

# Husthwaite Newsletter

February 2009 Issue 39



**£50,000 for new recreation area**



The people who worked hard to win the grant, left to right, Ruth Woodhead, Alex and Carol Fenwick, Luis Ponte, Rob Houlston, Elaine Smith, Peter Davison.

Photo; Andy Colbourne

*Hustwaite Newsletter is jointly funded by the Parish Council  
and the Village Hall Committee*

**EDITOR:** Jan Coulthard

*Please send contributions for the next edition by March 20th to me via email (jancoulthard@hotmail.co.uk) or by post to Aletheia House, High Street, Hustwaite YO61 4PX or telephone 01347 868130. Comments and suggestions are very welcome.*

## Dates for Your Diary

**In the Village Hall:**

Tuesdays at 9.15 am Yoga

2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month Gardening Club

6 Feb 10-11 Alexander Technique- new course starts. See article.

14 February Elphin Drift. See facing page.

26 Feb 7.30 Play meeting. See David Pike's article.

3 March 7.30 Talk: "The Mouseman of Kilburn" by Chris Scaife £4

24 March 7pm Talk: "Railways of Ryedale" by John Gilks £4

### Specialist Daving & Conservatory Cleaning

**Before**



**After**



**Call 01347 868489 or 07944149788 for a free quotation**

#### Does your patio or block paving need jet washing?

**These are our 3 options for block paving: Cleaning only:** Brush all the dirt away from your paving/patio and then clean it using a high pressure rotary cleaning machine - **£1 per sq mtr.**

**Cleaning & re-sanding:** Brush all the dirt away from your paving/patio and then clean it using high pressure rotary cleaning machine. Brush in new fine kiln dried sand between all the driveway blocks giving the area a brand new look - **£2 per mtr.**

**Cleaning, re-sanding and sealing:** Brush all the dirt away from your paving/patio and then clean it using high pressure rotary cleaning machine. Brush in new fine kiln dried sand between all the driveway blocks. Seal the driveway with a copolymer paving sealant - **£3.50 per sq mtr.**

**Would you like to have your conservatory looking as clean and bright as it used to from only £60?**

## Elphin Drift - St Valentine's Day Special

Saturday February 14<sup>th</sup> will see the fourth of our popular Elphin Drift Acoustic Music Nights at Husthwaite Village Hall. There will be nine separate acts, in addition to solo performances from the Young Musicians of the village.

The St Valentine's Day show will see possibly the broadest range of musical styles we have had the pleasure of showcasing so far. We will be featuring one of the finalists from The BBC Radio Two Young Choristers of the Year 2008, who will be singing a variety of pieces from his repertoire. We will see the return of Rachel Dawick, the New Zealand Singer/songwriter currently residing in Glasgow who made quite an impact at her last visit in June. Rachel is currently adding dates to her UK and European tour itinerary, and is delighted that she has the opportunity to visit Husthwaite again.

There will be a warm welcome for the established acts who have supported us from the outset:

Phil Grainger will be back in force with his multi-instrumental talents: Guitar, Keyboard, Vocals, Percussion (I did hear that he has been seen out with an accordion!)

Callum Watt will be performing contemporary acoustic numbers, including his own compositions.

"Long Walk to the Shore" will descend with their atmospheric interpretation of Folk, Rock and Blues standards.

"Stony Plain", who are forging quite a presence in the county, will once again hit us with their traditional, uncompromising 1930s Mississippi Delta Blues.

We will be welcoming another newcomer; Marty "The Picking Plumber", who will be introducing us to his collection of Country songs played on Mandolin and Banjo.

As it is almost a week since I last appeared on stage, I will be hoping to squeeze myself in somewhere in the proceedings, with one or two guests; and I have made a loose commitment to anyone who'll listen that, as it is Valentine's Day, I will try and concentrate on the positive (or at least vaguely optimistic) aspects of leurve.

The proceedings will begin at 7pm, and finish between 10:30 - 11pm, and there will be a licensed bar. Entry is a mere £3 - Bargain!

As usual, Mike Wells, Husthwaite's Professional Sound Engineer, will broadcast the music to all corners of the hall. The rafters will ring!

Turn up on the evening or give me call if you need to know more.

**Alun Nixon 01347 868740**

**The Parish Council** has received some complaints about dog-fouling., so the District Council Dog Warden has been asked to increase patrols around the village. Also, security is more important as a result of the present economic situation so please secure your house and don't leave valuables like your satnav on view in your car.

**Barrie Ward**

# Hustwaite Burns Supper

## This year celebrating the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Robbie Burns

### Born 1759 and died on 21<sup>st</sup> July 1796

For the fourth year in a row Hustwaite village hall came alive to a packed crowd of lads and lasses in their best regalia prepared for a night of Burns entertainment.

The hall as on previous occasions looked splendid with beautiful candlelit tables. Along with the ceiling lights left up from Christmas celebrations and cross of St Andrew placed strategically around the room, the atmosphere was created for a special evening.

Those who have experienced the Hustwaite Burns night know full well that the evening follows a traditional programme of events and the talented organisers, the Watt and Mowatt families, plus friends, ensure we all know the format by giving each guest a Programme cleverly designed with a Scottish theme throughout.

The Programme, as in previous years also acts as a dance card. Most who know the format sensibly arrive early to fill up their card with dance partners, preferably not your other half. (I'm not being impolite to William, but it's just the







Sheila Mowatt and Elaine Watt

way it's done on these occasions). Unfortunately William and I didn't arrive early this year and finding a fella to Petronella myself was probably the most stressful part of the evening, but I am pleased to say I was finally successful. Arriving late didn't seem to pose William any problem. He was swiftly invited by waiting lasses to Gay Gordon, Virginia Reel, Cumberland Reel and the like.

As in previous years, dance card completed (or nearly), the formalities of Burns Night began with the Music of the Bagpipes with Don Macgilivray. After Elaine read the Selkirk Grace, we had the Presentation of the Haggis with the Address fluently delivered by Will Mowatt. This was followed on by wonderful food commencing with the Haggis served with mashed neeps and tatties and after a fantastic buffet, food over, the evening progressed with a varied programme of toasts and entertainment.

Brian started the formalities off with a toast to Burns himself, and with a musical version of 'A Man's A Man for Aw' That'. The Toast to the Lasses was delivered by Erik Seaman, with Jane Maloney proving that the ladies still have

the last word in the Reply.

We were then entertained by Alun Nixon, Callum Watt and David Aspinall, (known for the night as ‘Third Degree Burns’) with their hilarious repertoire of re-written lyrics, poking fun at the Scots and the English alike.

There is so much I could write about this Burns night, but I may be in danger of blowing the Husthwaite Newsletter paper and printing budget, which I don’t want to do. However, I would like to make reference to the dancing as this is always my favourite bit of the evening and from my observations of others was equally enjoyed by all.

Similar to the Scottish dancing nights Brian Watt took control of a lot of people and guided us through the dance programme, starting with the Gay Gordons and finishing with the Borrowdale Exchange. For anyone who has not tried Scottish dancing it is a must and Brian has a talent for not making anyone feel stupid if your body doesn’t end up where it should be. Saying this, I think there was only one dance, (the Johnnie Walker) which more than a few didn’t get quite right, the only time Brian’s voice was significantly raised and he was heard strongly reminding people, “I told you it wasn’t for the faint- hearted”. With the exception of the Johnnie Walker the other dances on the programme were really quite easy this year and just very enjoyable.

Finally, I’m sure on behalf of all who attended we would like to say a big thank you to members of the Watt and Mowatt family and anyone else who took an active part in the organisation for this 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary Burns Night.

**William and Catherine Skinner**

### **A PLAY! A PLAY! A PLAY!**

Following three very successful pantomimes and several editions of Open Mike, it is apparent that there is abundant dramatic and musical talent in our village. I would like to explore the possibility of staging a straight play in the Village Hall towards the end of September.

I would like therefore to hold a meeting in the Hall for anyone who may be interested in taking part in such a project. We need on-stage, as well as backstage, people, skilled or otherwise; experience is not vital - although it helps if you've done some before—but commitment and enthusiasm are essential. If you are interested, please come along to the Village Hall on **Thursday 26th February at 7.30pm** and let’s see what we can do. For further information contact David Pike on 868560.



**David Pike**

## Village Hall News



The Airfix Choir

Our Christmas event, 'Please Put a Penny in the Old Man's Hat', was a great success. Unfortunately, the event coincided with the Easingwold Singers' Christmas concert, so many of the village's most talented singers were not available. It was all the more remarkable, then, that the standard of the performances was so high and everyone had a lot of fun.

The Nookingales launched the occasion. This informal group led by David Pike and featuring Robin Walton with two of her York Opera colleagues, Peter Butler and Irma Gemmell, sang carols with beautiful 4-part harmonies.

The evening's special guest was David Swann, back for the third time. His rapport with the Husthwaite audience went to a new level. He teased everyone into joining-in and, later, taunting the 'boys of the back row' he remarked that it was unusual for an artist to heckle the audience. Then David Pike delighted us with one of his dramatic monologues, this one done in the style of Al Read.

The Airfix Choir (*pictured*) can puncture the veneer of most people's respectability. Their targets included the banks who have stolen our equity, and most of the village's institutions, including the 'Village Hall Preservation Society'.

'Please Put a Penny in the Old Man's Hat' was compered by Brian Watt. Brian had a gently humorous Husthwaite story for each month of 2008, and each was a laughing appreciation of the wide variety of contributions that our people and our societies make to our community life. All in all it was an evening not to be missed.

The ideal way for Husthwaite to make best use of its remarkable village hall is for residents to get together and organise events that interest them. The Yoga group does this, the History Society and the Gardening Club. Another example is set by the Scottish Dancers, with their frequent Friday evening sessions. These culminate in the annual Burns Night. This year's was the fourth. It was my first, and I was truly amazed. Those of you who know me realise that I am committed to the Village Hall. I think its history and its internal character give it a unique atmosphere for the full range of community occasions. I have never seen the Hall more beautifully set up than it was on Burns Night. Thanks to the Watts and the Mowatts and to everyone who helped or attended, whether you were a Celt in a kilt or Sassenach a dinner jacket

### **Village Hall plans new kitchen and community room**

The next phase in the development of the Village Hall is beginning. We want to make it more user-friendly and so we have submitted an application for a grant to help us modernise the kitchen and to fit the community room with large storage cupboards.

User groups agree that our worn-out kitchen needs refurbishing. Joan Ward designed a new layout for us. Then we received donations of a new oven, sink and extractor, to start us off. Many of the groups who use the hall do their own catering on site and it will be wonderful if they can soon work in a bright, new kitchen.

Now that the floor has been repaired, we can begin to transform the former billiard room into a more flexible community room. To do that, we need substantial extra storage space. A design has been done and estimates gathered. The Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust in partnership with York and North Yorkshire Community Foundation runs a grants scheme called 'Grassroots'. We hope they will look kindly on our application for £4500. If everything goes well we will be able to start this work in the early summer.

Alongside this grant application work, the Village Hall Committee has been trained in fire safety procedures. This professional training was provided for us, free of charge, by Mark Gambles, a senior fire officer. Mark has also done a detailed fire risk assessment of the hall, and we have drawn up plans for implementing his recommendations. Mark required some of this work to be done



immediately, such as the provision of a fire alarm system, the widening of the exit to the main hall door, improvements to the fire escape signs and the naming of an emergency assembly point. The Village Hall Committee would like to thank Gerald and Hannah Crane for allowing their drive to be named as the Village Hall's emergency evacuation assembly point. This agreement is between the Village Hall trustees and Gerald and Hannah, with no obligation placed on any future owner of the property. The new fire procedures will be made clear to everyone who uses the hall in the future.

**Richard Wood**

## First Aid in Husthwaite

A few weeks ago, the life of someone living in our village was saved by the prompt intervention of two people who knew what to do in an emergency. When we talked at the village hall committee meeting, we wondered how long it would be before someone else needed help and whether a trained person would be on hand. We can do a bit towards that.

St John Ambulance will do a 6 hour training certificate course for us in the village hall (3 evenings x 2hrs or 1 x 6hrs) which covers most emergency and basic first aid skills including adult resuscitation. It's open to anyone over the age of 10. The cost is £40 per individual.

If you think it's a good idea, have any comments or would like to join, please contact me on 868130 or [aletheia@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:aletheia@hotmail.co.uk)

If there's enough interest, I'll do some more publicity around the village and see what happens.

**Andrew Coulthard**



## *The Railways of Ryedale*

**Tuesday 24 March 7.00pm Village Hall**

For a hundred years, until the 1950's, the railway connected many of the villages in our area with each other and the world. It revolutionised how people travelled and worked and how they spent their free time.

Now little evidence of it remains, unless you know where to look.

**John Gilks** is an acknowledged expert on railway history. His illustrated talk will tell us about Ryedale railway life from the start. Tickets £4.00 on the door

**Free** to a good home. Pine kitchen table 1 metre diameter

**Tel. Richard and Robin 868247**

# PARISH PLAN - A SPRINGBOARD TO FUNDING?

Most people in Husthwaite will recall the consultation initiatives leading up to our Parish Plan being launched in April 2007. Subsequently, there have been clear priorities for development, as identified by the whole community. Turning dreams into reality then becomes a further challenge since sources of funding need to be identified. Inevitably, this has entailed submitting formal bids and, thankfully, achieving some measure of success.

Throughout this process, over the last two years, it is clear that being in a position where priorities have been identified in the Parish Plan has significantly strengthened our case when making such bids.

Recent initiatives, all of which are helping us to move forward in making Husthwaite an even better place in which to live, are;

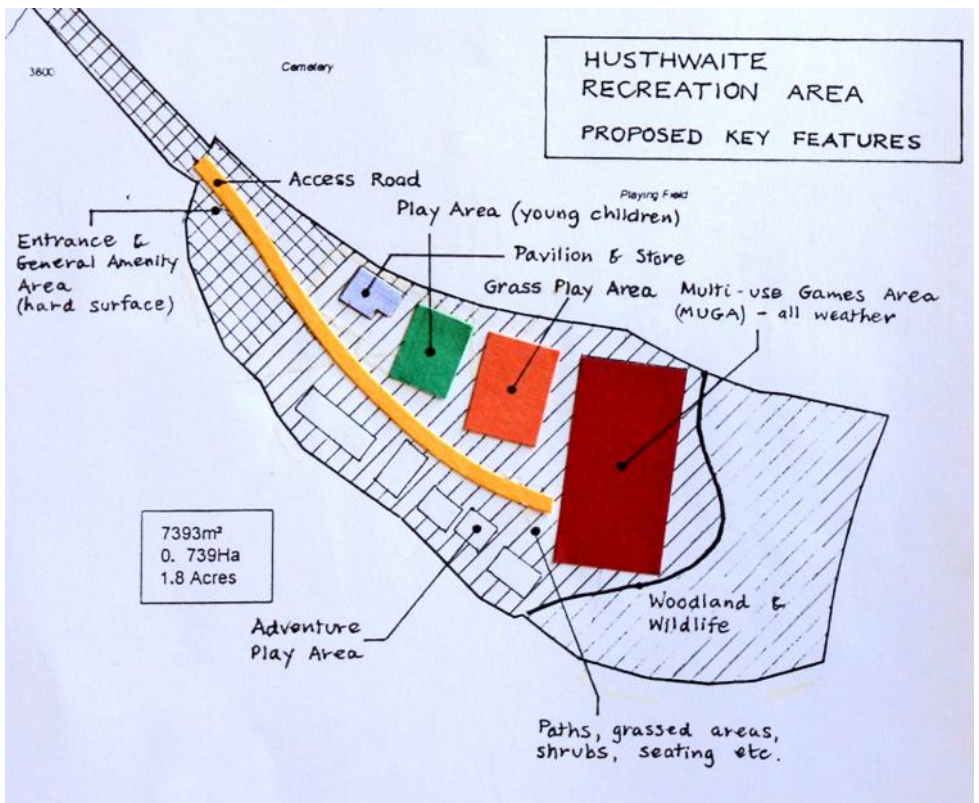
*	£2550	To develop Parish Plan Yorkshire Rural Community Council
*	£1488	Woodland & Wildlife Area Hambleton District Council (Carbon Reduction Grant Scheme)
*	£650	Welcome to Husthwaite Information Pack York & North Yorkshire Community Foundation
*	£5000	Play Equipment (Young Children's Area) Hambleton District Council-Community Grants Scheme
	£250	Beckwith Trust
*	£250	Winner of Village Ventures Competition Organised by Rural Action Yorkshire (Welcome Pack)
*	£50,000	Multi-use Games Area (Recreation Area) ITV People's Millions Competition
*	£250	Survey of Village Hall by Ecological Architect Howardian Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty through NYCC Sustainable Development Fund
*	£10000	Re-surfacing of Amenity Area, new retaining walls & improved access to Village Hall 'Awards for All'

£5000	Hambleton District Council-Community Grants Scheme
£4750	NYCC - Hambleton Area Fund
£1000	Police Dispersal of Property Fund

**TOTAL      £81188**

These successful awards give a massive springboard towards the developments we all wish to see in Husthwaite. A new year brings with it another round of opportunities to tap into available grants. Our efforts will continue.  
**Peter Davison and Richard Wood**

### RECREATION AREA - LEAPING AHEAD IN 2009



As probably everyone in the village is now aware, following our successful bid to the People's Millions initiative, organised through ITV and the Big Lottery Fund, we have been allocated a grant of £50,000 to develop the Multi-use Games Area (MUGA).  
 (...continued next page )

The Parish Council is contributing a further £5,000 - a condition of the award. We are now in a position to ensure that the MUGA - centre-piece of the Recreation Area - will be constructed in time for use over the summer months. Having considered three competitive quotations for this work, the Parish Council has agreed to award the contract to Cleveland Land Services, based at Guisborough. Other developments in relation to this project include the following:

- \* Revision of site layout to maximise use of space available.
- \* Purchase of 3 items of play equipment to give initial provision for the Young Children's Play Area (for children aged 3-8). These are funded mainly by a grant of £5,000 from the Hambleton Community Grant Scheme, with other contributions from The Beckwith Trust and the Parish Council.
- \* Initiatives to secure further grant funding, to progress other provision in the remainder of this site, are now being considered.

In view of the demands which the Recreation Area is continuing to make on members of the Parish Council, the series of Additional Meetings scheduled to address Parish Plan priorities will be put on hold, perhaps until later in the year. Assurances are given that outstanding issues will be addressed in due course.

**Peter Davison**

## *The Curtain Room*

### **Beautiful hand crafted interiors**

The Curtain Room is an exciting new business in Hushwaite, we specialise in traditional fine furnishings, re-upholstery, interiors and window dressings.

We produce beautiful hand made goblet, half goblet and triple pinch pleat headed curtains, pelmets and roman blinds.

Complete your room with our unique, gorgeous hand made iron poles and finials.



*www.TheCurtainRoom.com*

Please call **01347 868874** or email: [Mel.Casling@thecurtainroom.com](mailto:Mel.Casling@thecurtainroom.com)

## Alexander Technique

New to Hushwaite, a weekly course, Saturday 10-11 starts 6th February in the Village Hall.

Lucy Glaister, the teacher, says: "It teaches the skilful use of the self, how we move, how we stay still, how we breathe, how we learn, how we organise our awareness and focus of attention and, above all, how we choose our reactions in increasingly demanding situations."

Lucy also provides individual lessons. Contact her on 01347 868644 or [lucy.glaister@btconnect.com](mailto:lucy.glaister@btconnect.com)



We advertised a stray small ginger cat in the last Newsletter. "Tiddles" is now doing well in his new home, and another cat was re-homed in Bagby by the Cats Protection League, due to our article.

Thankyou. Trevor Hutchinson

# Taylor Made

Hushwaite's quality caterers

*specialists in cold buffets*

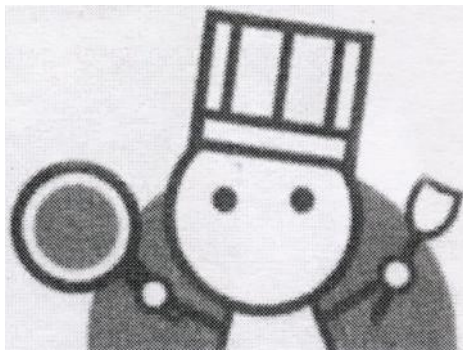
*menus to suit all budgets*

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Anniversaries Birthdays

Business Functions



Debbie Taylor 01347 868576

Anne Marie 01347 868282

07986 925653



## **Memoires of Captain Jack Fairfield, WWII (extract)**

(Reproduced by kind permission of his grandson Murray Bealby)

I was posted to 33 Ammunition Sub Depot with headquarters at Highborne House near Easingwold in Yorkshire and I reported there at the end of my leave. This was a new unit and had not yet received its first train load of ammunition. The commanding officer was Lieutenant Ball and the second in command was Major Johnstone.

I was given an area and spent days scouring the countryside along with the Major looking for likely places to store ammunition ~ in woods or alongside country roads which had wide verges. I found an office for myself in Easingwold itself. It was a dis-used shop. We requisitioned it and carried out some minor alterations. More men were posted to the unit and soon I was in business with gangs of men leveling sites and erecting shelters for the ammunition. No chemical weapons were expected and we would only be dealing with High Explosives shells of all kinds ~ 25 pounders, mortar bombs, anti-aircraft shells etc. etc.

There was a lot of paper work to be done as a record had to be kept of every item in the 'dump'. Training had to be carried out as many of the men had not long been in the army. I now had three or four clerks in the office and these had to be trained in the various procedures. Once again time seemed to be against us. A few experienced NCOs were transferred from other units. I tended to view these with some suspicion. Other units were not likely to transfer their best NCOs and I always preferred to promote my own men when possible. I was also sent a Warrant Officer who was a regular soldier. His name was Howard and a brother of a Lieutenant Howard who for a short time was my officer at Ascot. They were both somewhat morose. I outlined my plans to my W.O. but left details of supervision to him. I wasn't very impressed with him. He was too casual for me. One day I discovered that he had not carried out my plans but had done the job in his own way. The result was not satisfactory and I was livid. My mind went back to Ascot when I was a Warrant Officer and a raw Second Lieutenant over me. But I was not raw and made this very clear by telling him that I had once been a Warrant Officer myself and expected to have things done my way. He didn't do it again but our relationship was never very satisfactory. I complained to the Major and the W.O. was sent to another section and I promoted one of my Sergeants to Staff Sergeant to take his place. He was excellent with plenty of fire in his belly.

Our first train load of ammunition arrived at Easingwold. The railway line from Easingwold to York was a private railway with its own staff.

We dealt with this train load of ammunition very successfully although conditions were bad as it snowed all day. As this was our first train into the depot the Colonel and the Major came out to see what was happening. I was busy dashing about to make sure that everything went well and was glad they did not try to interfere. Work went on apace and three other Lieutenants were posted to us. There must have been about twelve of us in the officers mess at this time. This was a small number but would increase as the depot grew bigger.

After the day's work was finished we returned to the Mess for a bath and changed from battle dress to service dress prior to going in for our evening meal. An hour before the meal began we had to meet in the office of Major Johnstone who was second in command of the unit. We discussed the day's events and plans for the future. Sometimes the colonel attended these meetings. When the discussion began several young lieutenants

used to rush in with their ideas. I used to think they were a bit impetuous and rather pushing. I developed my own technique. I used to wait until the debate was well under way, pick out the best ideas I had heard and then put forward my own solutions. The colonel must have noticed this. In the middle of one discussion he interrupted the proceedings and looked at me and asked, "What does my dour Scotsman think?" It didn't seem very flattering but when I looked up I saw that he was smiling.

At this time no dance was held in the Mess as the number of officers was relatively few. There were one or two rather formal dinners. The Colonel's wife lived in a rental cottage nearby and other ladies attended these functions. I can't remember where they came from. After the meal the Colonel's wife led the other ladies from the dining room while the officers remained behind to pass the port round and smoke. We then joined the ladies for talk and occasionally joined in some parlour game. I don't know who had owned Highthorne House but it must have been a lovely place before the war. I remember that there was a beautiful fire place in the mess surrounded by wood. Carved in the wood above the fire place were the words, "Far from court ~ Far from care."

Sometime in February 1943 the Colonel told us he was leaving the unit to take over a unit preparing for the second front. This attack on the mainland was often discussed but nobody knew when and where it would take place. We expressed our regret that he was leaving and he suddenly turned to me and said, "By the way, Fairfield, I am taking you with me!" This came as a great surprise and a few eyebrows were raised. I mumbled my thanks but had no idea what my role would be. He said he would discuss the matter with me the following morning. He did this and told me that I was going as his personal assistant. There was no such post with our present unit and I had no idea what my duties would be. I was to be A.C.O.O. (Assistant Chief Ordnance Officer).



March 1946 H.Q. 33 Ammunition Sub Depot, Highthorne House  
Back row, l to r: "Doc." Lt Pickles, Lt Harris, Lt Farrel, Lt Blackah RA., Lt Lander, Lt Dowler R.T.R., Capt Smith, Capt Spencer, Capt Wheattard, Capt Gibb (Markinch)  
Sitting, l to r: Capt Fairfield, Capt Clark, Major Greagan, Lt/Col Ellis, Major Richardson, Major Montague.

**Angela Ovenston (History Society)**

# Sort Out Your Finances

The financial markets have been a mess.....  
Shares down 30% in 12 months  
Property down 14% in 12 months  
Can't get your money from your bank  
Who knows what to do with their money?

*Will Mowatt is an independent financial advisor based in the Easingwold area. He has a wide experience of financial products having originally qualified as an actuary with Scottish Widows and most recently having been the Director of Marketing for Retirement and Protection products at Norwich Union.*



## **What I can do for you**

Give you independent financial advice to allow you to manage your income, expenditure and wealth to suit your needs.

Have an initial meeting to understand your needs and to carry out a financial review. I won't charge for this meeting.

If following the initial meeting, we agree to transact business the cost of this will be very clear and will only proceed on an agreed basis.

I will carry out further reviews on an ongoing basis to ensure that your plans can be adapted to fit with any changes in your circumstances.

## **You have nothing to lose by having a chat**

Call me on:

Home: 01347868196

Mobile: 07777663766

E-mail: [willmowatt@resultsfinancial.co.uk](mailto:willmowatt@resultsfinancial.co.uk)

Comment on my blog at

[www.sortoutyourfinances.blogspot.com](http://www.sortoutyourfinances.blogspot.com)

*Will Mowatt is an independent financial advisor working for Results Financial Ltd who are authorised and regulated by the FSA no. 230884*

# The Balmoral

Low Street  
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*family run traditional pub*

*specialising in*  
Ladies that Lunch  
Children that Lunch  
Early Bird for families

Traditional Sunday lunch  
*All families welcome*



## Husthwaite & District Gardening Club

For the first meeting of 2009, we were whisked away to Yunnan in China by Helen Jones from Great Ayton. Her beautiful slides of the many species of plants she encountered were interspersed with shots of the people, their buildings and the mountainous countryside. All in all it was an interesting evening for anyone interested in botany, geography or anthropology.

On Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February, it will be the club's Annual General Meeting. In common with recent years, we will be keeping the business short, so that we can enjoy the presentation. We are having a welcome return of Allan Green of Easingwold to show his latest audio-visual masterpieces. If you haven't seen one before, come along and be amazed!

We will also be judging the *Tête a Tête* narcissi competition. By all accounts there will be last minute coaxing with hair dryers and powerful lamps if some entries are to be in flower!

2009 is a very important year for the Husthwaite and District Gardening Club; we are fifty years old! The committee have been discussing ways to celebrate our half century and all will be revealed at the AGM. **Mike Wells**



# THE ANNUAL HUSTHWAITE POETRY COMPETITION

Entries to both children's and adults' sections of this competition have poured in, from as far afield as Durham and Tadcaster. However, our independent judges chose local entries as the winners.

Our judge for the adult section was Dr Sue Houseago, an expert on poetry, who chose **Brian Clark's poem "Wild Husthwaite"** as the winner. She says "This is a most powerfully written poem which insists we look beyond platitudes to the reality of what we are doing to our countryside, and more terrifyingly, to our children."

She praises too the runner-up, **Ursula Duncan**, as showing "joy in Husthwaite in a poem which sings to its readers." Both poems convey a strong sense of place, as do many of the other entries, and she thanks everyone for letting her read their poems.

Brian Clark is therefore named as this year's **Poet Laureate**, and receives the beautiful carved squirrel trophy, made by our own Trevor Hutchinson. Brian's duties as Poet Laureate are simply to continue writing, and next year to present the squirrel to the new incumbent!

The Children's section was judged by Sue Lake, the owner of the White Rose bookshop in Thirsk, who also kindly donated one of the runner-up book tokens. Taking into consideration the ages of the entrants, she chooses as the winner, "**Husthwaite the Village**" by **Jenny Price**. "It cleverly and effortlessly uses the words Husthwaite Village to build the poem. The ending acknowledges the importance of a caring community—the poet is very much at home."

The runner-up is **Kerry Barker aged 12**, with her poem "A Bird's Eye View". Highly commended are **Hannah Drinkhill and Thomas Nixon**. All 4 winning children receive book tokens for their efforts.

All the winning poems can be seen on display in the Village Hall. Thank you, all competitors, and our conscientious judges too, who were presented with bouquets of flowers to thank them.

**Jan Coulthard**



## WILD HUSTHWAITE

Husthwaite's wild places,  
where once we played as kids and later took the dog;  
tamed and tarmacked, felled and farmed, built upon,  
leaving only fragments for us to feel we belong  
to a wider natural world beyond,  
now scorned by our kids at their play stations.  
Where have all the flowers gone?  
No-one asks any more. Mown.  
For a neat and tidy village  
In a landscape of the lost.

Brian Clark      December 2008

### Husthwaite Village by Jenny Price aged 8

Husthwaite is the village where you can sit  
Under the lovely lime tree on the Green  
Stay a while and  
Take in the view of the 16<sup>th</sup> century church of St. Nicholas.  
Have a delicious meal  
With a nice drink  
At the Balmoral pub.  
In the Village Hall there is fast Scottish Dancing, slow Yoga and  
Tricky T'ai Chi.  
Eat soup and pud at the Methodist Hall,  
Take your dog for a walk in pretty country lanes.  
Healthy vegetables grow in our neighbours' gardens.  
Easy listening at our Elphin Drift.  
Visit Dowson's Cash Stores for all your shopping needs.  
In this village there is a lovely school,  
Lots of children having fun  
Learning and playing all day long.  
A lovely village,  
Giving, sharing,  
Everyone caring.



Newsletter editor Jan Coulthard presents **Brian Clark** with the Poetry Competition trophy. Below: Children's winner of the Newsletter Poetry Competition **Jenny Price** receives congratulations from Mrs Bainbridge at Hushwaite School.

