



Husthwaite Newsletter

December 2008 Issue 38



Glue and Glitter: Angie Sibley enjoys an afternoon of fun with Charlie and James in the Village Hall

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

EDITOR: Jan Coulthard

*A very happy Christmas and New Year to all our
readers and contributors at home and abroad.*



*Please send contributions for the next edition by Jan 20th 2009 to me via
email (jancoulthard@hotmail.co.uk) or by post to Aletheia House, High
Street, Husthwaite YO61 4PX or telephone 01347 868130. Comments and
suggestions are welcome.*

Dates for Your Diary

6 Dec “Please put a penny” Village Hall 7.00 pm £13

7 Dec St Nicholas church. 6.00pm Carols, mince pies and mulled wine

12 and 19 Dec Scottish Dancing

11 Dec Gardening Club 7.30 “Garden Birds”

8 Jan Gardening Club 7.30 “Plant Hunting in the Yunnan”

Stop Press.....Lottery Bid

We've just heard (Friday 28th November) that we've won
the Lottery Bonus prize and that **£50,000** will be coming to
the village for the new recreation area next to the school.

Hurrah!!!! And big congratulations to Peter Davison-
Carol Fenwick, Luis Ponte and all the people who worked so
hard to make it happen. Thanks too to all who helped by voting.



Glittering Christmas Cards

Several people enjoyed their first mince pie of the season on
Nov. 15th in the village hall, when 24 children and nearly as
many grown ups had an afternoon of fun being creative.

Never has the hall floor glittered more as enthusiastic card mak-
ers vigorously shook copious quantities of glitter all over cards,
tables and themselves. Cut-outs from old Christmas cards, shiny
sprinkles and sticky fingers all contributed to a fabulous array of
festive cards—one youngster surely set a record with 40 cards!

Although the afternoon was not aimed at raising money, approxi-
mately £60 has been paid into St. Nicholas' church fabric fund.

See you next year!

Juliet McDougall

MADE IN HUSTHWAITE

If you make things, in wood, metal or anything, if you repair or restore things or grow them, if you paint or draw or collect things, we're really interested to hear from you. In fact, if you do anything in the village, either in your own time or as a job and you would like other people to find out a bit about it, then this exhibition is for you.

All we know so far is that it will be on the Sunday 26th April 2009 in the village hall.

The idea is that people will have some space to make a display of whatever they do and will be willing to be there on the day, so that people coming to the exhibition can chat with them. It would be best of all if a really wide range of different ideas come up. There's such an astonishing variety of things that people in the village and around are enthusiastic and knowledgeable about that, if it works, it will be a fascinating chance to share what we do. The first two spaces to be filled are for a wonderful archive of photos and press cuttings about the village going back to the 50's and a furniture maker. Does anyone restore classic cars? Anybody passionate about renewable energy? Anyone writing good stories or making good music?

If you would like to know more or have any ideas, please ring me on 868130 or e-mail me at aletheia@hotmail.co.uk

Andrew Coulthard



Sue and Roy
Leverton choose
their winter read-
ing at the Book
Fair in November

Village Hall News

October's **Elphin Drift** was a wonderful evening of music that went on till 1am! The following night was the church's Harvest Hoe-down, another lively occasion in a full hall.

Hustwaite's younger generation threw a party with a difference on **Mischief Night**. It had tricks and treats a-plenty. Winner of the fancy dress was Tarran Williams (pictured below), who enjoyed the party with a dagger through her head. There were ugly monsters, skeletons and terrifying masks.

The village contributed at least 2,000 books for our **Book Fair**. We had shelves and shelves of popular fiction and a respectable offering of classics. We had biographies of sportsmen, politicians, celebs, you name them. There were history tomes and a marvellous range of specialist interests. The children's section had so many books we hadn't room the display half of them. The Local Interest section contained books, quickly swept up, by James Herriot and even some of our own Hustwaite pen-pushers. So much for the sellers; were there any buyers? Yes, loads, but put it this way: we have the challenge of what to do with the left-overs! Try again next year? Certainly.



Yoga classes have continued throughout the autumn term, an 11-week course with a steady class of 13 students. They will continue in the New Year, with another full course. Newcomers and beginners are all welcome and (whisper it) men are allowed.



In October, **visiting speaker, Brian Wilks**, (pictured above) captivated his audience with his expertise and enthusiasm for all things Bronte. His take on the subject was surprising and described by Diana Leeper, one of the audience, as "refreshing". Rather than dwelling on the family's tough lives, Brian said they were tough characters, who lived into their late twenties and thirties at a time when Howarth people died horribly young. The Rev Patrick, the girls' father, made it to 80. Rather than portraying their parsonage home as the centre of desperate tragedy, Brian asked us to imagine what we would have heard if we had walked up the street. At the piano he played the marvellous music the girls were adept at. We saw them comparing hilarious notes as they knocked out the original versions of the novels that made them famous in their life-times and into our own.

Coming up - on Dec.6th 'Please Put a Penny in the Old Man's Hat', a Christmas programme of music, dance and drama, with Brian Watt as Master of Ceremonies. Tickets are £13. Contact me on 868247. The next **Elphin Drift** is on Valentine's Day, and features the return by popular request of the New Zealand folk singer, Rachel Dawick. **The Village Hall Committee's next visiting speaker, John Gilks**, talks about the Railways of Ryedale - 7.00pm on Tuesday 24th March 2009.

Richard Wood



Hustwaite Orchard Project

The History Society has formed a group to research Hustwaite's claim to fame as The Orchard Parish. Initial research would establish the original location of orchards around 150 years ago and the varieties that were grown. The group can explore how the fruits were harvested, used or sold and how important to the local economy the harvest was. The next stage would be to plot where in the parish the remaining fruit trees are and what

varieties still exist compared with what was originally grown.

Beyond this initial research are a number of additional opportunities that we have started to explore and with appropriate funding would be both desirable and achievable. These are to:

- Survey all villagers to see if they would like an orchard that could be as small as 3-5 trees in a corner of their garden.
- Discuss with the Parish Council the availability of any common land which would be suitable for a community orchard - discussions have already begun.
- Identify within the school grounds an area for an orchard that could be managed by the children - the Head teacher fully supports this.
- Discuss with some local landowners/farmers about some parcels of land within the village that appear to be permanently set aside or unused that could be put to useful production as orchards
- Discuss with local farmers some form of sponsorship with fencing and use of equipment to efficiently plant and protect young trees
- Produce a pamphlet that communicates the research outcomes and make progress with all or any of the additional opportunities undertaken
- Consider community activities such as an Apple Fest, Harvesting days involving possibly the school and creating revenue from the sale of the produce to support village activities.

We have contacted Fr Rainer, the Ampleforth orchard supervisor, to ask for advice.

We would like feedback from people with orchards, the varieties of fruit trees in them and any anecdotal stories or facts about when fruit played an important part of the farming cycle here. Please contact me on 868 489.

Cameron Smith

Letter to the editor from an ex-pat

Dear Jan

My name is Liz Foulis and I grew up in Husthwaite, spending approximately 15 years there from the early 70s to mid 80s. We lived in the house now known as Pax Vobiscum next to Dowson's shop. I attended both the old and new primary schools in the village and have many happy memories of our time there.

My sister lives in the USA and when visiting the UK this summer we took her children to see the village in which we grew up, and picked up a newsletter from the shop. The village is looking fabulous and seems more lively than when we were living there!

I would very much like to receive the newsletter.

Yours sincerely

Liz (Manchester)

(I am sending her an email version of each edition- Ed.)

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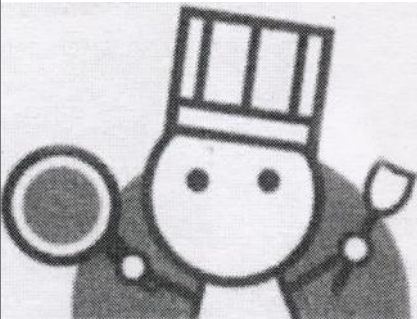
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Debbie Taylor 01347 868576

Anne Marie 01347 868282

07986 925653

Energy costs spiral

Energy costs are spiralling up and it hurts villages especially. Most of us use expensive fuels and we often live in older houses.

I've been talking to some people in the village who have done something practical about cutting their bills and helping the environment at the same time.

Cameron and Linda Smith, whose house is on the Nookin, decided to abandon oil and to go for natural heat from the ground. The technology is straightforward but sounds strange at first. It works like a fridge. At the back of your fridge is a grid which is usually warm. That's the heat taken from the stuff in your fridge, when it's being cooled. Imagine being able to do that on a much larger scale. You put pipes underground in your garden and circulate coolant through them. The tiny amounts of heat taken each time mount up and the result, unlikely as it sounds, is that Cameron has water at 40 degrees C circulating in his house, even in the depths of winter. It's a system growing in use across northern Europe and we're catching up.

It's not cheap to make the change. Cameron's system, with all the excavation, plumbing and equipment cost over £10,000. But the result is a sharp fall in his bills. It now costs him £1200 per year for all his energy and what he saves will pay back his investment in 4 to 5 years (even more quickly if oil goes up again). You need to have a garden big enough to fit the pipework, your house needs to be as well insulated as possible and you need the resources to make the outlay at the beginning.

Older houses present different problems. Despite that, I understand that one of the Victorian houses on High Street has had the same ground source heat system put in and that the owners are confident of significant savings on their total energy bills.

Stephen Barker, at the top of High Street, has had a new house built. At the design stage, his architect Martin Gallon encouraged him to include some environmentally friendly energy saving measures. The result is a house which is very sparing with the energy it uses and should be much cheaper to run.

Stephen told me about the technology. First, the house was built with lots of insulation. It's wooden framed inside the brick skin and should keep in most of its heat easily. Then, to cut down water use, it collects rainwater from the roof, filters it and stores it in an underground tank. That provides all the house water except for drinking.

To cut down heating bills, there's an ingenious system (also common in Europe) which gradually takes stale air from the house, takes the

warmth out of it and puts it into the incoming fresh air. There are solar panels too, on the roof. They use the sun to warm water for the central heating. Even in winter it reduces the amount they need to heat the water.

Finally, the main source of heat in the house is a multi fuel stove in the living room which drives the central heating and uses wood or coal..

So, Stephen's house is going to be very careful with the energy it uses and, best of all, the energy bills will be low.

These are just the examples I know about. There will be others in the village. Martin at the Old Station House generates his own electricity with wind power.

Is this the way the future will be? What can each of us do to cut down our energy use as the cost of it goes up unstoppably? What can you do if your house is old and leaks heat? What if you have no spare cash to meet the cost of change?

Another thought; do we all have to meet this new future on our own or are there things we can do together as a village? Could we buy insulation materials in bulk and cut the cost? Could we even think about village power generating schemes? Others have. Why not us?

As a start, the village hall committee has discussed an energy day. That might be a whole day, with the help of the Energy Saving Trust, of information and personal experience about projects like Cameron's and Stephen's, about ways to insulate old houses and about sources of grants. What do you think?

Andrew Coulthard

Reminiscences of Husthwaite 1970's to 2000

This is the final booklet covering the 20th century in Husthwaite and follows the previous publications (Reminiscences 1900-1930s, 1930s-1950s and 1950s-1970s). Additional memories of pupils who attended the old school will be included in a forthcoming booklet "Tales of the Old School". The History Society is, once again, most grateful to all who spent much time writing or recalling their memories, lending their memorabilia, searching out old photographs and putting names to faces.

Over this period, a new school was opened, Husthwaite Show became a dominant annual agricultural and social event and farming be-

came increasingly mechanised (with farming families often diversifying into other activities such as bed and breakfasts, a tea shop, vehicle maintenance and even a flying club). Many events were organized for fundraising purposes and newcomers to the village soon became involved, often in addition to renovating their houses and re-creating their gardens. Many also enjoyed sporting activities and many people became successful in a variety of ways.

Find out more from the bumper sized issue of 90 pages, at £6.50, on sale at the beginning of December from the shop or it may be ordered from Angela Ovenston (868347) until December 19th.

Previous booklets have sold well, so don't wait, "complete" the series covering the 20th century and buy your copies in time for Christmas.

Angela Ovenston

To find out more about Allan Duffield and his prize-winning Wensleydale, you'll have to buy the book!



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Where's that tree?

In summer 1966 Husthwaite was runner-up in a Best Kept Village Competition won by Wath, near Ripon. At the time, all eyes were probably on England winning the football world cup but, in recognition of its achievement the village was awarded the prize of a tree, donated by Castle Howard Estate Nurseries. Such an award was part of a tradition. Over the years many Yorkshire villages in a similar position held tree planting ceremonies in celebration.

Where is the Husthwaite Tree?

What species was it?

Was a ceremony held?

Has it survived?

Was it ever planted?

Was it ever collected from Castle Howard?

Perhaps this is a bit of lost history - but maybe someone can suggest answers.

Phil Lawson





A great village get-together

St Nicholas' chosen charity this year was Farm Crisis Network, which helps farming people through difficult times. A Harvest supper was suggested, to raise a generous donation while having fun. On 11 October the village hall was packed to the rafters, as 70 people enjoyed Coronation Turkey, quiches and salad followed by fruit crumble and cream. Visitors from neighbouring villages joined with the young and not-so-young from Husthwaite and a buzz of cheerful greetings and chatter



flowed as supper was eaten. Lots of willing young helpers handed round puddings and cream , and the bar did a lively trade. Afterwards tables were cleared and put away so that Brian Watt could draw the enthusiastic and reluctant alike onto the dance floor. A lively round of dancing followed with almost everyone joining in, and a rousing Auld Lang Syne brought a memorable evening to a close. Thanks to generous donations towards food, a splendid raffle and a ticket sell-out, £565 was sent to Farm Crisis Network.

Juliet McDougall

Where are the poets of Hushwaite?

In the last issue of the newsletter, I announced the Annual Hushwaite Poetry Competition. I am assured we have lots of children entering their own section, but **so far have only a few poems from adults.** I am hoping that you are all at home ,chewing your pens and waiting for the muse to strike. We have had an entry from Darlington (don't ask) so unless you want an "outsider" to win, you'd better get writing!

You need to pen a poem of 20 lines or less on the subject of Hushwaite. Come on parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, be an inspiration to our youngsters!

The poet laureate Andrew Motion retires this year and they are looking for a replacement. Are you up for it? Entries due in by Jan 5th but you can start sending them in now.

Jan Coulthard



Rescued Cats and Kittens

Trevor Hutchinson reports that he has found a young, apparently quite tame, striped ginger cat and wonders if anyone has lost it. Because of his dog, he has handed the cat for safe keeping to Liz Watrus , who homes cats for the Cat's Protection League. If this is your cat, or you would like to give it, or one of the kittens she has, a home, then please contact Liz on 01653 697918. Please remember a cat is not just for Christmas!



A Winning Welcome Pack

About two years ago, Linda Davison and I were chatting during an Easingwold Singers rehearsal- must have been a boring bit- discussing how newcomers to Hushwaite settled in and how the village welcomed them. We agreed that it would help new residents if there was a brochure or pack containing useful information about the village and local amenities. The parish plan was well under way and there had been some discussion about how newcomers found village life. After much hard work and with a grant from York and NY Community Foundation, the pack we are all familiar with was finally produced. The front cover was chosen from the photographs taken by villagers during consultations for the Parish Plan.

Almost immediately, someone in the village suggested that the pack should be entered for a Village Ventures Award. This is a group under the umbrella of Yorkshire Rural Community Council who give an annual award for projects considered to be particularly valuable to rural communities. To our surprise, the pack was short-listed, one of six to be chosen out of many local projects. Three judges then came to interview us alongside a Parish Councillor. They asked a variety of questions, which we nervously answered. We were very pleased, several weeks later, when we learned that our pack had been short-listed again. An invitation to the award ceremony at Terrington village hall duly arrived. Unfortunately, neither of us could attend and Carol Fenwick

agreed to go to represent the village. We were delighted to be told that our welcome pack had been awarded first prize. Our award was a cheque for the Parish Council of £250, a certificate of recognition and a beautiful oak plaque, designed and made by our own Squirrel woodcarver. It is to be displayed in various places- St Nicholas, the Chapel, the Balmoral and the Village Hall, to enable everyone to see it. The plaque will be kept by the village for two years.



Juliet McDougall

Getting in to the village hall

We're making the former billiard room in the village hall much easier to get into. It can be an excellent community room. There's level access to the kitchen and toilets and it's being refurbished (as is the kitchen). It's a useful size, costs less to heat than the big hall and will have good storage. The problem is that, if you have mobility problems, the only way in is through the main hall and over the stage.

So we are planning an external ramp, giving wheelchair access to both doors on the front of the building. We're also looking at increasing the lighting at the front, putting up proper entrance signs and making disabled parking. Do you have ideas about making the hall more user-friendly and accessible? We want to make it more useable, especially for people with difficulties getting up steps, people who use wheelchairs and mums with children in buggies.

Please e-mail aletheia@hotmail.co.uk or ring me on 868130 or drop a note of at Aletheia House on High Street. (If you would like to take a role in advising or planning accessibility at the hall, we would be thrilled).

Andrew Coulthard

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



Hustwaite Remembers

On Sunday, 9th November, the residents of Hustwaite remembered those from the village and surrounding areas who had fallen in battle. A Service of Remembrance attended by 60 worshippers, and conducted by the Venerable Michael Bowering, was held at St. Nicholas Parish Church. This was followed by a wreath laying ceremony in bright sunshine and a very strong wind. Two wreaths were laid, firstly by Carol Fenwick on behalf of the Parish Council, and secondly by Jan Januirek who holds a Reserve Commission in the Royal Air Force. Col. David Shallow read out the names inscribed on the war memorial, which has recently been cleaned and refurbished.

Gerald Crane