old Appleby'. Please note, this is on **Wednesday April 10th**, 7.30 at Murton Institute. Guests £3.

On **Wednesday May 1st** we have a return visit from the talented and engaging Daisy Rocke from Rocke's and Roses in Kirkby Stephen. Daisy will demonstrate the art of Kokodama. Moss balls filled with trailing plants. There will also be a chance for up to 10 of us to make our own moss ball, materials and plants provided at a cost of £12pp.

Those members who are happy to just watch there is a £4 charge for the demonstration.

I am really looking forward to this evening.

We intend to organise a visit to a local garden in June, after fair week, a suggestions sheet will be circulated at the dinner, actual date to be confirmed.

3rd July we will welcome a speaker from the northeast, Mr. Dennis Fox, who will be sharing photos and paintings about the air battle the R .A. F. were engaged in along the north east coast during August 1940. This meeting will start at 7pm.

We are always looking for suggestions from our members and fellow villagers for names of guest speakers.

Please forward your suggestions to Tina [01768353642](tel:01768353642) or Joy [0176835213](tel:0176835213)

Look forward to seeing you.



The latest instalment from **Gemma Dobson at Bankwood**, taking us through the seasons on her farm in Brackenber.

When will spring finally spring?! The morning calls of the returning curlews and oystercatchers are a welcome soundtrack to early rounds, but the conditions underfoot still feel very wintery!

Cows are gazing wistfully over the gate now as the days get longer, dreaming of turnout and as we muck out sheds for what feels like the thousandth time and look at the ever-depleting pile of winter feed, us farmers are thinking the same!

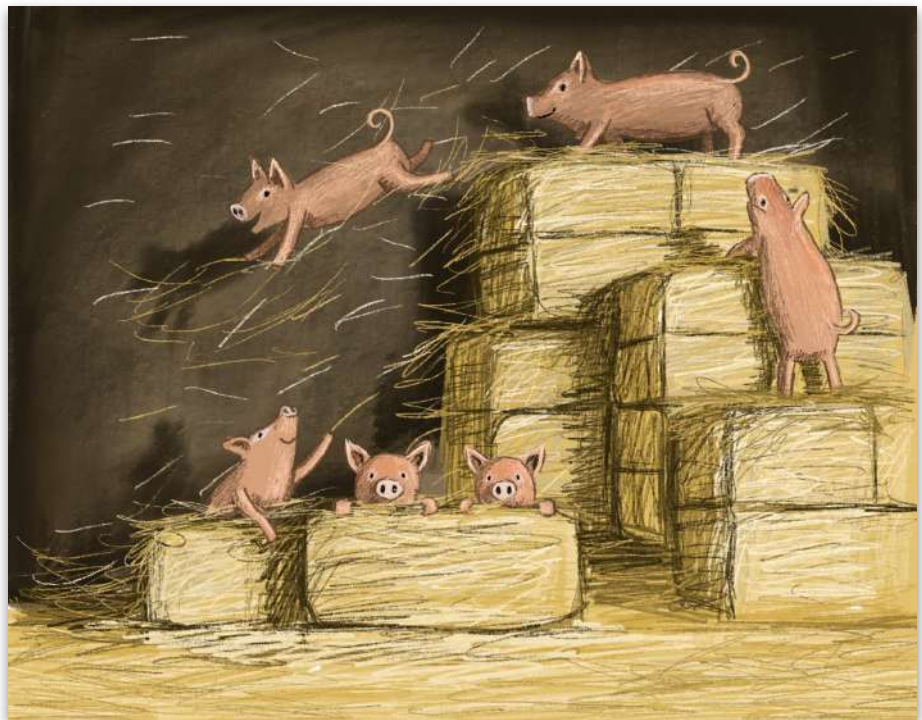
Our dairy cows have to wait a little longer to go out as we race to complete our commuter network, hopefully faster than the A66 upgrades! Cow tracks made mostly from recycled astroturf and road planings (waste from local roadworks) criss-cross the farm and enable the cows to make the daily journey(s) back and forth from the milking parlour without causing a quagmire.

The milk we produce here is mostly from forage, so maximising days outside is a cornerstone of the system. The idea is to reduce the use of manufactured feeds to a minimum. Although the cows may give a bit less milk, the milk produced is lower in carbon footprint and utilises our on-farm resources, not bought in product, making it more sustainable too.

Whilst the cows dream of summer, the sheep have already begun popping out lambs in earnest, which certainly keeps us out of mischief at this time of year! On this note, a little plea on behalf of myself and my fellow farmers – **PLEASE** keep your dogs on a lead. **Even if your dog isn't directly interacting with the sheep**, the stress of a loose dog in the vicinity can cause ewes to give birth prematurely or scatter becoming separated from newborn lambs. Did you know that each ewe and lamb have an individual "baa" sound much like a fingerprint? It enables lambs to find their mothers in a large field – but this bond takes a bit of time to develop so that's why it's so important they are not disturbed around the time of birth.

Elsewhere on the farm we were delighted to welcome a small but perfectly formed litter of rare breed Tamworth piglets last weekend - mum and 5 babies doing very well! The elder brothers and sisters of the previous litter celebrated with a night out; escaping their pen and wreaking havoc in the hay barn. Thankfully the offer of some waste milk soon had them heading for home, wagging their curly tails as they went!

If you are popping down to the tiny shop for an lamb joint give us a shout and we'll be happy to introduce you to the new arrivals!



The History Bit...by John Wragg

Washday in the Villages

A domestic piped-water supply did not come to the villages until the 1930s. Before that they relied on the troughs and stand pipes provided by the London Lead Mining Company in the 1860s.

In Murton the village laundry was in the public space now occupied by the bus shelter. The syke from Trough Keld which ran down the north side of the village street, past Rose Cottage where there was a trough and well, had been culverted to provide clean water.

Water for the laundry trough came out of a lead pipe (the hole in the sandstone block can be seen at **A**). The laundry troughs (**B**) have now been covered by a metal lid, but are still there.

The cobbled hard standing allowed the area to be kept clean, while the grassy area above the trough (**D**) was used for drying. The culverted stream beneath the concrete flagstone (**C**) can still be heard when you stand by the shelter.

Hilton had a similar arrangement at the foot of the street, but by the 1890s things became more sophisticated. The London Lead Mining Co. purchased an old farm building next to what became Moorside House at Townfoot. This became the new laundry.



The building can be seen, marked A, in the photograph from the 1920s. The building has now gone but was quite innovative in its day. A fresh water supply came from Hilton Beck via a hydraulic ram pump on the bed of the beck just above the bridge.

Hilton Mill can still be seen (at **D**) and had not yet become derelict. The ruins of the burnt down Kings Head pub can be seen at C. The site wouldn't be built on again for another 50 years until the Green Tree was built. For the truly observant, **At Last** is missing from the picture. At this time the road from Appleby still ran as an unfenced road through the woods and fields of Hunter Howe. There was still a gate barring the road at the bridge junction. It would be another 20 years before the public road was fenced and the strip of land next to the beck was sold off for a building plot.

Anyone interested in similar trivia about the villages is welcome to a (short !) history of our communities in the form of a **.pdf** file.

Simply email johnwragg21951@gmail.com

The Skips are Back!

An article from June Watson

The contracts for the Hilton and Murton Garden Waste Recycling skips have been approved. The first is due in April and then monthly through to October. This contract is renewed on an annual basis so, in order to keep the service provider happy, the following should be observed:

- The skips are only for household garden waste, nothing else. Plastic, metal, wire and anything that could be classed as contaminated waste, for example are not acceptable.
- The smaller the debris is chopped, the greater the use of the skip. Tree stumps, tree branches etc mean that fewer people can use the service. Save these for a bonfire maybe?
- Do not pile up bags of garden waste next to the skip if it is full.
- Please can you let me know on clerk@murton.org.uk when the skips are full. The PC has to notify Westmorland & Furness Council when they are full or overflowing. There is no automatic replacement commitment by the contractor, but it does sometimes happen.



Huge Thanks

St.John's Church would like to express our gratitude and thanks to Nick Hodgkinson, who kindly carried out our PAT testing free of charge. His time and generosity are much appreciated.

Murton Parish Council Report

We held our **Parish Council Meeting** on **Monday 5th February 2024**

Appleby Horse Fair

Representatives of the Multi-Agency Strategic Co-ordinating Group (MASCg) joined the meeting: Emma Brass, W&F Interim Senior Public Protection Manager; Inspector Mo Bibby, and Sergeant Sophie Davies from Penrith & Eden Neighbourhood Policing Team.

It was agreed that the aim of this discussion is to ensure the safety and security of the Appleby and Murton communities. A pro-active approach would focus on the avoidance of a similar situation to 2023 when residents, particularly the older and more vulnerable, felt particularly threatened by the presence of travellers.

It was requested that the TRO (Traffic Regulation Order) for Appleby be extended to cover Murton. The police need a statement from the landowners to support such action. The Chairman had contacted Highways regarding Murton being included in the TRO.

Full Minutes of the meeting are available on this link:

<https://www.murton.org.uk/parish-council/meetings/>

Following the meeting.

I am pleased to be able to report that a Traffic Regulation Order has been agreed. The Order will be made under temporary powers for this year enabling us to monitor the situation and address any changes/improvement for the following year, should the Parish wish to continue with the Order and make it permanent.

Parish Litter Pick

The annual Parish litter pick took place on Monday 18th March.

Eight volunteers turned out, a total of 24 bags of litter were collected.

Many thanks to those volunteers for giving up their time to help keep our villages tidy.

Sadly within 24 hours litter was once again being thrown out of cars and vans.

Cemetery Clean Up

On Sunday 24th March seven volunteers collected all the debris following the winter storms ready for the 4 Eden team to start grass cutting. A total of 15 man hours were spent filling the trail

Parish Council Electronic Mailing List

The Clerk circulates details of PC meetings and information that would also go on parish noticeboards.

Those wishing to join the mailing list should e-mail mailinglist@murton.org.uk giving their full name in the e-mail.

Please join in, it's an easy way of keeping up with Parish happenings.

Damage to Hilton Bridge

We are still chasing Highways to get the bridge repairs underway.

The Skips are Back

Our first skip of the year should be with us in early April.
Pump up your wheelbarrow tyres and get on the starting blocks.

Next Meetings

The Annual Parish Meeting ...29th April, all are welcome to attend.

One of the topics covered will be:

Cumbria Police – Fraud Prevention

Claire Keyes is a detective in the Economic Crime Unit. She will be talking about how prevalent fraud is at the moment, what sort of frauds are being carried out and offer advice about how to keep yourselves safe on the telephone, online and on the doorstep.
Should be very interesting.

The next Parish Council meeting ...13th May at 7.00pm

That's all from me.

John McDarren

Chairman, Murton Parish Council

SOS – Save our squirrels John Wragg

10 years ago our resident population of red squirrels were wiped out in the course of a fortnight by Squirrel Pox.

The disease is carried by grey squirrels, who are themselves immune, but it is deadly to our red squirrel. Any contact between the two populations is invariably fatal to the reds.

After many years and a great deal of effort by our local squirrel wardens, our local population on the Range has begun to revive. They can now be seen in gardens in Hilton and Brackenber. Their survival cannot be taken for granted, and it is up to us all to do everything we can to help them do so.

Spring is the time when greys are moving into our area to look for new breeding grounds. It is of vital importance that any sightings of greasy in our area is reported, particularly in Ash Bank, Brackenber, Coupland and Flakebridge.



If you see a grey in our area PLEASE report the location to the Upper Eden squirrel ranger – Gary Murphy on 07974 788434 or by email on garymurphy24red@gmail.com

A little shout
out for our kind
sponsors.


LANGTON FIELD
— CARAVAN PARK —

Enjoy tranquility and quiet at our static caravan park



If you are looking for peace and tranquility, but easy access to the outside world, this is the perfect place. 360-degree uninterrupted vistas create the perfect get away from it all feeling - whilst just 2 minutes down the road is bustling market town of Appleby with its local food producers, independent shops, restaurants and even a SPA hotel for weary 'soles' after a day on the fells.

As farming folk, we're friendly, down to earth and practical, and because we live and work on the farm, we're always on hand for advice and help when you need it.

Open from 1st March - 9th January, we're glad to be building our small park community. There are caravans and plots already spoken for, but we still have room for a few more people (and well behaved dogs).

If you are looking for a dream holiday home from home - have a look at what we have to offer.



Contact the Team Monday to Sunday 9am - 5pm

01768 351547 - 07968 760375

Langton Field, Appleby in Westmorland, Cumbria, CA16 6JG

Out of hours, viewings are always welcome by appointment



Murton Institute



Where the fun things happen...

We're always looking for new faces and ideas. See you there soon.



An Appeal on behalf of the Badminton Club

from Richard Oates

We are a badminton club that has been around for 40 years playing at the Murton/Hilton village institute

We are now in need of some new members to keep the club going for the foreseeable future.

Please come along and give us some support and join in the fun, exercise and chat. No experience required we are a friendly bunch who plays every Thursday evening from 7.30pm Rackets are available to borrow.

For further information ring Richard 017683 52504



Sam's (ongoing) Mission MND

In all of the many events and challenges that you have supported me through, one of my proudest and most emotional moments was completing the inaugural Rob Burrow Leeds marathon in May of last year, and I was able to be present at the end when Kevin Sinfield CBE entered Headingley Stadium and carried Rob over that finish line.

My time for this marathon gave me the long-awaited opportunity to qualify for the London Marathon and so here I am, one month away from joining 50,000 other runners in the capital on 21st April, and I will be wearing my MNDA vest with pride. As other runners will acknowledge, the training has been relentless since Christmas, with a great many miles done on the treadmill in all of the ongoing wet and windy weather. The end is in sight however! I am now organising some final fundraising in the hope that I can push my total to £5000.



Sadly, I won't be able to provide another round of cakes at the next Coffee and Craic, as I will have already travelled south for the marathon the next day. However, I will have in the Institute an **MND sweepstake** whereby guesses can be made of my final (official) finishing time. Guesses will be £1 a go and there will be a donation pot alongside the form for you to enter your details. There will be an appropriate prize for the nearest guess!

Otherwise, should you wish to simply donate to my JustGiving page, please find me using the usual following link:

[Sam Rowan is fundraising for Motor Neurone Disease Association \(justgiving.com\)](#) or search for me under Sam's Mission MND!

I hope to be able to report back post-event in due course, and thank you once again for your unfaltering support in all that I do.
Sam

Sweetie Quiz

From Tina Wragg

See how many sweets you can guess from the clues below (just for fun)

Answers on the back page

1. Wobbly infants _____
2. Edible fasteners _____
3. 9, 10, 11, 12, etc _____
4. Fallen fruits _____
5. A dairy carrier _____
6. A cult perhaps _____
7. A Belly Dancer perhaps _____
8. All sorts of girls _____
9. Ten Pin Bowling _____
10. Very intelligent _____
11. Where rich people live _____
12. Talk quietly _____
13. A caveman's weapon _____
14. A royal sport _____
15. Mother's local _____
16. Tiny jewels _____
17. The emblem of England _____
18. Content of conversation _____
19. A constellation perhaps _____
20. A home for alcoholic teeth _____

Clare Sands

Murton Institute - Saturday 18th May - 7:30pm

highlights
rural touring scheme



Channelling the music of her ancestors, Clare Sands is a unique force in Irish music. Weaving traditional roots with contemporary sounds and influences, she sings for the young and the old, the brave and the bold.

Electrifying live performances see Clare on fiddle, guitar, percussion, vocals & cassette recordings. An unmissable, raw live performer, she brings her audience on an exhilarating journey of celebration, resilience and hope with her groundbreaking Fearless Folk style and infinite warrior energy.

Book online www.highlightsnorth.co.uk or contact Tina 01768353642

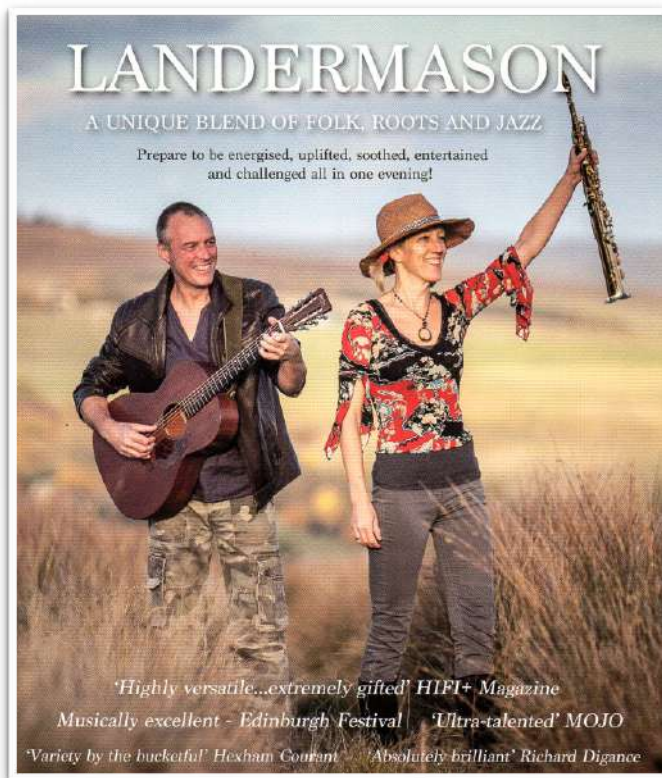
Landermason

Murton Institute - Saturday 22nd June

We are pleased to announce that after their visit with Highlights several years ago Landermason return to the Murton Institute to perform on Saturday 22nd June.

Fiona Lander (vocals, piano, whistles, saxophone, clarinet and recorder) and **Paul Mason** (guitars, ukulele and vocals) present a fabulous and varied show which combines both traditional and contemporary folk with jazz, blues, classical and other styles. Their own self-penned material, interspersed with lively jigs and striking arrangements of traditional classics, provide a lovely contrast for any audience. Prepare to be energised, uplifted, soothed, entertained and challenged all in one evening!

Contact Tina (01768353642) or any member of the Institute committee for tickets.



What's On

Regular events...

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

Line Dancing - Every Wednesday - 7pm - Murton Institute

April

- 9th **Soup and Pud** 12.00 till 1.30. Choice of two soups, bread roll and choice of two puds, tea/ coffee. **£4**. The Institute is open from 10am if you would like to share a WARM space.
- 10th **Fellsiders** - Murton Institute- 7:30 Archie Spence - Photographs and Pictures or Old Appleby (guests £3)
- 20th **Coffee and Craic**, 10.30 – 12.00; bacon butties, tea and coffee, stalls and a chance to chat.
- 21st **London Marathon** - look out for Sam who's running for **MND** (see article)
- 29th **Annual Parish Meeting** - 7:30pm - Murton Institute all are welcome to attend.

May

- 1st **Fellsiders** - Murton Institute- 7:30 - Daisy Rocke from Rocke's and Roses - (guests £3)
- 14th **Soup and Pud** 12.00 till 1.30. Choice of two soups, bread roll and choice of two puds, tea/ coffee. **£4**
- 13th **Parish Council Meeting** - 7pm, Murton Institute
- 13th **Ordinary Parish Council meeting** - 7:30pm, Murton Institute
- 18th **Highlights** - Clare Sands - 7:30 - bring your own drinks and glasses - £12 (see article)

June

- 11th **Soup and Pud** 12.00 till 1.30. Choice of two soups, bread roll and choice of two puds, tea/ coffee. **£4**
- 15th **Coffee and Craic**, 10.30 – 12.00; bacon butties, tea and coffee, stalls and a chance to chat.
- 22nd **Landermason** - return for an evening of traditional folk music. Contact any member of the Institute committee for tickets.
- TBC **Fellsiders** - Visit to a garden...details TBC soon.

July

- 3rd **Fellsiders** - speaker Mr. Dennis Fox - 7pm - R .A. F. Air battle north east coast, August 1940.
- 9th **Soup and Pud** 12.00 till 1.30. Choice of two soups, bread roll and choice of two puds, tea/ coffee. **£4**
- 13th **Cheese and wine** tasting evening. Watch out for posters and emails for further details.

If you'd like to get involved in events at our village hall, The Institute , then please contact me (ursula@artdaze.co.uk) or any member of the committee. We're always looking for new faces and fresh ideas.

Junior Villager

Sunflower Growing Challenge... for Adults and Children!

Spring is a wonderful season where we see new lambs bouncing in the fields, trees waking up from winter and forgotten flowers finding their way up from the ground looking for sunshine. We also see bees, butterflies and other insects waking from a long winter and searching for food in the first flowers. These insects can sometimes struggle to find food so you can help them by growing flowers that they love. One flower that is great for both insects and birds is the mighty Sunflower and in this issue you have a challenge!

- * Plant the seeds from this page (or buy some of your own if you're reading this online or want the whole family to compete).
- * Grow it as tall as you can.
- * Send me a picture of you and your sunflower with its height by **10th August**.
- * Winners will be announced on **17th August** at Coffee n Craic. (Separate adult and children prize...both will involve chocolate!)

How to sow:

- Fill a small pot with compost.
- Water well with a fine rose.
- Sow seeds individually into compost, pushing seeds to 1cm deep.
- Place in a propagator or cover pot with plastic and leave in a warm room

Growing on:

- When shoots appear, remove plastic cover.
- Keep seedlings in a light position, but shade from direct sunlight.

Hardening off / planting out:

- Gradually accustom plants to outside conditions for 2-3 weeks before planting out when the risk of frost has passed.
- Water well until established.



Good luck!

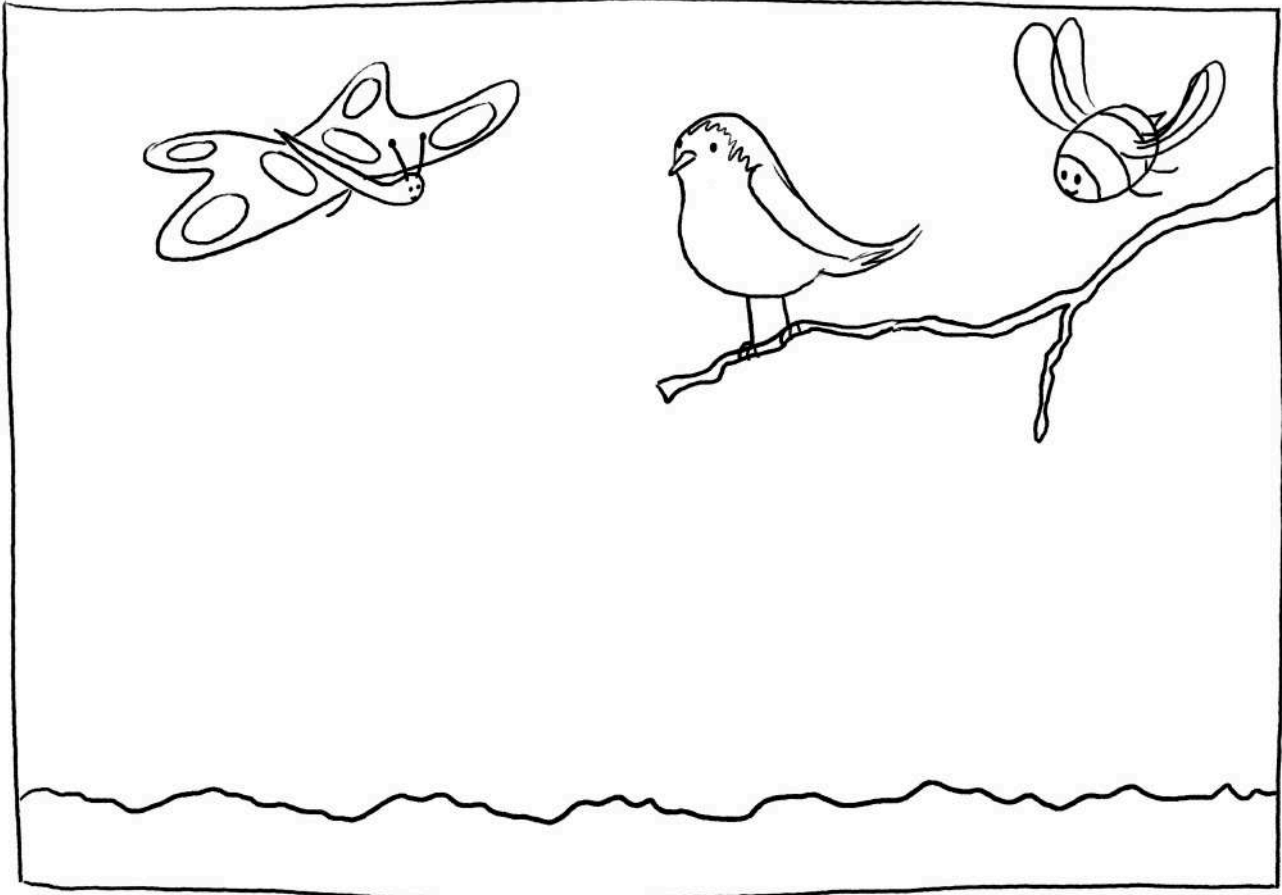
Seeds



If you're reading this online you'll have to buy your seeds! Sorry :)

Add a little Spring!

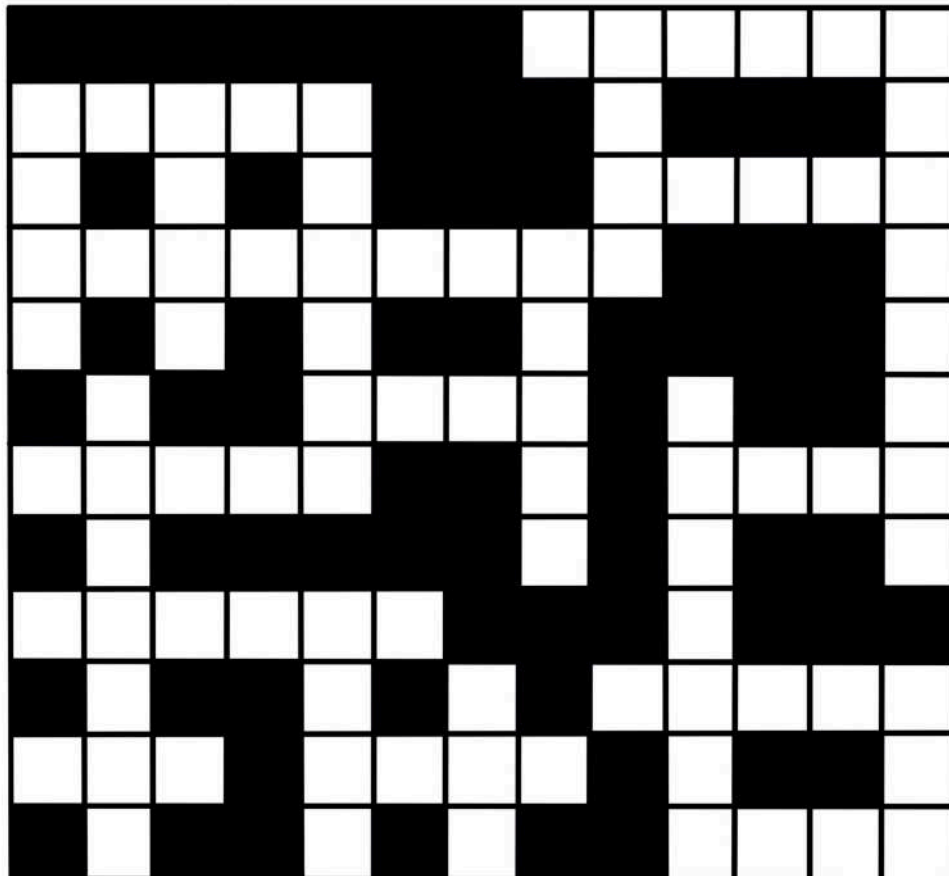
Bring the garden to life for the birds and insects by adding plants, leaves and flowers.



Spring Crossword

Across

fly
grow
rain
sing
twig
birds
bulbs
green
lambs
leaves
Spring
daffodils



Down

ant
sow
buds
eggs
life
nest
light
shoots
growing
tadpole
sunshine

Something in the Water!

By Alan Ormrod

A cheery bunch of nonagenarians. All are resident in Murton.

They are (left to right): Pat Laverty, Mary Hall, Frances Hogg, Alan Ormrod and Brian Slack. Robert Elliot could not be with us.

It's not too long ago that there were another three - Ray Knowles, Hannah Harker and Lillian Collins (Mary Bolton's mother.) Not bad for a small village. It must be something to do with the water, good honest living and friendly neighbours!



And finally...

Thanks you to everyone who has contributed to and delivered this issue, I couldn't do it without you. And thanks again to the very generous offers of donations and sponsorship that came in after my appeal.

If you have any ideas for new articles please send them to me ursula@artdaze.co.uk

Deadline for next issue **5th July**

Sweetie Quiz answers -

1. Jelly Babies
2. Chocolate Buttons
3. After Eights
4. Pear Drops
5. Milk Tray
6. Black Magic
7. Turkish Delight
8. Dolly Mixtures
9. Skittles
10. Smarties
11. Quality Street
12. Whisper
13. Club
14. Polo
15. Mars Bar
16. Midget Gems
17. Lion or Roses
18. Topic
19. Milky Way
20. Wine Gums