

Husthwaite Newsletter

April & May 2021

Edition 112

Hellebores and delicate fritillaries in March

Photo: Mike Wells





Above: Husthwaite schoolchildren back at school and clearing the wildlife pond ready for Spring

Below: Pink hellebores herald Spring in the Editor's garden



EDITOR: Jan Coulthard *Please send articles for the June/July edition to me by May 20th (this is the final date!) via email: jancoulthard@hotmail.co.uk or by post to Aletheia House, High Street, Husthwaite YO61 4PX or tel. 01347 868130.*

Editor's Notes

A year on from the beginning of our consciousness of the Coronavirus pandemic, we are still facing restrictions and being careful not to catch or pass on the virus. However, thank heavens, a great number of us will have already had one dose of the vaccine, and are awaiting the second. It feels a great relief, though we still have to be careful, and remember those who are not yet vaccinated, or may be frail and vulnerable. So, no street parties yet please!

What is this edition about, since it cannot record the usual events in the village? There is a theme, among what might seem a random collection of pieces. It is about looking forward, and making the best of what we can, from gardening to going back to school, the church re-opening and the Parish Council looking for a new clerk. There are some personal pieces of writing, and I invite comments on these to share with others, maybe on a discussion page in the Newsletter. From comments on the last Newsletter articles about and from friends and relatives abroad, that seems to have been popular, and enjoyed too by those abroad who received emailed versions of the Newsletter. Indeed 2 people abroad, who had contributed, contacted each other and got on well! A first in international relations for our little magazine.

On a personal note:

Andrew and I would like to thank everyone in the village who rang, sent emails and cards, called with flowers and really supported us through the recent traumatic event which resulted from Andrew's sudden heart problem, and involved the air ambulance, a journey by road to York and an operation in Leeds LGL.

Fortunately they seem to have sorted out the problem and he is back home again, as usual probably doing too much. He regrets he missed the helicopter ride! However we are both ever grateful for the wonderful helicopter and ambulance paramedics who saved his life, and the kind NHS staff in both hospital CCU's who were already under pressure and doing 12 hour shifts. Thank heaven for all these kind people, both in the village and NHS. We are so lucky to live here. Please support the Air Ambulance -you might need them!

Jan Coulthard

Please Help!

A friend of mine is involved in a charity that cares for refugees who are housed in York temporarily before being moved to more permanent accommodation. She is appealing for clothing for the refugees, who have usually arrived with nothing.

The refugees are **mostly young and male, mostly of fairly small stature** due to undernourishment, and invariably freezing!

They need the following, (medium / smaller sizes are ideal)

Trainers

T shirts

Joggers

Jeans

Jumpers

Warm coats

Hats / gloves

Wheely suitcases, medium / large (when they are moved on they are only allowed one bag).

If anyone has any clothing or a suitcase that they can donate, if you can let me know, I can collect, then I will pass them on.

My email address is janedmaloney@aol.com or phone no. 0775 437 8215.



The Great Agitator by Prof. Stuart Marriot

George Denham of Baxby near Husthwaite in the North Riding of Yorkshire was executed in 1663 for his involvement in the Topcliffe Bridge Plot- a rising in rural North Yorkshire.

Who was he and what were his reasons for featuring in this rebellion?

“The Grand Agitator” by Stuart Marriott seeks to find the answers.

Denham was a junior army officer who served the Cromwellian regime until it collapsed with the Restoration of the Monarchy in 1660.

He returned to his home farm at Baxby in North Yorkshire and plotted an attack on Northallerton, as a prelude to a march on York. For this, he was condemned to death by being “hanged, drawn and quartered”.

George Denham had planned other side shows to the attack on Northallerton, one such being the Topcliffe Bridge Plot. He thought it essential to seize the bridge, an important crossing of the River Swale.

Denham schemed to be everywhere and planned to ride to Topcliffe en route to Northallerton. It was a futile attempt, undermined by inadequate leadership, disagreements and defections.

In the event, the River Swale had burst its banks and flooding made the road impassable - very much the situation the North Riding finds itself in today!

The executions were carried out in January 1664, according to the exact nature of the indictment and subsequently the body parts were sent for display in public places.

On the motivation for the involvement of George Denham in the Treason Plot of 1663, Stuart Marriott is on less sure ground. Consideration of the issues of Quaker religious belief or of political revolution are beyond the scope of this book and require a much more specific and detailed historical approach.

Audrey Raper





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Women's Lives Matter

by Jan Coulthard

I was keen to write about this topic after a phone call from our 15 year old granddaughter: she was driven to do something by the recent murder of a woman walking home, which has been all over the news of late.

She and a friend have permission to give a talk to their whole secondary school on the topic of misogyny, to alert boys and girls from 11 years of age upward of the way girls' and women's lives are affected by male actions, everything from comments and wolf whistles, harassment at school or work, stalking, attacks on transport, to coercive control in the family, violence, rape and murder, a sliding but connected scale.

Their talk will hopefully concentrate on the future, on how things could change, starting with the younger generation. It will be about respect and attitudes, and about how actions however small can seriously affect the recipient, and reveal a lot about the person whose behaviour causes hurt. **Education about respecting the rights and feelings of others should be part of the national curriculum.** It is probably a lot more important than learning how many wives Henry 8th had, though that in itself could be a fruitful area for discussion on the topic of valuing women. That was the 16th century, but this is now. Have things really changed enough?

Violence on the streets, especially from a stranger, is thankfully rare by comparison to "domestic" violence. In 2020 more than 2 women a week were killed in the UK. Abuse by partners is often a hidden crime not reported to the police. Data held by the police can only provide a partial picture of the actual level of abuse in the home. Many cases will not enter the criminal justice process as they go unreported because of fear of partners, or lack of action by the police and Crown Prosecution Service. Indeed, policemen are sometimes the perpetrators.

Living in Leeds as I did during the time of Peter Sutcliffe (the so-called Yorkshire Ripper) was a fearful experience if I or any woman had to go out at night, even into the garden, or go into a car park, or cross a street. Indeed, one of our teaching staff was killed by him nearby. The whole of Leeds was terrified.

Misogyny is about power and control. The effect it creates, in keeping all women down, benefits all men by not letting women have an equal place in society, and it diminishes all men morally who go along with it or don't seek to redress the balance.

Nowadays, girls of our grand-daughter's generation are not willing to let this matter go, and will want stronger measures put in place, opportunities to grow and shine, a legal and social system that supports their rights and the ability to voice their concerns. When countries all across the world deny rights to women and girls, and maintain patriarchy, they are also wasting all the potential of half their population.

It shouldn't have to be a teenage girl who says this.

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Home Library and Information Service

I am an Outreach Librarian, working for North Yorkshire Library Services and I'm writing to tell you about the Home Library Service, a free service for people of all ages who live in North Yorkshire and are unable to get to the library or carry books themselves. It's a personalised service, which offers full access to books, large print, audiobooks, CDs, DVDs, and information. Library staff and volunteers choose books to suit the clients' tastes, and our teams of friendly volunteers deliver the books to their home once a fortnight. Items can be kept for as long as they are needed, there are no fines or overdue charges, and requests are free.

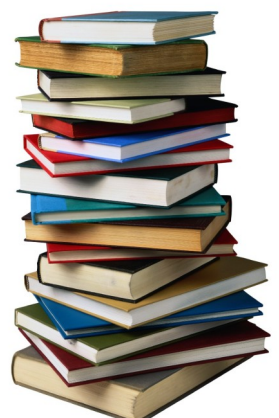
We are doing as much as we can to promote this service - especially during the current circumstances. The service means so much to those that receive it, and it is not just about the books but also about regular visits they get from volunteers. This is a quote from one of our customers:

"Helen and Pauline [delivery volunteers] are such a dynamic duo, they bounce off each other. They're the only people I see most of the time since I can't leave home. I buzz for a week after they come, I'll burst out laughing days later thinking about something Helen has said! I can't praise the library enough, out of all the services that were meant to help me they're the only ones that have actually delivered. It's not just the books, it's the consistency and familiarity - they ground me. I'll lose track of time being on my own without stimulation for so long, but then Thursday comes and I'll be back to myself, it sets me straight for another fortnight. And it's so important that they're familiar faces, they will tell me a little about their lives and ask about me, ask how my son is doing, I value that so much. It's not old age that makes your brain go, it's the isolation - and everyone is always in a hurry, the whole world is in a rush - it's so nice for someone to make time for you."

If you think you might be interested in benefitting from the scheme, or if you would like to know more, please do not hesitate to get in touch, either via email, or on the number below, on the general libraries number 01609 533800, or by contacting your local North Yorkshire library who will be happy to help.

Please note the service is delivered in a Covid secure way, and for the safety of library customers the home delivery volunteers will deliver items on doorsteps (or in another safe place), wear personal protective equipment and maintain social distancing at all times.

Christine Holgate
Outreach Librarian
Central Area
Northallerton Library
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Husthwaite Local History Society

Peter Hutchinson, who grew up in the village, recently wrote an account of the Helmsley-York bus service which the Hutchinson brothers once operated. It is a nostalgic journey around this historic area and conjures up images of local places we haven't been able to visit during the pandemic but are looking forward to doing before long.

Service is perfect freedom

Peter Hutchinson

A nostalgic reminiscence inspired a return to **Coxwoldshire** to follow the route of a 1960s/1970s bus service. Passengers were collected from communities on the hillside villages along the Coxwold- Gilling Gap - a natural corridor between the Hambleton and Howardian Hills and adjacent to the North Yorkshire Moors National Park. This is an area of simple beauty with forested slopes, small streams and lush fields spreading out to the Vale of Pickering in the east and the Vale of York to the west. Tracking the undulating and winding roads in a Morris Minor was originally intended as the main highlight. However, the journey surpassed expectations as the blend of nature with historical and spiritual refuge along the way, emphasised the uniqueness of the area and accounted for the memories of the special people who lived here and especially their sense of service.

Helmsley market square was the starting point. Such a beautiful town, with bustling shops, cultural amenities and a medieval castle symbolising strength and resilience. However, the real gem, in walking distance, is the ruins of a Cistercian Monastery - Rievaulx Abbey. Tall stone columns rise from the Rye valley, with trees that shroud the remains in a glorious protective canopy. You experience a great sense of awe and wonder and appreciate the foundations of early Christianity. This is a marvellous place of peace and inspiration.

The bus route climbed out of Helmsley to **Sproxtun**, stopping adjacent to the tiny but long-standing St Chad's Church. Moving on to **Oswaldkirk** - negotiating a steep incline, parallel to the road is the beautiful St Oswald's Church. Saxon and Norman Christians, set the scene for worship with the simple architectural beauty of their churches. The old and new buildings of **Ampleforth** College - including the Abbey - make quite a contrast to the ancient churches and pretty village cottages. A very tall plain wooden cross - on its woodside location - draws you in. It was the vision of the 1960s



Abbott, later Archbishop of Westminster - Cardinal Basil Hume. Originally in London for the Millennium, the cross is back home. It underlines the meaning of this seat of learning and vocation. The message is universal and eternal. As you travel underneath a quaint footbridge, Ampleforth lies ahead and then it is a very twisty road to **Wass** before we encounter the second magnificent Cistercian ruin - Byland Abbey. Literally feet away stand the stone walls of a huge nave and the remnants of a rose window nestling in the clouds. Byland held an annual ecumenical service - such as one led by Leonard of Birmingham, formerly the legendary Bishop of Singapore.

Entering **Coxwold**, the road is forded like a vehicle cleansing bath to respect the beautiful stone cottages which ascend to the octagonal shaped tower of St Michael's Church. How wonderful the story of Coxwoldshire is: Christian roots, the Norman Conquest and the harrying of the north, the economic development of sheep farming and mining alongside swashbuckling stories of northern invaders. Henry VIII, the Reformation and the Pilgrimage of Grace and later the Civil War, left deep memories of struggle and hardship.

Departing Coxwold, the road crossed the Thirsk and Malton branch railway - a nineteenth century marvel. A neat signal box is a fitting roadside remnant. The tree-line of the old railway runs parallel to Elphin Beck. Heading towards the higher ground of Beacon Banks, there is a fantastic view opposite of the White Horse of **Kilburn** (1857) riding above the multi-coloured fertile fields - the colours changing perpetually according to seasonal light and weather.

A long stop at **Husthwaite** green (awaiting a taxi from Carlton Husthwaite) gave a chance to marvel at the classic Norman architecture of St Nicholas's Church and adjacent the Tudor timbered Black Bull cottage. Returning to Husthwaite after living and working in Los Angeles, a former passenger remarked: "The bus pulling up at the green looked very sweet and comforting. I felt at home and in the right part of the world again." In the 1960s, St Nicholas was led by the inspirational padre, the Reverend Harry Tyler. Leaving Coxwoldshire via **Easingwold**, the A19 gave rapid transport to **Clifton**, the traffic hustle and bustle, the Medieval Walls, Bootham Bar and the welcoming Minster - symbolising the majesty of God. Here literally and metaphorically is the heart of Yorkshire.

The people of Coxwoldshire believe in service to one another in close-knit communities. This journey was a transformational way of understanding where this came from. As the Collect for Peace reminds us: service is perfect freedom.

Note

The photo accompanying the article by Marlene Penman from Canada in the February issue of the Newsletter was of her daughter, not herself. Marlene has been planning a visit to the village and local area for some time and hopes it will come₁ about next year when we hope restrictions will have been lifted. **Angela Ovenston**

Craving New



Four things happened to me over two days recently and all pointed in one direction, towards something new.

Firstly I found myself window shopping whilst out on a walk around a nearby town. Now I am not and never have been a shopper, to me the act of purchasing goods is a functional process not a pleasurable pastime. So this response to shops with window displays that caught my eye, surprised me. I even got to reflect on shopping and felt a pang of longing and this surprised me even more, until I realised what I was looking for.

Secondly I braved a trip into the attic to retrieve long ago packed away decorative items, pictures, treasured gifts made and bought for me by my children, framed family photographs, wall art, etc. Most were stowed nearly 8 years ago, before I moved house and for one reason or another had not seen the light of day since. I had a sudden urge to display my treasures and took such delight in their re-emergence from their hibernation, their wrappings and the effects of my careful cleaning. Where to put them was the next puzzle but my imagination did not let me down and immediately ran wild with ideas for themes for rooms, groupings of items and places to create displays. My collection of Japanese prints, Imari plates and silks in one bedroom, Art Deco items in the dining room, anything with a plant based design for the Garden room. My home became my artists palette. That evening I had a lovely phone catch up with my daughter. She had been rearranging her lounge,

changing the direction her sofa faced, recovered a chair and regrouped vases, lamps and candles. "So it looks different and new Mum ".

The next morning came a chatty call from my sister with a similar story. Her "thing" is using block colour to put outfits together, painting furniture, interior design and producing abstract paintings. She had tried dressing her bedroom in a different colour way but preferred the original so reverted the change and put it back. This strive towards new didn't quite work this time, but the need to try was there.

It got me thinking and I realised that we were all chasing a new outlook. All strong outgoing women, we were unused to spending so much time in our homes, homes we love, cherish and "dress" nevertheless. So we were reinventing them, trying to bring in new to compensate for our restricted ability to explore new outside, craving new.

Zoe Lodge

The Village Hall Committee had a meeting recently and decided that the hall will remain closed until at least 21st June. The Hall will be open for **voting in May**, NYCC have approved it and will manage social distancing policies. For all other events, June 21st is the earliest date but it depends on the situation. We unfortunately can't guarantee we will be open at all. We will of course continue to monitor the situation every month.

Sheila Mowatt

News from Husthwaite ex-pat (now in Easingwold!)

I have missed the walks round the village--often at a slow pace (thank God) with Linda D-- but in my new house I have been patient in this pandemic--trying always to use local people (as ever)--and sympathetically learning new skills of patience.

Recently I have had a left eye cataract op. and am waiting for revelations. In the meantime, you can revel in my new bathroom and cloakroom. carpeted bedrooms, and shudder at the thought of the dust to be endured from the kitchen work. I have had a lot of support from Rory Watt and Mark Westaby since I moved here in November since when it seems to have rained...unless it snowed ! I do hope that all will be well soon.

Jill Galloway

St Nicholas' Notes

Good News

From April and until further notice, we are once more able to open the Church here in Husthwaite for regular services. The first such service will be on **Easter Day - 4th April** this year - and we would love to welcome as many people to this occasion as we are permitted to fit into the building!

Other services in April and May are:

4th April - Easter Day - Holy Communion

11th April - 2nd Sunday of Easter - Holy Communion

25th April - 4th Sunday of Easter - Worship for All

9th May - 6th Sunday of Easter - Holy Communion

23rd May - Pentecost - Worship for All

Covid precautions:

- Please contact Liz (01347 868587) to 'book' a place (for you and anyone in your 'bubble')
- Remember to bring your face mask which should be worn inside the church (unless you are covered by the exceptions laid down in the government regulations)

Be prepared to leave your contact details with the person 'taking the register' at the door (not obligatory)

Village Link (the Parish Magazine for the villages of Brandsby, Carlton Husthwaite, Coxwold, Crayke, Husthwaite, Oulston, Wass and Yearsley)

The next (April) edition of the *Village Link* will be delivered at the end of March, at about the same time as the *Newsletter*. These are delivered directly to subscribers' homes. If you would like to receive this regularly, please contact either Sue (868439) or John (868347).

John Ovenston



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Draft Minutes of the Remote Meeting of Husthwaite Parish Council Wednesday 10th March 2021

Present: C. Fenwick (Chair), C. Colton (CC), J. Don (JD), J. Law (JL), B. Smith (BS), E. Smith (ES), R. Alexander (RA).

Apologies: County Councillor C. Patmore (CP).

Declarations of Interest: None.

Minutes of the previous meeting: The minutes of the last parish council meeting were approved and signed as a true record.

Matters Arising:

25 Year Environmental Plan: JL is hoping to make some progress with this plan during spring and summer. It was suggested that we try to involve our young parishioners in some activities by focussing our objectives on realistic and achievable environmental improvements in the area.

Community Right to bid on Husthwaite pub: The YLCA 'Good Councillors Guide to Community Business' has been received and forwarded to Councillors. It is understood that the pub is now under new ownership but the PC are aware of a new Government Community Ownership Fund initiative offering £250,000 to purchase pubs at risk of closure and will continue to monitor the situation until we are sure that the pub will remain open.

Christmas Tree support base on Village Green: The metal cap fitted to the tree support base is slightly raised above ground-level and Councillors considered several options for reducing this trip hazard. CF will ask for quotes to turf around the base and also investigate the creation of a bespoke village signpost which can be permanently attached to the cap. The PC accepted a quote of £54 (Post £20, P&P £25, VAT £9) from Marmax Products Ltd. for a recycled plastic fence post to replace the existing post that is rotting in front of the benches and this will be installed when received. **Action: CF**

Position of Clerk to Husthwaite Parish Council: An advertisement for the position of Clerk will be placed in the April / May newsletter. **Action: CF**

HDC Making a Difference Fund: Our application has now been submitted to the panel for consideration.

Bier House Roof: A builder has inspected the Bier House and stated that the root cause of the problem is ivy growing between the tiles. In his opinion the tiles are still in good condition but should be removed and the roof re-latted and felted

before they are replaced. In addition the top lintel in the north wall needs replacing and maybe the window too. He expected the task to take about a week to complete and he would need to erect scaffolding for safety purposes. His quote is awaited and CF will attempt to request more quotes before the next meeting. In the meantime, Farm & Land Services will be asked to remove the problematic ivy.

Action: CF

Cemetery Cremation Plots: The area behind the cemetery bench was considered a suitable location for the placement of memorial plaques for those who have been cremated. A numbered plan showing the location of each 2' x 2' plot has been produced and the first plaque, for an ex-parishioner, will be installed shortly.

Matters that have arisen between meetings:

Elphin View Traffic Issues: A letter has been received from residents of this narrow cul-de-sac detailing the damage caused to property and vehicles by delivery vans attempting to turn around in the limited space available. They suggest that a No Through Road / No Turning sign be erected at the entrance, adjacent to the Elphin View street-sign, to dissuade drivers from entering the cul-de-sac. It was agreed to ask NYCC Highways if this is possible and, if not, to source a suitable sign that the PC could erect. **Action: CF**

Kendrew Green: Keith Gittens has informed the PC that AONB have confirmed their funding for the cutting of Kendrew Green for a further year and the PC agreed to support this cutting regime for 2021. On 30th January a vehicle crashed through the railings and drove across the grass towards Highborne Lane. The owner of the vehicle has replaced the fencing and the Police have confirmed that no further action will be taken against them.

Consultation on the reorganisation of Local Government in North Yorkshire: As the PC have not been formally asked to comment on these proposals, Councillors were encouraged to respond individually to the consultation.

Planning and Financial Matters: Detailed account available on the Husbwaite PC website.

HDC Parish Liaison Meeting: The last meeting was cancelled due to Coronavirus restrictions.

Highways: CP reported the state of Highborne Lane and Woolpots Lane to Area 2 Highways.

Neighbourhood Watch: A new Community Champions initiative has been launched by the Neighbourhood Watch Association. A poster asking for volunteers who are willing to learn new skills, raise awareness of crime prevention and promote Neighbourhood Watch in the community will be displayed in the PC noticeboard.

Public Footpaths: The footpath between the Recreation Area and the Nookin is still flooded in parts,. This has been reported to NYCC but no action has been taken to date. On a recent inspection of the Recreation Area, it was noted that some trees from the banking adjacent to PROW 10.70/1/1 have either fallen into the stream or are now leaning precariously across the stream onto trees that are situated on the Recreation Area perimeter. According to NYCC, the trees are the responsibility of the landowner to the south of the PROW and they suggest that a land registry search will confirm ownership. CF will enquire locally about who is responsible and will assess what maintenance is required to make the area safe and ensure the stream is not blocked.

Recreation Area: Tennis Courts Yorkshire have now ceased trading but a quote of £3300 + VAT for the cleaning and repainting of the MUGA surface has been obtained from Pavescape Sports Surfaces. In addition, they have quoted £1250 + VAT for the installation of a land drain to the north of the MUGA to prevent water from the school fields running across the court. If our application to HDC MAD fund is successful, the work will be completed in the summer.

Farm & Land Services will be asked to cut and remove the shrub growth from around the perimeter of the Recreation Area and clear the moss from the cemetery paths. The PC agreed to leave two wildflower meadow islands in the Woodland & Wildlife Area as last year.

Street Lighting: Streetlight number 17 in Highborne Lane is faulty beyond repair and a new column has been ordered and will be installed within 6-8 weeks.

Village Hall: The village hall will remain closed until at least 21st June when Coronavirus restrictions are lifted. The defibrillator pads are now out of date so CF will order replacements. **Action: CF**

YLCA: CF attended the remote meeting on 17th February 2021 at which there was only 10 attendees. Presentations were given by Simon Wright from NYCC Resilience & Emergencies Team and Tim Townsend from the Ready for Anything volunteer scheme. Other items discussed were Councillor & Clerk online training and the YLCA Internal Audit Checklist.

Reports from County & District Councillors: As no Councillors were in attendance, no reports were given.

The Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner elections will take place on Thursday 6th May.

The 2021 Census for England & Wales will take place on Sunday 21st March 2021.

Date & Time of next Meeting: The next meeting will be held remotely on Wednesday 5th May 2021 after the **Annual Meeting** which is scheduled for 7:00pm.

PARISH CLERK VACANCY

The Parish Council are looking for a new Clerk. The applicant will be expected to deal with the day-to-day administration of the Council so must have excellent communication skills, be computer literate and able to work from home.

In addition, the Clerk must be willing to attend the evening meetings of Husthwaite Parish Council (usually held bi-monthly in the Village Hall) to take the minutes. The job is not onerous and the meetings quite informal, so if you are interested or would like to find out more (including the salary) before committing yourself, please contact us at husthwaitepc@hotmail.co.uk

We look forward to hearing from you.

Husthwaite Parish Council



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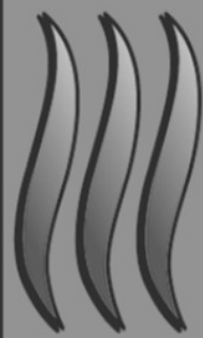


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Tough Times

Since Christmas, we had a relatively long spell of cold winter weather, and while our focus was on surviving a second Covid lockdown, our local birdlife was having its own battle for survival. Our local garden birds were coming regularly to feeders to obtain enough energy to keep out the persistent cold. Not all were successful. A visiting Long-tailed Tit succumbed towards the end of the period, no doubt one of many.



It weighed in at 6gms, normal weight would be 7.7 to 8gms, so well under weight.

Around the same time, I also heard reports of dead Barn Owls. When there is snow lying for any length of time they struggle as their food source, mice and voles, are hidden and as a result they starve.

Also, in February there were reports of Woodcock on the east coast. These were birds that had flown over the North Sea due to bad weather in Scandinavia and were desperate to find food. Many made it here and survived but there were reports of washed-up birds, the ones that didn't. Very sad.



Other regular winter visitors include the thrushes, Redwing and Fieldfare. They arrived in October and could regularly be seen raiding the berries of Hawthorn and Blackthorn bushes along the old railway line. Now they will be starting to move back north to their Scandinavian breeding grounds. A lot of farmland small birds don't visit feeders and have to find food where they can, but with many fields in monoculture and under snow, finding food can be difficult. It has been pleasing to see on our winter lockdown walks seed crops in the fields of Baxby Manor, specifically for feeding birds. The result has been a large flock of some 250 plus birds

feeding in these fields on a daily basis. The flock consisted of Linnet, Goldfinch, Chaffinch, Bullfinch, Greenfinch, Yellowhammer, Reed Bunting and Tree Sparrow which were a pleasure to watch. There were reports of similar flocks in other parts of Yorkshire where wildlife friendly crops had been sown. Well done to the farmers who give over some of their land for the benefit of wildlife.

Now we have turned the corner the weather is improving; bird song is once again starting to fill the air and the breeding season will be getting underway. Where there have been losses these will hopefully be regained. Roll on spring!

Keith Gittens

A Piece About Shopping

(I couldn't think of a better title: Ed.)

Jan Coulthard, who has worked tirelessly to find content for the newsletter, (my underlining: Ed) asked a few people to write a piece on shopping, either online or supermarket. Well, she has unwittingly touched on a topic which engenders existential angst in the moral maze of the current pandemic.

A brief warning that this piece includes slight exaggerations, suppressed annoyance, mild sexual references and opinions some people might find offensive. There is a helpline number at the end for anyone whose sensibilities have been offended.

Positives about supermarket shopping.

Firstly it is a day trip. We always pack a flask of coffee, rug and two uncomfortable chairs in the boot. Halfway to York there is an unsheltered lay-by where we have our drink whilst reading the Daily Mail and becoming aware of the latest news and liberal thinking.

At the supermarket we put the second-hand child seat bought from the charity shop, in the rear, enabling us to park in the parent and child bays. I understand the reasons why parents need a huge amount of space to park. It helps when unloading 4x4 pushchairs and wilful children and protects childless parkers from bodywork damage by leaving a wide safety zone.



A lesser person might question why they have to park so close. Surely their youth and their children's tendency to obesity could be better served by parking at the very edge of the car park .

Once inside, the shelves stacked full of food provide a thoughtful and slightly incongruous backdrop to a society where so many depend on foodbanks. However, these rather socialist thoughts evaporate when temptation beckons at the far aisles. There lies the whole of the national curriculum. Geography, Empire, Science, Art, Languages and Mathematics. 25% off 6 bottles! The top shelf! As magnetic as the one at the newsagents that fortunately never damaged our eyesight as mothers predicted. The supermarket top shelf similarly houses the unattainable: Premier Grand Cru, Chateau bottled Sauterne and Newcastle Brown Ale.

Negatives.

Well, where to start. The main issue is when your spouse meets someone they worked with thirty years ago and both start a conversation they wish had not happened. They ask about Molly and thankfully we have a pre-printed card to give out detailing a long list of disappointments and failures. This discourages any follow up enquiries. In retaliation we find out they have had five offspring who have been unfailing successful. All have read Proust before they could talk, eat

pea risotto with shaved truffle as their first solids, play Paganini on the violin and gain a pre-pubescent first at Oxford. It's always a pleasure to point out that such success will inevitably lead to cocaine addiction, failed rehabs, membership of the Bullingdon Club, uncertain sexuality and a position on the Tory front bench. There to award their chums multi-million pound contracts to supply unusable PPE. After that the rest of the shop is spent hiding down aisles to avoid embarrassed re-engagement.

The final despair is choosing which queue to join at the checkout while trying to maintain social distance and avoid Covid. I should admit that spotting the shortest queue is a male obsession. Too often however we are hijacked by a person vainly fumbling in front for invalid coupons, leaving for forgotten items or engaging the cashier in idle chit chat. By this stage all any of us want to do is to escape. Incidentally, when I shop by myself I always buy a 'Meal for 2' to avoid the slightly pitying looks reserved for single elderly gentlemen.

Online Shopping

This has become the preferred option for those that can afford it. It is, perhaps, more enjoyable because it is a bit of a game - getting an affordable delivery slot before bedtime, selecting essential items not 'greyed out' and forgetting to remove the two bottles of gin put in initially to hold the booking.

There the pleasure stops. Checking out is a cleverly calculated, long drawn out process in which you are interrogated by the site on whether you need more of your 'favourites', camouflaged cholesterol, special offers and acceptable substitutes... and being asked every time if we want a Brita water purifier. No bloomin' thank you! We don't live on the Nookin.

When the van arrives outside the house, judgements are made by others and you are pigeonholed. Asda? Morrisons? Where is the Waitrose van going? A bit reminiscent of people who felt obliged to put their Netto shopping in a M&S carrier bag.

Finally, the true pandemic heroes. Sainsburys drivers! It's OK to clap for the medical profession but don't get carried away and generalise. Have people forgotten the like of Crippen, Shipman, Mengele and Dr No? Not all are angels eh?

Sainsburys' drivers are based in Middlesbrough. As a friend of that place whose favourite pub was 'over the border', need I say more? Their heavily armoured vehicles follow a different route through South Bank every time to ensure our supplies of avocado, smoked salmon and oversweet prosecco get through. Their pleasant chat is devoid of any issues regarding planning permission, pine needles overwhelming a pavement or how appalling it would be for the Tomahawk to become an Indian Takeaway. I frequently tap a spoon on my aluminium kneecap for them.

The conclusion? I hate shopping of any sort.

Lawrie Hill

A Different Year in the Garden

A whole year has now passed since the horrors of Covid 19 hit the world. As the sad and worrying story unfolded, our seasons have moved on from Spring to Summer, Autumn, Winter and back to Spring, following the same reassuring pattern as they always have.

Here in Husthwaite, we are lucky to have the space to get out and enjoy these changes and many of us have been doing it in the safety of our gardens. The lockdowns have been frustrating, but at least life continued almost normally at home. I say almost, because we haven't been able to share our gardens with friends and family; no summer barbecues, no village Open Gardens, no children's parties. But at least we could enjoy the fresh air and the simple pleasure of growing things, perhaps for the first time. A few hours spent gardening is so good for the body and soul; we get physical exercise, mental relaxation and a sense of achievement. There is no wonder that some doctors are prescribing gardening. Getting gardening supplies has created some challenges though.

Last Spring I queued in the car park at Thirsk Garden Centre as a member of staff came out, took my order and brought the potting compost and onion sets to me, their choice, but I was grateful to get anything. Other local nurseries devised one way systems where everyone shunted on at two metres distance like a goods train, patiently heading towards the tills. Some Husthwaite folk helped fellow villagers: Simon and Jane organised a mass purchase of potting

compost. Keith and June donated hundreds of unsaleable plug plants to the village. Let us hope that 2021 will be more like normal.



Meanwhile, we are now in the busiest season for the gardener. Everything is bursting into life in rapid succession, starting with the spring bulbs: snowdrops, crocus, narcissi and bluebells. Flowering shrubs follow on: forsythia, prunus, magnolias, camellias. Don't forget nettles, goose grass, couch grass,

dandelions and docks. Yes, there are baddies as well as goodies and we must keep on top of the weeds before they get out of hand.

But there are more pleasant jobs too. Have you sown any seeds yet? Sweet peas are one of the earliest and should be growing well under glass now. My Gardener's Delight tomatoes have germinated in the dining room and will soon be pricked out into individual three inch pots. Other seeds are waiting for the right time to be started, the idea being that they are ready for planting out in the first week of June. "Ne'er cast a clout 'til May be out!", although there is some discussion about whether this refers to the month of May, or the hawthorn blossom which luckily comes at about the same time.

Now is the time to finish pruning your roses and group 3 clematis such as the late large flowered hybrids and viticellas. Every three years or so, herbaceous perennials should be lifted around this time, split and the more vigorous outer parts replanted. If it's not too wet, give the lawn its first cut (at a high setting, please.)

One job to avoid for the next few months is hedge cutting; we don't want to upset nesting birds. Not all wildlife is the gardener's friend, though. I'm thinking of rabbits, pigeons and possibly deer. It can



be so frustrating to see your new shoots of growth reduced to pathetic stumps overnight. Surround them in netting, cover them with fleece or mount night patrols because those cute, furry bunnies will have them as soon as your back is turned. I suppose they are a disadvantage to gardening in Hushwaite, but I am prepared to accept such a drawback if it comes with living in such a beautiful village.

I wouldn't want to be anywhere else during lockdown.

Mike Wells

NEWS FROM HUSTHWAITE CE PRIMARY SCHOOL & APPLE TREE NURSERY

Part of the Husthwaite and Sessay CE Primary Federation



The Spring term did not start as everyone had hoped and we entered another phase of school closure. Like the first closure, school was open for children of critical workers and vulnerable children and once again, as a Federation, we were able to offer school places for all those who were eligible to attend. The Federation operated out of the Husthwaite site and remote learning started immediately for all children whether they were in school or learning at home remotely. The reliance on new technologies and digital devices has increased as remote learning transitioned to Google Classroom. This has been a learning journey for staff, children and parents. The support from the community in helping us ensuring access to digital devices for all our children has been amazing. People kindly donated their defunct devices which were given a new lease of life as well as receiving offers of help from organisations offering to loan laptops, and individual donors who have enabled us to purchase additional devices for use both in school and loan out to families for use at home.



Remote learning included live and pre-recorded lessons, independent activities, practical tasks and outdoor learning. Despite the challenging circumstances of school closure, we maintained many routines for all children including virtual PE sessions, collective worship, celebrating events for example World Book Day with a fabulous virtual question and answer session with an author and of course our weekly celebration

assemblies. Pupils and staff from Husthwaite School were even able to participate in a Lands End to John O'Groats LeJog virtual challenge coordinated by a parent. A great way for everyone to collectively work together and an incentive to get outdoors and keep active! Pupils recorded and reported their mileage (they could walk, run, cycle or scoot) and a school record of how far on the journey we had travelled was kept and reported on regularly. It was amazing that by end of the first

half term, all 875 miles had been covered and John O’Groats had been reached safely!

The re-opening of schools was much welcomed by the whole school community as we returned to familiar routines and a certain degree of normality. On Monday 8th March the children bounced back in through the school gates with smiles on their faces - the buzz was and is back in school! Children in Class 3 were asked to write a few sentences on “What have you enjoyed about coming back to school and what are you looking forward to?” A unanimous response from everyone - they all have enjoyed seeing their friends again, face to face and not on a screen! One pupil expressed enjoyment in being able to write on paper with a pen rather than typing - another notable change to their recent remote learning experiences. With regards what they were most looking forward to, there was a wider range of responses. including going on school trips, having music lessons in school and taking part in sports events. The most favourable theme that children were looking forward to outside of school was not having a birthday in lockdown and being able to enjoy a birthday with a party and friends. No different to how all us adults feel!

Spring is in the air and the school grounds are starting to burst into colour! Everyone is looking forward to warmer weather as outdoor learning continues to be encouraged and ventilation in classrooms remains a prerequisite of school opening. If the roadmap out of lockdown goes to plan, we are hoping to be able to start educational visits to support learning in our broad, balanced and active curriculum once again in the summer term.

We are really looking forward to being able to invite parents, volunteers and the community back into school and school events being back to ‘normal’ hopefully very soon.

Sarah Dixon (School Business Manager)



Husthwaite CE Primary School



Richard Chapman, Class 3 Teacher, asked his pupils: “What have you enjoyed about coming back to school?” and also “What are you most looking forward to?”



I have enjoyed playing with my friends, and school work. I am most looking forward to going on school trips. JC

I have enjoyed seeing friends in person, playing other games and seeing people face-to-face. It's nice not to have screens right in front of your face. When lockdown is fully over, I would love to go on a school trip, be able to have more contact sports and to have clubs back on. Millie Fletcher

I have enjoyed talking. I want to camp on the school ground. Seb Thornton

I am enjoying seeing my friends at school and playing with them. I am looking forward to meeting friends in person and having big parties. Peter

I have enjoyed seeing friends and classmates again physically. After lockdown I am most looking forward to celebrating my birthday with my friends. Alex

I've enjoyed socially interacting with people and playing football. After lockdown I'm most looking forward to going to the park and skating with my friends. Freddie

I have enjoyed seeing people in person and being able to play with them. I'm most excited about going on school trips and High School transition, and camping on the school field. Lily B.

Since being at school I have really enjoyed seeing my friends and teachers. I am most looking forward to fully interacting with my friends and other classes. Also, having school trips. Bethan S.

I have enjoyed playing tig with my friends and seeing them in person. I am most looking forward to camping in the school field and going on school trips. Zaria

I have enjoyed seeing my friends, playing with them and having hot meals. I am excited to go on school trips and meeting up with a group of friends. Stella

I have enjoyed seeing all my friends and playing football with them. I also enjoyed having hot meals and actually physically seeing and talking. I am most looking forward to going on a school trip, hanging out with my friend and school clubs coming back. George

I have enjoyed interacting with people and teachers, and being able to be around

children my age. I am looking forward to having music teachers back in school (because when you're online sometimes you can't hear each other) honestly just seeing them in person. Harriet Wharton

I have enjoyed playing sports with my friends. We play football and all sorts of games. I am looking forward to going to the park with my friend. We always used to go before lockdown. Dominic Gill

I have enjoyed seeing my friends and teachers and hearing people for once. I look forward to playing with my friends in Class 2 and sharing food. Charlie Harber

I have enjoyed being able to touch people, I like friendship and want clubs to open up again. I have enjoyed seeing teachers and getting help from them. I've also enjoyed playing football with my friend.. C J Hannah

Thank you, Class 3!



Bangers and Cash!

Bangers & Cash cameraman, John Anderson, filming Stan with his **Renault Caravelle** for a new series on UK TV.

The old programmes have been shown over 200 times and could now be shown worldwide.

Pauline Smith



Photo from AONB of junction above Highthorne Lane

Highthorne Lane Planning Decision

Last July an application for outline planning permission was submitted by a York builder to build three bungalows and two houses on the South side of Highthorne Lane.

The site is currently agricultural land with views to open countryside from Highthorne Lane and its approaches; from Kendrew Green and the bridleway to Flower O' May. Kendrew Green is at the southern end of the village conservation area and its maintenance is funded and supervised by the AONB. It overlooks the development site and includes a bench much used by cyclists and walkers, specifically sited to admire the view directly down the valley across the Vale of York to the distant Pennines.

The development site includes the ancient hedgerow, which gives Highthorne Lane its name; DEFRA shows the field as being part of a broader area of special protection for its natural habitat and species,

The planning officer's 10-page report to Hambleton District Council's Planning Committee listed 35 relevant planning policies restricting development on this site.

His report advised that the development:

- Would be suburban in character and would be incongruous;
- Is located only yards from the Husthwaite Conservation Area and forms part of the wider rural setting to the village;
- Is visible from public highways and footpaths, both within and on the approach to the area;
- Fails to reflect the character of development within the wider village;
- Will lead to the significant loss of the ancient hedgerow;

Would read as an obvious anomaly within the landscape;
Cannot be adapted within the existing infrastructure of the village because of the need to provide a pavement and to widen the road, neither of which is an appropriate design response in this location.

Despite the large number of public objections and the planning officer's recommendation to **REFUSE** the application, it was **APPROVED** by district councillors at their October meeting.

The reason given in the minutes is *"the proposed development would not result in an unacceptable loss of openness and would have no harmful impact on the significance of the conservation area"*. This short statement does little more than contradict the conclusions reached by the planning officer, without any reference to how the application and the decision can be reconciled with the clear requirements outlined in the planning officer's report.

Several people have complained about this outcome (not least as **none** of the Planning Committee members visited the site) and have requested more information; no further explanations have been forthcoming from the Council.

Specialist legal advice on the Planning Committee's processes/conclusions, noted that in approving this outline planning application when the recommendation of the planning officer was refusal; where there was substantial documented public opposition; where the outline application was a major departure from the local Development Plan and from the specific policies that restricted development on this site, the Committee:

*"Did not provide a 'formulated statement of reasons' for the decision;
Did not consider all the material;
Did not provide minutes of sufficient detail to provide public explanation of the immediate impact of this development and its lasting relevance for the application of policy in future cases;
Had not evidenced an understanding of the nature and extent of the departure from the Development Plan and the planning policy framework and therefore could not consider on a proper basis whether such a departure is justified;
Had misdirected itself because the decision process was flawed and the decision itself, irrational in planning terms."*

The District Council refutes this analysis simply stating that *"...insofar as the Council was under a duty to give reasons for the decision, reasons for the 2 principal issues were given by the Council as set out in the minutes"*.

Requests to the Council to review and revoke the decision because of these flaws

have been refused.

The developer has now gone forward with the plans and a further planning application has been submitted (Ref. 21/00115/REM)

This latest application has some significant changes to the original outline application, which confirm earlier fears:

The boundary has been extended to include a mature Horse Chestnut Tree. Before Christmas, a contractor began to remove the tree but was stopped by angry residents. All the trees in this area now have Tree Preservation Orders on them;
The development will dominate Highthorne Lane. The bungalow at the West end will be at the same height as the roof level of the house opposite;
The slope will be excavated to provide level plots and there will be an irregular retaining wall running behind the properties up to first floor height;
The larger house is now described as a 'self-build'.
The two houses are larger than originally outlined and the dimensions have increased. The larger house has accommodation over three floors and a two-storey triple garage. It fills a relatively small garden plot;
The hedgerow will largely disappear with the road widening, pavement and driveways.

This is happening when there are already outline planning permissions for 26 dwellings in Husthwaite, (a 14% growth), all within the village Development Area.

When the Parish Council organised the consultation on the **Parish Plan**, one of the major areas of interest was the environment and the Plan summarises local sentiment as follows:

“There is no doubt that the people living in Husthwaite love their village’s beautiful rural setting and wish to see it carefully managed. Questions about the local environment attracted some of the largest response rates. All the ‘green’ areas within the village were mentioned. The most popular were the Village Green followed by Kendrew Green. Respondents also value the local walks with their views of open space surrounding the village.”

The fear is that due to this change in national planning policy, this radical departure on Highthorne Lane will inevitably lead to more development in open countryside. We should be really concerned about the decision that has led to this and its implications for the future shape and environment of our community.

Philip Hewitson

A message from Jan and Andrew Coulthard



Yorkshire Air Ambulance (YAA) is a dedicated helicopter emergency air ambulance for the Yorkshire and the Humber region of England. It was established in October 2000, and currently operates Airbus H145 aircraft. It is an independent charity that relies solely on the donations of individuals and organisations. It is entirely funded by the public and it costs £12,000 a day to keep the helicopters maintained and in the air. YAA are truly grateful for every donation they receive, no matter how big or how small, or if it's a one off or a re-occurring donation.

As technology and medical techniques advance, regular donations enable YAA to make life saving developments. Regular donations are easily set up to come out once a month by Direct Debit and can be as little or as much as you choose.

Its mission statement is to provide, deliver and develop with integrity, transparency and pride, state-of-the-art emergency response air ambulances for the protection of human life across Yorkshire and its environs.

Medical and paramedic staff are provided by local hospitals and the Yorkshire Ambulance Service. The resident population and visitors to Yorkshire finance the air ambulance by donations, and various fund-raising events. In the year ending March 2020, the charity raised £8.3 million. It spent £5.0M, of which £3.3M was used to operate the air ambulance service.

YAA have made many life-saving trips to our village and the surrounding countryside over the years, and recently. You never know, as we didn't, when you may need them. They are amazing people.

If you wish to donate or find out more, visit info@yaa.org.uk

Camping and Glamping are the Future!

We are busy preparing to open up again at Baxby Manor, a year after the first abrupt lockdown order in 2020! Back then it was uncharted territory for everyone, (still is in some respect), however we now have processes in place and although the amount of admin had been suffocating we can at least now provide well rehearsed responses to the thousands of queries we have received over the last 12 months!

The treehouse, Rufus's Roost, can re-open to single households only from the 12th April and we are now taking bookings well into 2023! Just this week someone booked the Christmas week 2023, can you believe it! The Hideaway although also able to open from the 12th of April cannot open with the shared facilities in use until May 17th so we have decided to wait until then, to the Friday the 21st, to open fully.

Due to the amount of uncertainty even with the impressive vaccine rollout we are still playing it safe and restricting the numbers of guests at The Hideaway. We have blocked out almost every other pitch for the whole of 2021 and will be running at a capacity of around 60-70%. This is not only for peace of mind for our customers but also for ourselves and our staff.

The number of bookings and enquiries since the Prime Minister's announcement back in February has been phenomenal! We are pretty much full all weekends and school holidays already! I think the fact that people are so desperate to get out and about and the fact that camping and glamping is out in the fresh air has certainly aided this influx. Camping is seen as a 'safe' option. I believe people will appreciate the great outdoors a lot more now! Covid albeit slowly being brought under control will be around for a long time and people are more than aware of this so I think the thought of hundreds of people being packed tightly into small spaces such as in planes and at other public places and events will make people think twice and perhaps they will decide to go for the 'safer' option of activities and holidays that are outdoors-based.

I personally cannot see the numbers of international holidays ever making it back to the levels they were at pre-covid, and that for businesses such as The Hideaway can only be a good thing. There is plenty to do and see in this country and with all of the varied and sometimes whacky glamping options that there are out there now I think there is something for everyone. If only we could have guaranteed warmth and sunshine from Easter to October half term.....!!

Barney Smith

Glamping Chief



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My Doll's House

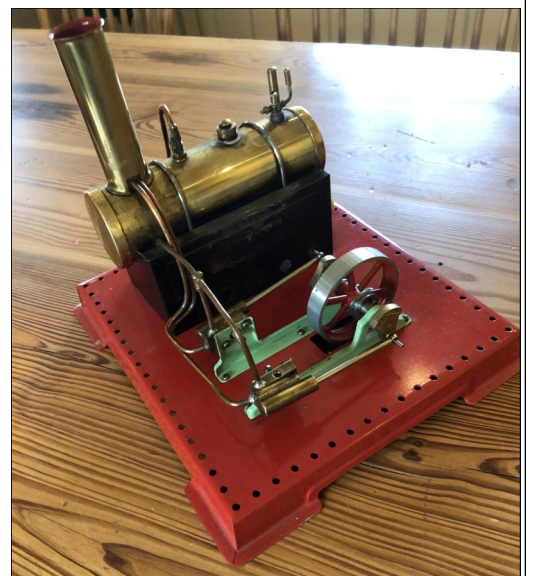
Depending on your circumstances, many people are now financially enabled to fill a gap that was impossible during their early years. For some it is a flashy car, a mistress set up in a glitzy Tang Hall apartment etc...

Well, given my childhood which was characterised by poverty, violence, rickets and feet worn to the bone on the Jarrow March, the choice was clear. A Mamod steam engine. These were either a moving version (tractor or steamroller) or stationary version. They worked by setting fire (often uncontrollably) to water contained in a boiler. The resulting steam powered a piston which drove the tractor's wheels or in the case of a stationary engine just, well, powered the piston. However, like revving the throttle on a motorbike, that was thrilling enough.

Therefore, a few years ago, I bought a Mamod stationary engine used only once since 1961. Quite rare. The lack of use was explained by the seller that, during its first steaming on Christmas Day 1961, his mother whisked it away declaring it unsafe. Recently found whilst clearing his parents' garage, it was now being sold to help fund a knee replacement. A blessing the future is a closed book.

Now, the main purpose of buying a fast car might be to parade it at speed around our village with a casual royal wave at pedestrians. Owning and collecting rather useless model steam engines is, however, something to keep quiet about and still retain some semblance of credibility. I tried sharing but stopped after glazed looks and lack of any real interest.

To give some sense of purpose to a stationary engine, I bought steam tools that could be belt driven by the engine. Mamod ones were rather garish in bright reds and blues compared to their German counterparts. These, unsurprisingly, had a rather threatening and questionable functionality. Their names, 'eccentric punch', 'shaper' and 'friction press' could have been names from the Inquisition. I bought a few and planned to fix these tools to a length of wood and run them from a Wilesco (German) engine. I asked Andrew (Coulthard), in some sense a



fellow traveller, for his thoughts. Not being one for a basic solution: “Build a factory!” Fortunately he offered to help with the structure.

I made a plan and we (I use the word ‘we’ in its loosest sense) built the wooden framework.

Tasks after that:

Work out how to link and position lineshafts and pulleys to drive the tools. The engine had limited power/torque and the gearing was trial and error as well as being constantly revised. This proved the hardest, yet most important part.

Learning about electric circuits, soldering and how not to blow bulbs was a challenge. As was placing the lights, and concealing the wiring.

The last step was to paint and detail the set. I had built sets before for plays but this was different in scale and purpose. When asked, I called it a ‘doll’s house’ to deflect any interest.

I use the words ‘dolls house’ in another sense as one way forward was to follow a path I had seen in similar models. This was to use materials supplied for that purpose. However, those and similar items seemed out of character. I also thought that no Victorian factory would have brass chandeliers, Chippendale chairs and Louis 14th tables.

I went for a ‘distressed’ look with muted greens and greys and the interior made from old plumbing piping, remnants found in the workshop, coffee stirrers, wooden skewers, balsa....etc. Architects make models with foam board and that I used for the floor and roof.

The eagle-eyed might spot only 3 workers where there should be more. This was before we were in the EU and had all the benefits of workers’ rights, health and safety legislation and real ice cream...just sayin’. Once it was completed, I made a video of the factory working to show Andrew and he passed it on. I was astonished by the positive response. Anyone interested can view it here: <https://bit.ly/3cwUJer>

I tried to work out why I had enjoyed it so much and realised it was just ‘making’ something. Normally stuff we do is pressurised by standards, expectations and a range of other criteria that can suck the joy out of creating anything at all. We had that enjoyment of ‘making’ as children but somehow that evaporated growing up.

So, my ‘doll’s house’ holds only marginal interest now, its purpose served. It is in a damp shed and will be sold soon. However, during one of our video chats with (daughter) Molly I explained its days were numbered. She got

rather weepy and said
“No, please don’t sell it!
I want it when you’re...
when you’re...”

I knew where this was
going so I offered her an
alternative. A shoebox
packed with almost
clean socks, an old
shoe...

Lawrie Hill

*Right: Exterior of the
factory.*

*Below: Close up of half
of the factory which has
working models of
machines.*





See page 37 for article and details.

This photo does not do justice to the amazing construction of a factory made by Lawrie Hill. The details are beautifully rendered and the machines work, with tiny belts propelling them into motion. The model measures 1x0.5 metres. It has to be seen working, and can be viewed online at <https://bit.ly/3cwUJJer> but hopefully, when the village hall is reopened, Lawrie would be willing to do a demonstration of how it works for those interested!

Editor