

Husthwaite Newsletter

February 2010 Issue 45



Lisa and Nigel Price, Vikki and Thomas Nixon and Robin Walton enjoy the snow with their dogs ,Fudge, Jess and Drover, on East View, January 2010



Husthwaite Newsletter is jointly funded by the Parish Council, the Village Hall and local sponsors

EDITOR: Jan Coulthard

Please send contributions for the April 1st edition by March 20th to me via email:(jancoulthard@hotmail.co.uk) or by post to Aletheia House, High Street, Husthwaite YO61 4PX or tel. 01347 868130. Comments and suggestions are always welcome. Local businesses can advertise in this Newsletter. Please contact the Editor for information.

Dates for your Diary *in village hall unless stated otherwise*

6 Feb. 10.00-2.00 Coffee morning at Chapel (Haiti Fund Raising)

17 Feb.10.00 am Volunteers to clean railings on village green

20 Feb. 9.30 am Talk: "Orchard Management"

20 Feb. 7.30 pm Elphin Drift

27 March 7.30pm "Call My Bluff " Wine Tasting

15 May 7.30pm Elphin Drift

12 & 13 June "Made in Husthwaite"

27 June Village Football Tournament on MUGA

“ Barbecue

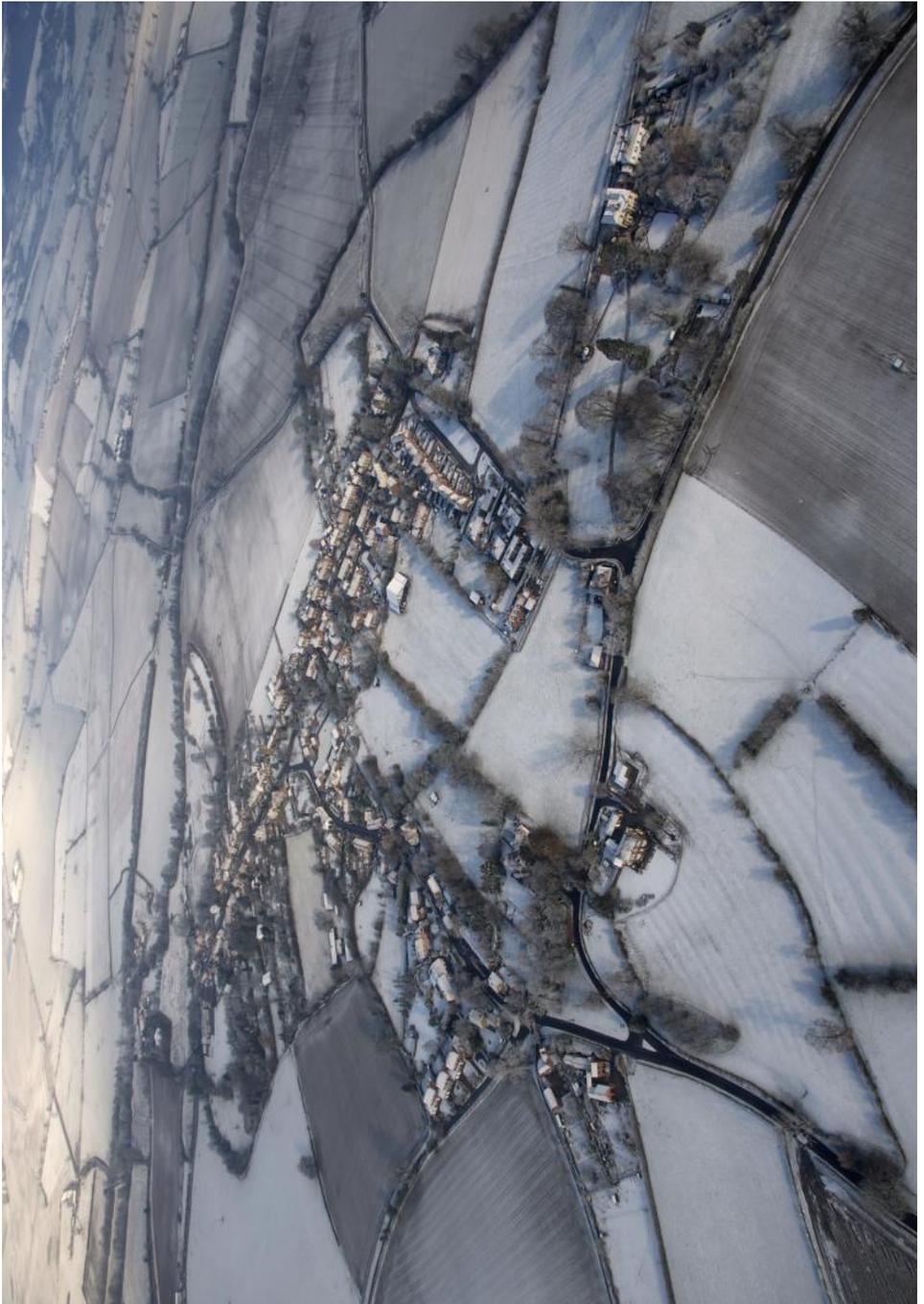
“ Big Screen World Cup Quarter Final

4 Sept. 7.30pm Elphin Drift

9 Sept. 7.30pm Ceilidh

6 Nov. (to be confirmed) Masked Ball

11 Dec. Bad Apple Theatre Co. "A Yorkshire Christmas Carol"



Aerial photo of our village taken in Jan. 2010 by Jan Januriek..Spot your house!

ADVENTURE/FITNESS TRAIL OR SKI-SLOPE?

At the time of writing this report, the village is covered in a generous blanket of snow and bears a close resemblance to winter alpine ski-ing resorts. The recreation area is similarly affected with snow covering the sloping contours from east to west, suggesting that provision for ski-ing might warrant some consideration (just a passing thought)!

Although recent weather has taken its toll on regular use of the games area, off-site, the Recreation Committee has been working steadily, preparing for the next phases of development. These activities may be summarised as follows:

- **SECURING ESTIMATES** After initial contact with 6 companies, appropriately detailed estimates have been received from 4 of these for the next 2 priorities - the Young Children's Play Area and the Adventure/Fitness Trail. In each case, the costs are in the region of £25K plus VAT.
- **SELECTING A CONTRACTOR** The companies in contention are all fairly local and come with good recommendations. They are Streetscape (Selby), Playscheme (Elvington), Image (Sheriff Hutton) and Ludus (Tollerton). By the time this Newsletter is published, a team of representatives from the Recreation Committee will have visited each of these firms and sites they have developed to evaluate suitability against a set of agreed criteria. Even with this process, the final choice will not be easy.
- **SEEKING FUNDING** Clearly, with 2 projects of this size, it is necessary to seek grants from appropriate sources. In the case of the Young Children's Play Area, we hope to secure support from the Leader Project through their Basic Service Priorities No. 5. This is concerned with supporting local development of small-scale recreational infrastructure and community sport, such as play facilities and provision for young people. The other bid in preparation, for the Adventure/Fitness Trail, is to the Big Lottery Fund in relation to their programme of Changing Spaces. This initiative aims to help local community groups to create spaces which include play areas. Watch this space!

Since the December Newsletter, it is very pleasing to report that Mark Gambles has agreed to join the Recreation Area Committee. He brings valuable expertise as well as a welcome link with the village Youth Club.

Finally, in response to comments, particularly from adults in the village, we plan to include a small picnic/seating area in the Spring/Summer timescale of development. We have already received a very kind offer of funding for a seat from a member of the community who wishes to remain anonymous. Hopefully, efforts to secure support from Broadacres Community Development Fund for further seating will prove to be successful.

The year 20 10 looks set to be very busy!

Peter Davison



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Christmas at the Village Hall

Dec 12th 2009

A fun evening was had by all who attended this event, both young and old alike. The hall looked extremely festive and a special guest was there to welcome all the children with a Ho! Ho! Ho! (albeit in a Geordie accent) and a surprise present.

Master of Ceremonies was Stephen Barker who welcomed all and introduced the activities in his usual professional manner. The entertainment was opened by Richard Wood who gave us a recital of "The Night before Christmas". He later demonstrated amazing memory skills with his word perfect rendition of "The Hare and the Tortoise".

We were then treated to a tasty supper of steak and ale pie followed by a delicious Christmas pudding, expertly prepared and served by Mel and Paul. This was followed by party games organised by Vikki Nixon and country dancing led by Brian Watt who also entertained us with an atmospheric rendition of the "Nightmare Song" from Iolanthe.

As a finale we were treated to an amusing musical performance from our very own local singing group "The Airfix Choir" and then carol singing round the piano.

A warm thanks to all those whose hard work made this an enjoyable evening. If you missed it, make sure you apply for your tickets early next year.

Haiti Emergency

SOS! Don't forget our coffee morning to raise funds for the people of Haiti.

Saturday Feb. 6th 10.00-12.00 at the Chapel

Contributions for Haiti can also be left at the Village Shop

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BURNS NIGHT 2010

A bunch of folks were whooping it up in the Hushwaite Village hall

The kid who was on the bagpipes was having himself a ball.

It was the Burns' Night bash a-taking place in the year 2010

And Brian Watts and his gal Elaine were preparing' a But and Ben.

There were guys in kilts and evening suits and gals in dancing frocks

Some were English, a few were not and of course there were plenty of Jocks!

Sheila and some of her dancing mates had organised the grub

And what with that and the wine and beer, no need to go to the **pub**.

The haggis was piped around the room and man, it did smell good
And Will delivered a fine address that none of us understood,
Then we all sat down to eat , haggis, neeps and tatties
And then moved on to the great buffet where thinnies turned into
fatties.

The loyal toast was proposed and drunk and speeches made and heard
Cameron and Liz amused us all as we hung on every word.
Then everything was cleared away and the dancing soon began.
Every man had his partner marked and every woman her man.

We dashed and sprang and set and sweat to reels and jigs galore
Old and young, lass and lad, with our feet we battered the floor.
The clock it struck the witching hour and still we kept our pace
Till half-past one and Auld Lang Syne we finally stopped the race.

Such a time was had, such laughs, such jests were had by all who came
As on we donned our outside gear and made our own way home.
So here's to you, Brian and Co., and all who trod the measure
Our grateful thanks for food and dance and giving us the pleasure.

To be with such good neighbours all is my idea of heaven
And I hope we can do it again in the year twenty eleven.

David Pike

Christmas services in Husthwaite

Despite the shocking weather, the Chapel was full for the annual Village Christmas Service on Sunday, 20th December. As usual, willing volunteers from village organisations read poems and readings, the Phoenix Choir sang beautifully and all the congregation quickly mastered the 'round'. The evening ended with warm mince pies and coffee—very welcome before the snowy journey home. This year's retiring collection of £140 has been sent to the Cumbrian Floods Appeal. Many thanks to all who took part . **Linda Davison**

The night was crisp and for once there was snow on the ground as St. Nicholas Church welcomed parishioners, and those from further afield, to Midnight Mass. The congregation listened attentively to the Christmas message and celebrated the beauty and wonder of Christ's birth with Communion given by the Revd. Ian Kitchen. Despite the wintry conditions and appalling roads the service was well attended.

Erik Seaman

Singing in the snow (*see picture on back page*)

Should we cancel the carol singing? Would it be dangerous to venture out in such conditions? We decided to meet and see if anyone turned up. What a delightful surprise! 31 adults and children and a very patient dog- a veritable choir! We proceeded on a shortened route, concentrating on the centre of the village and despite cold fingers and toes, sang with gusto. Our spirits were lifted by the gifts of warm mince pies and sausage rolls, and by the generous applause and comments from some of those who came to their doors to listen. After about one and a half hours, the snow began to fall and although it looked very seasonal, even Christmas-card-like, we retired to the Balmoral where further mince pies and drinks rounded off the evening. Thanks to the generous folk of Husthwaite, the magnificent sum of £212 was collected for Action for Children and The Children's Society. Many thanks to all who supported us in any way. It was a good evening - see you next December. **Linda Davison**

Valedictory Poem from our 2009 Poet Laureate

What village event of 2009 would inspire a poet laureate for his valedictory poem? Talking to Cameron earlier in the year about his orchard project, I mentioned how sad it was that some people failed to take advantage of the delicious fruits growing freely in their gardens. That led to the poem, which I dedicate to Cameron.

APPLE-PIE

There's a monkey-tail catch
on the window that's smashed.

The black iron range remains
but the kettle has gone.

Behind the skewed-open
rat-gnawed door
in the lath and plaster
of the fallen-in floor,
sheep shelter from cold winds
scything across the moor.

There's a gnarled apple tree
by the tumbledown wall
that's outlived us all
and blossoms every May:
red, pink and white,
its fruits glister bright
crimson-gold freckles and stripes.

The old farmhouse is now
'sensitively restored'
but the apples are left to rot
while a van drives up the tarmacked track
to deliver New Zealand apples
in a plastic pack.

Brian Clark

NEWS FROM HUSTHWAITE SCHOOL

The Christmas holidays were a welcome relief for everyone to have the chance to recuperate and return to school fully refreshed in the New Year following another hectic Christmas in school. The annual Christmas Fair proved to be an enormous success and raised a magnificent £735.07, many thanks to everyone who supported this. The children in KS1 and Foundation Stage performed magnificently in their Christmas production and the whole school joined together with the community for their Carols by Candlelight Service.

The start of term has proved to be an interesting one given the weather conditions. It is the first time for many of the children, especially the younger ones, to experience such a significant amount of snow and they were given the opportunity to play in it and had great fun building some wonderful snowmen.

However, we are now all looking forward to some warmer weather and spring sunshine.

The new tyre park

At the end of last term the School Council undertook their first big job of the year, supervising the installation of a 'Tyre Park' with the help of Mrs Dixon and Mrs Dunn. The tyre park was paid for by money raised by FoHS and will provide a fantastic new play area for the children. The School Council and some other children were also invited to give their views on the proposed plans for the village's new playground. After lots of constructive discussions, it was agreed that there was a good selection of activities planned and it had been well thought out.



As part of our curriculum children in Years 3 and 4 are given the opportunity of participating in swimming lessons during the Spring Term and once again we are offering this opportunity to our pupils. As a school we aim to get all our pupils to swim 25 metres unaided as we think it an important life skill.

The children are being treated to visit from a travelling theatre on Monday 1st February who will stage Aladdin. Another travelling theatre will perform to children in KS2 later in February which has been organised by NYCC and will promote the importance of wearing seat-belts and safety matters when travelling in cars.

The WEA are hosting a short course at Husthwaite Village Hall for adults helping in schools. We have been asked to be the hub school in helping to support the students in their learning which will include loaning resources and a visit to experience the workings of a school.

During this term children from Y2 to Y6 will be participating in various sporting events organised by Easingwold Secondary School involving all the local cluster of schools. This gives our children to experience sports that we would not normally be able to offer and enables them to mix with and meet pupils from other schools.

Christmas has hardly left our thoughts and we are already looking to Easter. We shall once again be hosting a Community Service on Tuesday 30 March at 2.00 pm to which everyone is invited with the offer of refreshments afterwards.

Diary Dates:

Friday 5 February - Y5/6 visit to York Minster

Tuesday 9 February - parents invited for Valentine lunch

Thursday 11 March - Toddler Day

Friday 12 February - Valentines Cake Stall

School Council Talent Show

School closes for half term

Monday 22 February - school re-opens

Wednesday 17 March - Toddler Day

Tuesday 30 March - Easter Community Service 2.00 pm.

Visits to the school are always welcome, or if you would like more information please feel free to contact us (01347 868371).

Husthwaite Local History Society

"Tales of Husthwaite Old School" - on sale at £5.50 from the shop or Angela Ovenston (868 347). Read about terrible tales of schooling in the village going back as far as the 1660s, strong views about the running of the "old" school in the late 19th century, lives of past teachers, reminiscences and photos from past pupils (including war time evacuees) until the old school closed in 1974.

www.husthwaitehistory.co.uk Information, photographs and queries about their ancestors are now arriving via the website. Further information will be added to the site when more is known about these past families.

Below are two early photographs from two such new contacts.

Heather Tucker is researching her great grandparent Joseph Naters Arnison, born in Jesmond, Newcastle in 1861. He once lived and worked at Beacon Banks in the mid 1890s and died in 1896 and is buried in the churchyard. He is seen here (page opposite) on the lhs on a donkey cart. Can anyone locate where it was?

Gavin Powell has traced his grandmother's family (Woods) to Husthwaite around 1900-1911. John (born 1827 was once a student at Ampleforth College) and Annie Woods and family once lived at Angram Cottage, but by 1911 had moved to another house, possibly in Pilgrim St (the Nookin), where this photo of the children, Louie, Jenny, David and Annie was taken about 1906. Gavin says the hats, and maybe the boy's coat too, were





provided by the travelling photographer! Can anyone identify the cottage - could it have been Spring Cottage next to Bank Cottage?

Two new items on the website (in the publications sections) include articles by Prof. Stuart Marriott from Carlton Husthwaite about :

Jet Mining in Coxwoldshire?

.....Traces of old jet-workings are still plainly visible around the North York Moors, along the escarpment of the Cleveland Hills and the northern end of the Hambletons. A public house by the A19 to Teesside stands at the place called Jeater Houses. There was even jet-mining not too far from Husthwaite. About half a kilometre west of Low Kilburn village is a hill formed by a local exposure of the Whitby Mudstone.....

Husthwaite penny loaves and the Coxwold school clock: George Potts and his charities

Early directories for the North Riding and for York diocese tell us that the poor people of Husthwaite once had the benefit of a bequest left by a certain George Potts. This amounted to an annuity of fifty-two shillings, from which loaves were provided week by week for villagers who were (so to speak) on the breadline. It turns out that there was a little more to Potts's charitable activities, but who was he?.....

Angela Ovenston

HELP!

As you may have noticed, the railings around the village green are looking a bit grubby at the moment. The Parish Council would like some help in cleaning them up and are proposing a cleaning session on Wednesday February 17th at 10 o'clock. This is during half term so the younger members of the community can get involved as well as the adults. If you would like to help please come along with a bucket of warm soapy water, a scrubbing brush and some 'elbow grease'. The more people there are the easier the job will be. Let's see a bit of community spirit in Husthwaite!

Despite numerous pleas the Parish Council is STILL short of 2 members. With all that is happening in the village, particularly, this put a lot of pressure on the remaining members.

Please, if you have any interest in what happens in Husthwaite, put yourself forward as a potential Parish Councillor. It will not mean an election as we have the power to co-opt.

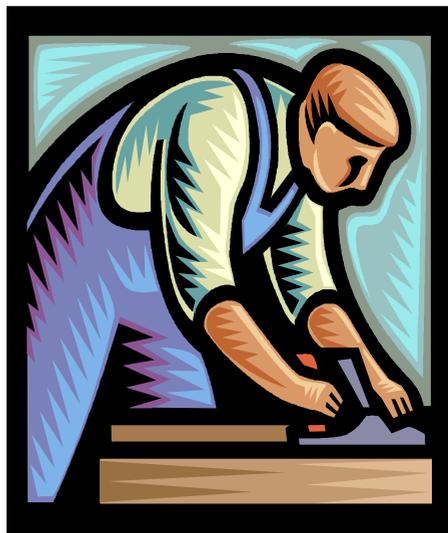
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Home on the Range by
North Country Theatre
Dec.3rd 2009

For two hours Husthwaite village hall became the plains of the Oregon trail as Annis, May and Hope, three Northern Dales' women (complete with their native accents) trudged, trudged and trudged some more with their oxen and covered wagon towards their dream of a better life.

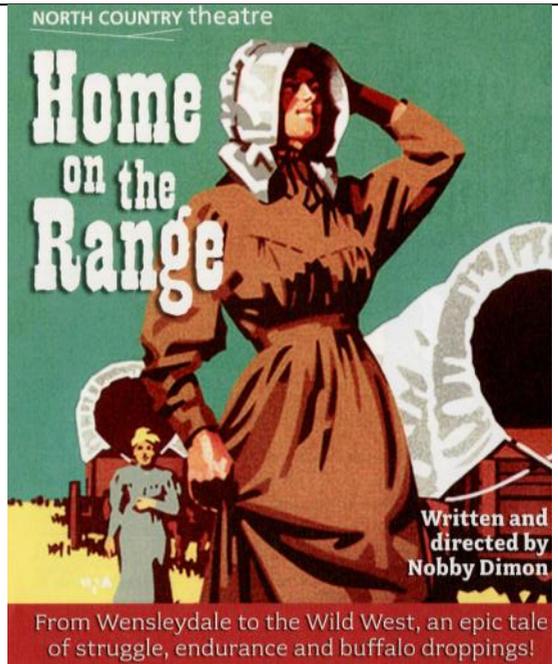
The fact that it was based on the diary of one of the women, widowed on the trail, trying to bring up her typical teenage daughters to adhere to "certain standards of housekeeping and manners", made it reality not fiction. Births were celebrated on the trail, and the marriage of May, together with difficult decisions and sheer hard labour; it portrayed a snapshot of pioneering life.

The atmosphere in the hall was electric (pins could be heard to drop) broken by injections of humour, possibly at the expense of the male sex, and oh yes, bison poo. The whole experience passed in what seemed like just half an hour, not two, and at the end of that time my friend and I had tears in our eyes.

The few seats not taken in the hall missed a real treat, not to mention a good cup of tea and biscuit in the interval (even if £1 was too much to pay for one Northallerton member of the audience!) The applause at the end said it all—it was a right grand do.

We will break out from Helperby again if such excellence is on offer again in Husthwaite.

Brenda Burton



Poet Laureate of Husthwaite 2010

We have a new poet laureate, Brenda Board, who won the adult section of our poetry competition. Brenda was brought up and went to school in Husthwaite, and now lives in Northallerton.

Congratulations, Brenda—we look forward to receiving poems from you in the next year as the muse strikes you!

The Trees of Husthwaite

The yew trees by St. Nicholas church

The lime upon the green

The rowans high on Beacon Banks

Which overlook the scene.

The orchards in the Springtime, dressed

In blossoms white as snow,

The hedgerows in ripe Autumn days

With hazel, hips and sloe.

The poplars tall on Baxby Lane

That reach up to the sky,

The beech tree on the Amplecarr

Where friends and family lie.

The alders and the willow boughs

Along the Elphin side

Where, contemplating minnow meals,

Kingfishers like to hide.

Just think, aspiring laureates
And versifying folk
No Squirrel Trophy could be carved
Without the mighty oak.

Brenda Board

Dr Sue Houseago judged the competition and said of Brenda's entry:

This is a strong song-like poem that celebrates a wide variety of familiar trees. Brenda Board takes us walking past churchyard yews, through blossoms white, past hedgerows, poplars, the beech tree and willows to end at the mighty oak. We pass the familiar places of the village. The precise naming of trees and places gives a lyrical but solid reality to a place- Hushwaite- where people continue their lives alongside trees, symbols seemingly of nature and life eternal.



Brenda with the Squirrel Trophy

The runner up was **Paul Walton** with his witty poem, 'Poetree'.

The children's section was won by Fergus McClanachan aged 7 who receives a £30 book token. Well done, Fergus!



Trees

Swishy trees sway from side to side

As we cycle up our lane

Oak, lime and sycamore

All standing in a line.

The old oak tree bends to whisper in our ear

The sycamore keys like helicopters in the air

Lime trees wobbling, nearly falling

Spiky holly trees with berries red

For Christmas.

Fergus McClanachan

The runner up, who receives a £10 token, was Christie Hall.

Thanks to Dr Houseago for kindly judging our competition this year, and to all of you, adults and children, who entered. There were some fine poems, especially from the children. All the poems will soon be on display in the village hall.

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

NB. Orchard Management talk rearranged to 9.30 on Saturday Feb. 20th at the village hall .

Cameron Smith

Thank you!

We would like to thank all the kind people in the village who sent cards, flowers and good wishes, as well as giving practical help, during Andrew's recent heart operation. This was very much appreciated, particularly as things were made more difficult for everyone during the appallingly long spell of freezing weather over Christmas and New Year. Your kindness and support means a lot.

Andrew is now on the mend and will be seen on his new rigorous walking regime around the village.

Andrew and Jan Coulthard

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Climate Chaos

Three *Husthwaite Newsletter* readers - two from Easingwold, one from Buckinghamshire - accepted my invitation to go together to the Climate Chaos Rally. We had a great day out in the Smoke.

People came from all over Britain. We were in three groups. You could go to Hyde Park Corner for speeches. Or you could ride your bike. Yorkshire cyclists set off from Bradford and rode it in three days. They all met at Lincoln's Inn Fields and went in a phalanx to Westminster.

Then came the 'Wave'. This was our group. We packed the streets so tightly we moved forward a couple of strides at a time. Down Piccadilly, round the Circus, along Regent's Street into Trafalgar Square. There was a sad group of seven flat-earthers on the steps of Nelson's column, shouting obscenities at us. Nobody bothered to reply.

We were close to a steel band from York University, who danced as they drummed. It was amazing how many organisations had sent people. We went with the Co-op. It could have been the RSPB, Oxfam, Sustrans, Friends of the Earth, Save the Children, the NFU. You name it, they were there, including a line of a dozen Abbots of Leeming coaches representing North Yorkshire.

Down Whitehall past Downing Street. Gordon was writing his speech for the Copenhagen Summit. He did well. Pity the rest were at each other's throats.

It was dark by the time we stood beneath Big Ben. All four of us experienced the same thing when we came home. People said, 'What did you do that for? This snow shows global warming is rubbish.'

For now, just a few answers. Then you can write your bit in the next *Newsletter*.

Firstly, I've enjoyed this winter's snow. It's been like meeting an old friend. It came every year when I was a lad in the Hambleton Hills. It wasn't Health and Safety that gave us days off school. It was snow piled so high that men had to dig our village out - with shovels. That was real winter. Secondly, I went because I can. I live in a country which allows protest. The centre of our capital was closed to traffic and bunged full of marchers. No cops. No fights.

Most importantly, I have grandchildren. I'd do most things for them. Their grandchildren could live to the year 2160.

Richard Wood



Above: Merry carol singers brave the cold to bring Christmas cheer to the village.

Below: The alpacas seem at home in the January snow near Beacon Banks.

