

## VILLAGE HALL DROP-IN DAY

On the centre pages of this Newsletter Elaine Smith and Roy Leverton outline the work of the New Village Hall Steering Committee and present the choices which, in their opinion, face the village.

Sunday 12th January 10.00am - 4.00pm

Drop in to the Village Hall to inspect plans for the new Hall. Discuss your concerns with Committee members in informal surroundings.  
Make your choice.

There will be a voting box on your way out.

The results of your votes will decide the future of this project. In the meantime, feel free to contact any member of the Steering Committee (phone numbers below) or the **Newsletter** Editor, Richard Wood.

### Steering Group Members

Elaine Smith (Chairman) 868572      Andrew James 868670  
Stephen Barker 868259      William Skinner 868673  
Andrew Black 868368      Audrey Raper 868688  
John Goddard 868691      Angela Whenman 868373  
Roy Leverton 868439      Philip Hewitson 868570

## Husthwaite Newsletter

This **Newsletter** can become a regular feature of Husthwaite life.

It is true that the **Newsletter** will be jointly financed by the Parish Council and the Village Hall Committee, but it has been clearly negotiated that the paper is to have editorial independence. That means it will attempt

- (i) to report what is of interest to the village
- (ii) to reflect the full range of the concerns and interests of village people.

There are many ways for you take this opportunity, such as

- (i) Write your own articles. Send them by letter, phone or email to the Editor.
- (ii) Write letters expressing your opinions on village matters and on what you have read in the **Newsletter**.

(iii) Advertise: For Sale or Wanted

Rates for the next issue: 1 adults 50p kids

Businesses interested in a big space, please phone to negotiate a rate.

01347 868247 Falcon Cottage tykescript@lineone.net

# Husthwaite

jointly published by the Parish Council

and the Village Hall Committee

December 2002

# Newsletter

## DONT MISS THE VILLAGE HALL FAIR

The Jubilee Queen, Father Christmas and the Phoenix Choir will all be guests at the Village Hall Fair on 6th December. Queen Sophie opens

### the Husthwaite Newsletter

This **Newsletter** is the brainchild of the October AGM of the Village Hall Committee. It was clear to committee and public present on that occasion that the Husthwaite villagers need to be kept closely informed about developments affecting the lifestyle of the whole community. In particular, the possibility of a new village hall has been carefully planned by volunteer members of a steering committee over the past 5 years. Their work is at a critical point, as Elaine Smith and Roy Leverton report on the centre pages.

*Residents are encouraged to attend the Drop-In Day on Sunday 12th January. They will have the opportunity to talk informally with people in the know.*

The **Newsletter** can become a regular feature, updating the village on happenings of all kinds. Make it yours please. Email the Editor, Richard Wood, with your ideas and opinions.

the occasion at 7.00pm.

This will be the last of Sophies duties in her exciting 6 months as Jubilee Queen. She and her attendant, Frances Skinner, have represented the village with charm and beauty.

Father Christmas and his elves will arrive at the Fair to the sound of carols sung by the Phoenix Choir. There will be a Christmas tree.

**mulled**

**wine**

Admission is free, which includes coffee and a home-made mince pie. Mulled wine will be on sale, a favourite from previous years. Its an occasion for all the family from toddlers to ancients. The youngsters will enjoy the Christmas card factory - make your own cards, kids, with skilled help from Katie Whenman.

The more mature will appreciate the stalls: crafts, cakes and Christmas gifts, including a bargain offer on the millennium book.

A lot of interest has already been shown, says Angela Whenman. Weve had to print extra tickets for the Name the Harrods Bear competition. Weve been door-to-door with the Draw tickets. First prize is 100 and Northampton

## Local History Society Work Begins on Husthwaite Archive

**Following the successful launch of *Husthwaite Then and Now*, the villages millennium book, the Local History Society has decided to carry out a new long-term project.**

We intend to compile an archive for future generations, said the Society's Chairman, David Wilkinson. It will include documents and photographs of the village and its inhabitants. We will start with some oral histories of residents, taping and transcribing them as permanent records of their lives and their association with Husthwaite. We are also making a video of life in Husthwaite.

The most famous son of Husthwaite is William Peckitt, who revived the art of stained glass painting in Britain during the 18th century. His life and work are described in detail by Hazel Wilkinson in another Husthwaite Local History Society publication, the popular *Coxwoldshire*.

Fred Pickstone of Prospect Cottages attended a recent Society meeting with the suggestion that a plaque recording the birth of Peckitt should be erected in the village. Fred has undertaken to make preliminary enquiries with English Heritage as to their attitude to his suggestion.

William Peckitt was born at Husthwaite in 1731 in a house now demolished. His work can be seen in York Minster, the Guildhall and in many buildings up and down the country.

The Society would like to erect a plaque commemorating him. David Wilkinson. We believe this would cost around 500. The money we are considering holding a public lecture by an expert on the subject of Peckitt and Stained Glass. We hope this will be done



William Peckitt  
(from *Coxwoldshire*)

Every village household has been presented a copy of *Husthwaite Then and Now*. Now is the time to

for your friends and family, a lovely Christmas present.

The book will be on sale at the village Christmas Fair on Friday 19th December, with a remarkable offer of 2 for the price of one (9.95). The last few remaining copies of *Coxwoldshire* will also be available.

The Local History Society welcomes new members. Contact David Wilkinson (01439 789033) or Hugh Richardson (01347 868005). The next meeting is at Swales Garth at 8pm on 9th January 2003.

## The Gardening Club

### Listening to the Pictures

Husthwaite and District Gardening Club continues to flourish, even though winter is well and truly upon us.

Between 35 and 40 members have met three times since September, reports Linda Davison, the Clubs Secretary. We've enjoyed talks on different relevant issues. Our November speaker, Doug Stewart, set us many challenges, as he outlined autumn jobs to be completed before the garden had a rest for winter.

December's meeting should have a more relaxing outcome. We will meet for seasonal refreshments then look forward to entertainment from Allan Green under the title Listen to the Pictures.

In 2003 the Club meets in January, February and March (always the second Thursday of the month at 7.30pm in the Village Hall). In April it is the plant sale. In the following months, members embark on a series of visits, including a whole day outing in June to David Austin Roses and Wightwick Manor.

We have already planned an interesting and varied programme for 2003/4, says Linda. New members are always welcome. For information ring Linda Davison on 868449.

## Husthwaite Methodist Church COFFEE AND CHRISTMAS CHAT

Have you been to Coffee and Chat yet? If you have, you will be able to tell your friends how enjoyable these morning are. If not, why not come and find out what you have been missing?

The day is the third Saturday of each month. The Time: 10.30am to 12 noon. The venue: the Methodist Church. The Chat topics: whatever you bring, from what you've just heard whispered in Dowson's shop to the fate of Sunderland Football Club. The next session is Saturday 21st December. Relax for a while in a warm, pleasant, comfortable setting away from all your Christmas preparations.

### Christmas Services

Then don't forget the Village Christmas Service on Sunday 22nd December in the Chapel at 6.30pm. It's an ideal opportunity to enjoy Christmas carols and readings. Services in the Methodist Church are at 10.30am each Sunday. Details are displayed on the Chapel gatepost. You will be made welcome at any of these services.

Use this space to  
advertise  
your bike for sale  
your lost kitten  
your blockbusting  
business brainwave

## Decisions for the Village

A critical moment has arrived in the history of the Village Hall.

Elaine Smith outlines the work of the Village Hall Steering Committee.

## Shaping Husthwaite Parish Plan

### Lottery's Egg Not So Golden

The Parish Council is debating how Husthwaite should become involved in a scheme run by the Countryside Agency.

For 5 years a Village Hall sub-committee has been working on a project that Parish Councillor Michael Graham explains, in this scheme we make a Parish Plan. Parish Plans are part of the Vital Venues Scheme. They aim to give rural communities a bigger chance to run their own affairs and to set out what their town or village should look like and guide its future development. The process enables a community to be involved and responsible for developing its own future and that of its surroundings.

The idea is to identify problems and opportunities, set out a long-term vision and prepare a plan to achieve it. Funding is available to help prepare the Plan, as is professional help from Yorkshire Rural Community Council.

The Plan will help to identify and deal with change over the next 5-10 years. This can include changes that the community wants to see and changes from outside bodies that impact upon the community. Whilst the community involved decides what is in a Plan, examples often included are local services, transport, housing, village hall, leisure opportunities, landscape and environment, heritage, recycling and energy efficiency. A Plan may also be used to demonstrate evidence of need for funding bodies for any project that is being implemented.

The committee evaluated alternatives to re-build on the present site, but the pub confirm that no other site was available. We appointed an architect; dealt with the general legalities and compliance with rules as a Charitable Trust; had lengthy communications with highways and planning authorities. We came to an agreement with the school and local authorities for community use of their playing fields in exchange for some use of the hall.

Despite income from the sale of the present Village Hall site, the bulk of the project costs would have to come from the National Lotteries Community Fund. Work went on to put in a bid to the Community Fund supported by a complex business plan.

Councillor Graham goes on to explain that it would also be possible to develop a Village Design Statement (VDS). This is largely concerned with planning buildings, architecture and land use. It can be used to record what is unique about Husthwaite and what kind of future development is acceptable in the village.

In 1999, we can now only expect a small proportion. The Lottery Commissions regional priorities now are urban rather than rural. Hence, when we submitted a bid for lottery funding at the beginning of 2002 it was unsuccessful. We were told to re-apply with a new survey showing stronger evidence of need. We will need to apply for several other grants and to explain the Plan and VDS in more detail to several other bodies.

The Village Hall Committee and Parish Council met in the hall to discuss the plan and VDS. The Parish Council decided to support the plan and VDS. The Village Hall Committee will be responsible for the plan and VDS. The Parish Council will be responsible for the funding.

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## In the beginning

For 5 years a Village Hall sub-committee has been working on a project that would solve several problems in the village while fulfilling our present and future needs, as identified in the 1998 Village Survey. The Parish Council instigated the survey when reports of the worsening structural condition of the hall coincided with the willingness of Hambleton D.C. to buy a piece of land for an outdoor recreation area. The results of this survey indicated overwhelming support (75%) for this combined project.

The survey and visits to other village halls formed the basis of the plans. We learned from discussions with village hall managers what made halls viable in terms of upkeep, running costs and user requirements. Clearly, old halls were expensive to run; most newer ones were just glorified sports halls lacking the ambience to attract many social events. We realized that the viability of our hall would be increased by its ability to accommodate uses not possible in other halls with their one-wide rooms.

John Goddard pointed out that people with strong opinions had missed a good opportunity to air them at the AGM. The discussion was lively and challenging, but participants never forgot that they were good neighbours. The new Village Hall Committee for 2003 was elected, with John remaining Chairman, Treasurer John Sheehey stood down to be replaced by Lynsey Walker, the new Bookings Secretary is Lynn Collins.

In his Chairman's Report John Goddard showed that at this difficult time in its history the Village Hall is a successful part of Husthwaite village life. We drew up a 99 year agreement with the school and local authorities for community use of their playing fields in exchange for some use of the hall. Despite income from the sale of the present Village Hall site, the bulk of the project costs would have to come from the National Lotteries Community Fund. Work went on to put in a bid to the Community Fund supported by a complex business plan.

Changing times. New in the summer, was a lovely occasion, rounded off by supper at the Oldstead Black Swan. The Quiz Night generated a good turnout, with some tricky questions set by Adrienne. Plenty of eats and good wine contributed to a noisy evening. The Christmas Fair was financially the best yet, with David Bradbury's Father Christmas a bit of a hit.

Thanks, said John, to the Toddlers Group for repairing the Hall. Thanks also to David and Ann Dawson whose shop is the focal point for advertising and promoting all our events. The Fellowship is enjoyed by lots of other village children, and the older members have their Whist and Dominoes Drives.

(ii) Village Hall Committee members collecting the recent survey detected a hardening of attitudes within the village itself. The site is at the edge of the village and concerns have been raised regarding possible vandalism.

Stronger evidence of need. We will need to apply for several other grants and to explain the Plan and VDS in more detail to several other bodies.

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## DROP-IN DAY FOR YOUR DECISION

