

Parish Village Meeting

Presentations by organisations that contribute to the activities within the Parish of Over Kellet

- 7 **Witherslack Group:** In the absence of representatives from the group who had been called away at the last moment, Cllr Mr Nick Ward gave an outline of the purpose of the centre in Over Kellet. It serves as an assessment centre for up to 5 disadvantaged, and often difficult and unfortunate, youngsters who are assessed for up to 28 days before being allocated places at educational establishments under the control of the Witherslack Group. Some may be referred elsewhere. Every effort is made to ensure that the youngsters are supervised at all times although the group does not have the power, nor would want the power, to lock them in. The individuals are aged between 8 and 15 years and can be referred from anywhere in the country including London. Staffing levels are such that there is a one to one ratio. It is to be hoped that the unfortunate children will benefit from the regime and from being in a rural location and also that tolerance be shown by the community. However, should things go awry, instances should be brought to the attention of the centre.
- 8 **Horticultural Society:** It was reported that the society had enjoyed a full and varied programme which included visits to various gardens including a full day's outing to Bodnant in North Wales and a series of other garden related activities. The 68th Annual show had proved to be a challenge but was successful.
- 9 **Village Hall:** Mr Peter Thomas outlined the refurbishment of the flooring and plans to completely upgrade the kitchen area which would take place shortly. He welcomed the B4RN connection together with emergency lighting and fire alarms. The hall is well used with the playschool playing an important role. Cones had been obtained to try to resolve parking issues.
- 10 **Neighbourhood Watch:** Mr Chris Pogson emphasised the fact that Over Kellet suffered very little in the way of serious crime. However, computer generated crime together with unsolicited telephone and doorstep callers continued to cause concern. Every effort is made to make people aware of these types of danger. There is in place a network of neighbourhood co-ordinators whose details are given in the Over Kellet View.
- 11 **Over Kellet View:** Mr Chris Pogson stressed the need for a new group of volunteers to take over the running of the OK View, which had now been in operation for almost ten years; the first edition having been issued in October 2007. Mr Pogson indicated that he did not intend being involved with the magazine beyond the end of 2017 and to this effect, a 'flyer' asking for - a chief editor, sub-editor and distribution person to come forward. Failing this, the OK View would not continue, at least in its present form. On average, there had been 24 pages and the OK View was largely funded by advertisements as a result of which the contribution from parish council funds had reduced considerably.
- 12 **B4RN:** Mrs Lesley Gee gave a power-point presentation showing progress made in bringing the benefits of hyper-fast broadband to Over Kellet. This showed numerous volunteers engaged in various digging operations and also the help of mechanical devices. It was anticipated that the final cost would be £90,000 of which £80,000 had been promised in varying forms. The 3rd June was earmarked as a "Community Action Day" and anyone interested in taking advantage of B4RN should contact Mrs Gee or any others of the team. This is an investment opportunity and investors would be eligible to receive the benefit of favourable terms.
- 13 **Keep Fit:** Mrs Gee runs 'keep fit' sessions between 5 and 6 p.m. on Monday at the village hall. These are open to anyone over the age of 60 at a cost of £4 per week. The sessions are not only good for one's health but are also very enjoyable and cater for a wide range of abilities. On average 12 people participate but more could easily be accommodated.
- 14 **St Cuthbert's Church:** Mr John Halsey reported fully on the activities of the church following the retirement of Rev Ken Clapham and that they are now awaiting confirmation of a part-time incumbent. Congregations are holding up well and other activities at the church are also well-supported. These include services in conjunction with the school, bi-monthly coffee mornings as a result of which £2000 has been raised for various deserving charities, Bible study group, as well as special festivals such as Harvest an Easter and, of course, Christmas. John emphasised that all are welcome to any of the activities whatever their faith or non-faith.
- 15 **Women's Institute:** Mrs Sylvia Cooper gave a brief outline of the history of the W I starting in 1887 in Canada; the first Wi in the UK started in 1915 on the Isle of Anglesey at Llanfair P G, with the national federation coming into operation in 1917. The WI was active in both world wars. The Over Kellet WI had now been in existence for over 80 years and continued to have a very varied programme of guest speakers on interesting and informative subjects. They also engage in other activities such as the federation quiz and

local group meetings which alternate between other institutes in the district. Meetings take place each month, with the exception of August, on the second Thursday. There is no age limit but is restricted to women only.

- 16 Short Tennis/Table Tennis:** Michael Watson talked of the sessions that take place every Tuesday afternoon in the village Hall between 1.45 and 3.45 p.m. These cost of £2 per session and include refreshments. Michael emphasised the enjoyment of playing and particularly the fact that ages of participants range from 60 to over 90! Furthermore, every one without exception plays to the best of their abilities with no quarter given. Two lunches at the Eagle's Head are subsidised from the funds. A note of appreciation to Mrs Joan Shaw who continues to organise everything.
- 17 Wilson's Endowed C of E School:** In the absence of Mrs Williams, Mr Graham Agnew outlined the success of the school which was rated good to outstanding by "ofsted". The current pupil total is 120 and the school fulfils a vital and very welcome role in the viability of the village. The staff work very hard in ensuring that the very best of education is afforded to the children in their care, including a range of off school opportunities. A very interesting and informative power point presentation, provided by the school, was given, which showed the children engaging in many different and varied activities.
- 18 Thomas Withers Charity:** Mr David Mills the secretary of the charity gave a brief history of the charity, which was originally set up in the early 18th century, by way of a will, to provide finance for apprenticeships for residents of the parish of Over Kellet. It's purpose was amended to become more relevant to modern times to provide finance for further education as well as apprenticeships. Over the past year 10 grants were awarded amounting to £2600. Although the dates for applications is set at the 1st May and 1st November each year Mr Mills advised that forms could be obtained from him and applications would be accepted for consideration up to the start of June.
- 19 Twining Association:** Martin Lord reported on the association which has now been in existence since 2001 and links the "Kelleys" with Bussieres in the Loire region of France west of Lyon. Visits are arranged on an annual basis alternating between France and the UK. The recent visit involving 27 visitors from Bussieres included several children some of whom went into Over Kellet School whilst the older ones visited QES in Kirkby Lonsdale. A full programme for the visit was enjoyed which included amongst other things trips to Barnard Castle and the Bowes Museum and to Skipton, whilst others enjoyed informal walks enjoying the beauties of the local country-side and blessed with excellent weather. Martin encouraged others to be involved with the twinning which had provided his family and others a very enjoyable experience.
- 20 Allotment Association:** Mr Stephen Atkins spoke of developments at the allotments, which now comprised 9 full plots plus 2 half plots. There are, at present, no vacant plots and all is well tended by the allotment holders. The allotment site has developed into a valuable asset to the village scene and anyone is welcome to see what is going on there and to see the progress made.
- 21 Emergency Plan:** Paul Bond outlined the progress of the emergency plan which was set up as a result of the interference with power supply at the time of Storm Desmond in December 2016. A grant of £4858 was awarded to Over Kellet and a separate committee was set up. A number of items have been obtained for use in an emergency, which includes an emergency generator. The committee is pro-active and they are grateful to the village hall committee for their co-operation and also to the parish council.
- 22 Open Forum and Refreshments:** The chairman of the Parish Council Mr Nick Ward thanked all those who made the evening such a success and also the dedication of all who had any input into the various organisations that lead to the quality of life enjoyed in the Parish of Over Kellet. Teas Coffees and biscuits were then made available and enabled informal socialising to take place.

23 Next Annual Meeting ~ 8th May 2018