

Husthwaite Newsletter

Feb 2011 Edition No.51



Who spotted this Great Spotted Woodpecker in Husthwaite? See page 7



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

EDITOR: Jan Coulthard

Please send articles for the April edition to me by March 20th (this is the final date!) via email: (jancoulthard@hotmail.co.uk) or by post to Aletheia House, High Street, Hustwaite YO61 4PX or tel. 01347 868130.

Comments and articles are always welcome. Local businesses can advertise in this Newsletter. Please contact the Editor.

Dates for your Diary

9 Feb. Quiz Night at the Balmoral £1 to enter the quiz

10 Feb. Gardening Club AGM and talk: Rotters of Yorkshire 7.30 in VH

15 Feb.7.30 Film of “When we are Married” in Village Hall £5

12 Mar. Cut off date for oil cooperative orders (see pg. 13)

17 Mar.&.30 Talk :Yorick’s Progress by P. Wildgust in V. H. £5

31 March, ! & 2 April 7.30 “The Hypochondriac” in VH. (£8 / £5)

9 April 7-11ish Elphin Drift in VH £3 (under 16 free)

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Husthwaite Orchard Village Update

Husthwaite Orchard Village is a company set up in 2009 to restore the historic orchards in our village, and to make and sell products from the fruit to fund village projects. We now have a committee of 5 trustees led by Cameron Smith.



Since 2009, 500 orchard trees (including 230 at Mount House) have been planted. 200 trees have also been grafted onto rootstocks, for sale and to replace others. For next year, another 200 will be grafted, this time focussing on local and Yorkshire varieties. Cameron will graft cuttings onto rootstocks to order, too, if anyone has a precious tree that they want to reproduce.

With the help of Mervyn Duffield and Gary Thornton, two byres and an area of fold yard at Manor House have been converted into a production, fermentation and storage unit for apple and pear juice and cider.

We managed to sell all of the 2009/10 cider we made, and for the coming year are starting to sell 25 litre barrels, plus bottles and gift boxes containing cider and juice, now that the technical aspects of juice production are sorted out. For local pubs, 40 pint pressurised vessels of cider should be available. We had a good year for apples in 2010, and we sold 2000 bottles of juice. Cider is available in bottles from Cameron or at local pubs, and juice is sold in the village shop, and at shops and in cafes around the area.

We hope to have the first significant crop of apples from our own orchard at Mount House this coming summer. It is very difficult to pick all the village apples in a good cropping year, unless we have more volunteer pickers. If anyone wishes to help, please let Cameron know. We now have special wearable collection buckets that make picking easier! If you are willing to pick and add your own fruit to the pressings, please take them along in late summer to the pressing sessions.

The Orchard Apple Fair (run in conjunction with the school) this year will be even bigger and better. It will be held in the second week of September. Does anyone want to organise a produce (eg. vegetable, fruit and flower) competition? If so, please let Cameron know.

Quiz: for a gift box of apple juice and cider, can you guess how many tons of fruit were collected and pressed from Sept.-Dec. 2010?

Answers by Feb. 15th to the Newsletter Editor please.

Cameron Smith and Jan Coulthard

2011 HUSTHWAITE POETRY COMPETITION

The Adult Competition is for those over 16, for the post of 2011 Husthwaite Poet Laureate and the winner retains for one year the carved oak Squirrelman Trophy.

The theme is “Through the Window...” so imagine the widest possible interpretations of those words!

*The poem should be NO LONGER than 20 lines and your own original work

*You can enter more than one poem

*Your winning entry will be published in this Newsletter in 2011

*Email your entry to jancoulthard@hotmail.co.uk, or post it to the Newsletter editor (keep a copy)

*Entries to be in by March 20th 2011

*Please put your name, address and phone no. on entries.

The judge of the competition will not know the names on the entries.

CHILDREN’S POETRY COMPETITION

Have a go at writing a poem and win a £30 book token!
Second prize a £10 token!

*The poem should have the title **“When I grow up...”** so perhaps think about what the world will be like in a few years, or about what you wish for...

* it should have not more than 20 lines

*it must be all your own work

*put your name, age and phone number on the poem

*email your poem to jancoulthard@hotmail.co.uk or post to the Editor at Aletheia House, High Street, Husthwaite.

*the final date for entries is 20 March 2011

Please note: the closing date was early January but has been extended. All previous entries will be included in the judging.

If you need any more information, please contact Jan Coulthard, on 01347 868130 or email as above.

The Horse in my Life

by Brenda Board

My constant, true companion

Through childhood's carefree days.

In morning light and noon day sun,

'Til evening's golden rays.

No stable walls enclosed this horse,

I saw it from afar -

Beyond the trees and meadows green,

High up on Roulston Scar.

As kids, we scrambled up the tail

And stood upon its eye....

Had picnics in the heather,

Watching gliders drifting by.

We scanned the panoramic view,

York Minster, hills and vales,

And watched the steady progress of

The steam trains, slow as snails.

But time goes by, and life moves on,

Still, when I see the Kilburn Horse

I feel I'm close to home.

And when my days are over

And my spirit soars above,

The horse and I will both gaze down

On the Husthwaite that I love.



This is Brenda's final poem
as our 2010 poet laureate.
Thank you, Brenda!

JOY TO HUSTHWAITE

We hope all the villagers have enjoyed looking at the illuminated stars and 'Joy' in the tree on the Village Green. This was a joint venture by members of the two Churches to spread something of the real meaning of Christmas to all who passed by. This is the first time anything like this has been done. Maybe we can add to it in future years.

Meanwhile, all good wishes for 2011 to you all from the members of St. Nicholas and Methodist Churches.

Linda Davison



Husthwaite History Society

Thursday March 17th, Husthwaite Village Hall, 7.30. Tickets at the door, £5 to include a glass of wine. Illustrated talk by Patrick Wildgust:

“Yorick's Progress - the latter years of the life of Laurence Sterne” as depicted by Martin Rowson (political cartoonist for the Guardian newspaper).

The talk will be based on Rowson's pen and ink drawings inspired by Hogarth's Rake's Progress. The eight drawings document the life of Parson Yorick (Laurence Sterne's "alter ego") when he lived at Shandy Hall, Coxwold from 1759 to his death in 1768. The talk will also introduce Eliza Draper who will be the

subject of an exhibition at Shandy Hall in 2012 as part of the London Olympics' Stories of the World. Patrick Wildgust, curator of Shandy Hall is an excellent and entertaining speaker, this is a new talk and all are welcome to come.

From Heather Tucker, Gloucestershire Dec 2010

In early October, my husband and I were lucky enough to visit Husthwaite. I initially contacted Angela Ovenston through the history website, as I had found a connection between my great-grandparents and Beacon Banks. It appears they rented the house for a short time in the 1890s until just after Joseph Naters Arnison, my great-grandfather, died in Scarborough at the age of 35, after which my great-grandmother Elizabeth moved the family to Cheltenham. Joseph Naters Arnison and two of his children are buried in St Nicholas' churchyard. We still don't know why he moved to Beacon Banks, although the family may have a connection with the Wailes family through glass making in Newcastle upon Tyne. The Arnison family originally lived in Newcastle.

John and Angela gave us a tour of the village including Beacon Banks and the church. Alan and I would like to thank them for their time and hospitality on the day and Angela for the work she has done on my family history. We both enjoyed our short visit to your delightful village and beautiful church.

Note – Heather sent many good photos taken when the Arnisons were at Beacon Banks, some of which have appeared in previous issues of the Newsletter and all of which will appear on the gallery of www.husthwaitehistory.co.uk before long (AO).

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Spotted Woodpecker spotted!

I bought a bird feeder filled with nuts at the Apple Fest. When it was cold in winter, I hung it on a tree in my garden. In the Christmas holidays, in early January, I looked out of my kitchen window and saw a funny- looking bird with red on its tummy. It was pecking away at the nuts- it must have been very hungry. (see front cover)

Rory Watt(aged 7)

When we are married—again!

On Tuesday 15th February there will be a showing of the film of the *When We Are Married* village play. The performances in September 2009 by a cast of talented Husthwaite folk were extremely popular. Now we can see it all again on the silver screen in the village hall, starting at 7:30pm, with an interval after Act 1, just like during the live performances. Tickets: £5.00 each, and free for the under 16s. All proceeds to go to the village hall.

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Free Energy Advice in Husthwaite

After Energy Day last year, Sustainability 4 Yorkshire chose Husthwaite as one of their five test villages. Their project is to discover how best to reduce energy use in rural areas like ours. We do know that all energy prices are likely to rise in future. If we can find ways to use **less, it helps us make our money spin out and it's good for the environment.** With the same purpose in mind, Salford University has just built an entire house inside a warehouse, simply to experiment **with different types of insulation and heating. It's that urgent.** **What's on offer in Husthwaite is this. We need to find ten households** who are willing to get free advice about reducing energy use in their house. If you agree to take part, you receive:

A visit from a worker at York Energy Saving Trust, who will do an energy audit of your house. It involves gathering details about your existing insulation, draughtproofing and heating and identifying what your best money saving options might be. Images of the outside of your house, taken with an infra-red camera which shows where heat is coming out and how fast. Use for a month of an energy use monitor. **It's a small digital display** which shows, minute by minute, how much electricity you are using at any time.

It's worth stressing that this is all completely free. The whole purpose is to give you good quality information about your house and the energy it uses. The information is confidential to you and whether you make use of the information is entirely up to you.

If you would like to be one of the ten households taking part, please let me know and I will forward names to the Energy Saving Trust. If it proves useful, we will invite more families to take part.

Andrew Coulthard 868130



WOW - WHAT A CHRISTMAS PRESENT!

Two days before Christmas Eve, a telephone call from the 'Changing Spaces' office in Birmingham heralded the news that our most recent funding application to further develop the Recreation Area had been successful. No less than around £35,000 has been allocated towards the proposed Adventure Area & Fitness Trail, including the upgrading of the access track between the newly-erected fence and the Multi-Use Games Area. Given the emerging financial climate, this is a fantastic award and a marvellous present for the whole community.

The sketch plan (kindly produced by Annabel Kennedy) which accompanies this report shows where the various items of equipment will be located in relation to the whole site. The alphabetical key for each piece is as follows:

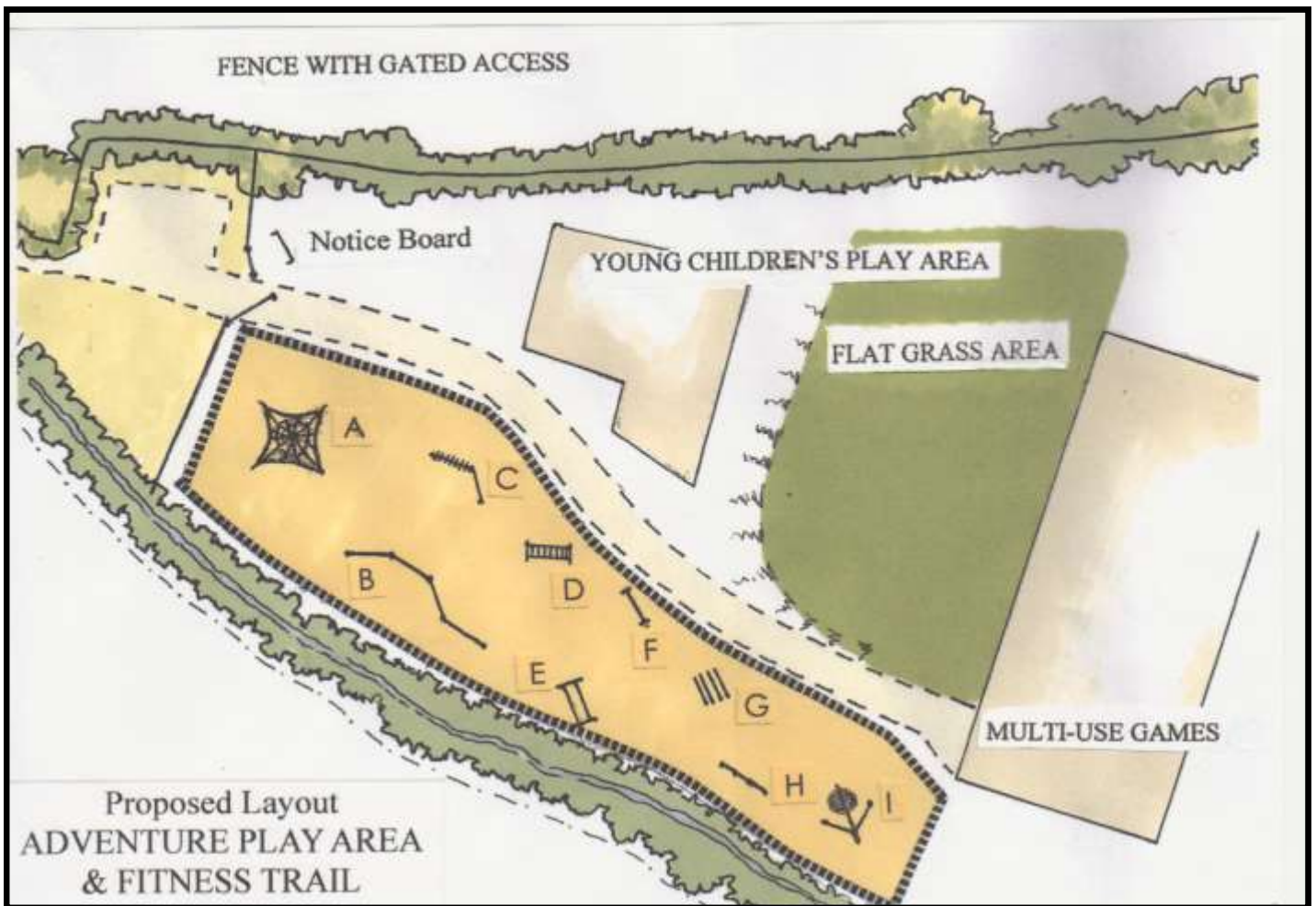
- | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|------------------------|
| A | Activity Space Net | E | Burmah Bridge |
| B | Senior Adventure Trail | F | Rope Climb |
| C | Senior Tramtrax &
Swinging Steps | G | Run-up & Leap Hurdle |
| D | Monkey Bars (Horizontal Ladder) | H | Chin-up/Roll Over Bars |
| I | Crane Swing | | |

This range of equipment is suitable for both older children and adults and will complement the existing **Multi-Use Games Area and the Young Children's Play Area** provided in 2009 and 2010 respectively.

The process of seeking tenders is now under way and once these have been considered by the Recreation Area Committee, it is envisaged that a start by the chosen contractor will be made in March/April, with completion scheduled for April/May.

Looking ahead, although the major aspects of this project will soon be in place, there are some finishing touches still to be added. These include a small pavilion with storage for maintenance equipment, additional seating, upgrading of the remainder of the access track from the road entrance to the gate and an improved surface for a general purpose amenity area. Although we will continue to apply for further grants to complete this work, it is likely that such sources will become increasingly scarce. Even if our efforts to secure further funding are successful, there is usually a requirement to make a local contribution. Needless to say, at this stage our funds are running low. Within the community, if anyone is likely to be involved in some event with sponsorship or other fund-raising initiatives, perhaps some support for the final stages in the development of the Recreation Area could be borne in mind. Any such financial help will be greatly appreciated.

Peter Davison



This Month's Book Review

It was Good!

The book is "Halo" by Zuzou Corder, the not -so-secret identity of Louisa Young and her daughter Isobel Adomakoh-Young who, since Isobel was seven, have been writing together. The story is set in various places in Greece and tells the adventures of a girl called Halo, who is trying to find her parents. I found it so interesting that I could not wait to pick the book up after meals and after school.

Halo travelled to many places and usually met someone to help her in her search. She often found herself in life or death situations but always managed to pull through. I liked Halo because she was skilful and determined to achieve what she needed to do.



I would recommend this book to both boys and girls because it is exciting, at times a little scary and it kept my attention. It also shows what some girls can do. Does she find her parents? Does everything work out alright? You will have to read the book to find out! It is a Puffin book and costs £6.99.

Guy Pickstone (aged 11)



“The Balmoral - a real pub with food!”

When Alison and John Turner planned their move to a country pub, The Balmoral in Husthwaite, they could not have imagined the difficulties that they might face. As well as having to do an almost complete refurbishment of the premises, they have had the worst winter anyone can remember, with frozen pipes, and few potential customers venturing out of their homes.

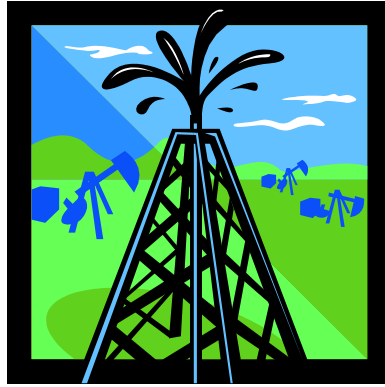
Not downhearted, however, on New Year's eve they had things up and running, so with live music from Alun Nixon and Mark Gamble the New Year was well and truly seen in.

Alison says what she wants to offer is a real country pub, with good beer (like **Black Sheep and Timothy Taylor's Landlord**), a warm welcome, and good food; bar snacks for those who want something light as well as home cooked meals are made from locally sourced produce, like meat from Andrew Thornton and fruit and vegetables from Hambletons. There will be a core menu of food such as Lasagne, Steak and Ale Pie, Sausages and Yorkshire Pudding, Roast Vegetable **Pasta Bake, Roasts and Alison's own special Chicken and Leek Crumble**, as well as fresh fish on Fridays, and a Special dish each day. Pork with Husthwaite Cider Gravy is often on the menu too. Sunday lunch will be served with genuine roast potatoes!

In the day, tea, coffee and home-made cakes is served. WiFi will be available to use if you bring along your laptop. Quiz nights are planned every fortnight on Wednesdays - the next one is on Feb. 9th. It costs £1 to enter, and a gallon of beer **is the prize. “Open Mike” nights are planned for the first Wednesday of every** month, with free entry, dancing and singing. The Balmoral is open Tues - Saturday 12.00-12.00, and Sunday from 12 until 9.00. During Sunday evening, there will be a raffle for a £20 prize.

The Balmoral has a new website, www.thebalmoralpub.co.uk but if you want to make a booking, please ring on the usual number 01347 868007. Alison and John would like to thank the people of Husthwaite for their welcome, advice and help. Do drop in to meet them and support them in their venture.

Lower Swale Syndicate of Oil Cooperatives



Husthwaite Oil Co-op is part of the Lower Swale Syndicate of oil co-operatives with a collective of over 300 members from Brafferton, Helperby, Alne, Sutton on the Forest, Huby, Husthwaite and Bagby. So far 35 households in the village have expressed interest in ordering through the co-op.

Two orders have now gone in for Husthwaite placed by Chris Owens from Brafferton who started the Co-op around three years ago. The November order for Husthwaite was 21 drops, a total of 15,500 litres, and on 17 January, 18 drops totalling 14,800 litres. The price achieved both times has been well below the order rate for 1000 litres, with the January price being 49.99 pence plus VAT which is only 5p or so above the November price. I saw another quote in writing today for 1000 litres of 58.75ppl plus VAT.

In the November snows the delivery was nearly all completed within three days of the order going in, and at the time of writing is due to start two days after the order date in January. Obviously it takes more than one day to get around the entire co-operative!

No money changes hands in the Co-op, as individual delivery notes are provided and each member is then responsible for settling their own account directly within two weeks. There may be a charge if you wish to use a credit card.

Cut-off for the next order will be 12 March - if you are interested to find out more, please get in touch preferably by email:

husthwaiteoil@btinternet.com.

Michael Graham

Let us hear your views!

If you have a point of view on any issue which you would like to share with others, please send an article or letter to the Editor (address on page 2).

‘The Hypochondriac’

Euan and Liz
Crawshaw
rehearsing for
The Hypochondriac



*“It is a strange enterprise to want to make respectable people **laugh!**”* wrote Moliere, the originator of **“The Hypochondriac**, a play already in rehearsal by the Village Drama Group. They intend to do just that! This modern version, by the well-known Liverpool author and poet Roger McGough, brings the comedy right up to date, satirising the worried well, and the medical profession.

This comedy is presented on 31st March, 1st and 2nd April 7.30 in the Village Hall. Tickets are on sale soon: £8 (under16s £5).

CAROL SINGING

Should we? Shouldn't we? Is it too cold?

These questions were answered when 18 hardy folk from Husthwaite (plus 1 from Easingwold and 2 from Barwick-in-Elmet) and 3 dogs met on the Village Green in sub-zero temperatures on Tuesday, 21st December. The decision to go ahead with singing was unanimous and we embarked on a shortened route, partly up the Nookin and then High Street and Low Street.

Hot mince pies and sausage rolls tasted wonderful in the frosty air and warm soup and mulled wine at the Balmoral all sustained us. We ended the evening at the home of Geoff and Kath Jones who served further refreshments.

So was it worthwhile? Most definitely. The village sparkled under the hoar frost, and applause and refreshments provided much encouragement. The generous folk of Husthwaite again dug deeply into their pockets and we collected £224 which has been divided between Action for Children and The Children's Society. **'In the bleak midwinter' was certainly appropriate. Our apologies to those we couldn't visit. We hope for more favourable conditions in 2011.**



Linda Davison

Christmas Day at St Nicholas

It was a joy to go from the freezing conditions outside to the warmth and beauty of the Church on Christmas morning. A full church celebrated as favourite carols were sung and Nigel led us in a Family Communion service. There were many families there, visitors as well as local people, and the children enjoyed being involved. It was interesting to hear about some of their presents especially the little one who had been given five puppies! Nigel then got a child volunteer to open a large present given to the Church. This was a bird-box given by the Diocese to St.

Nicholas and all its other churches to encourage the churches'

involvement in the environment, but where it will be sited no-one can yet say.

Thank you to everybody who helped to make this act of worship a happy and memorable start to a special day.

Ann Davies

Good News this White Christmas

A White Christmas, they say, is a time when a snowflake falls in Tottenham Court Road. What a joke! For the second year in succession Christmas came to Husthwaite with winter frost and starry skies. On Beacon Banks, where the kids had glorious sledding conditions, North Yorkshire, from the Moors to the Dales, was spread out in pristine snow.



“Good News” was the theme of the village Christmas Service on 19th December at the Methodist Chapel. Peter Davison welcomed everyone to the comfortably full chapel, and Linda played the organ with Breda Wells on violin supporting the congregational singing. The Rev Ruth Duck led the opening prayer and gave the blessing at the end of the service.

One of the lovely features of this annual occasion is the readings by representatives of village organisations - the History Society (Angela Ovenston), the Village Hall (Richard Wood), the Parish Council (Carol Fenwick), the Scottish Dancers (Sheila Mowatt), the Roman Catholic Church (Lisa Clarke), the Gardening Club (Breda Wells), the Parish Church (Jill Galloway) and the Methodist Church (Jackie Earley). Peter and Linda chose each of these readings for its emphasis on the good news of Christmas.

Thomas Nixon, accompanied by Alun his dad on the guitar, played two carols, one on his violin, one on his saxophone. As well as **giving body to the congregation’s singing, the Phoenix Choir presented two numbers. They gave us ‘Jesus Christ the Apple Tree’ and the ever popular ‘Little Drummer Boy’.**

In the relaxed gathering after the service, everyone enjoyed mince pies and coffee.

The retiring collection was for Martin House Children’s Hospice, and raised £200.

Richard Wood

Burns Supper - 15 January 2011

Saturday 15 January saw one of the most popular 'village' evenings of the year go without a hitch - the sixth Burns Supper held in the Village Hall was attended by a record 70 plus. The evening follows the **traditional formula with a slice of 'Husthwaite' individuality thrown in** and each year the event becomes more finely tuned.

After discovering which 'battlefield' (table) to sit at, the haggis was piped in and Burns' 'Address to the Haggis' ably recited by Will Mowatt. Sheila said the 'Selkirk Grace', then the haggis, served with the usual neeps and tatties was followed by a fabulous meal (all provided by those attending) before the serious entertainment of the evening started!



Replacing the 'immortal memory' of Burns life, Brian, Alun Nixon and Fiddler of Helperby (Davy Outlaw and Judith Laity) sang three lovely songs either by Burns or in his style: My love is like a Red Red Rose, Wild Mountainside and Winter is past.

The Toast to Lassies was conceived and delivered by the incomparable David Pike whose sharp wit and accomplished delivery was ably responded to by Linda Smith.

Linda's Toast to the Laddies, (see photo) was a wry but humorous take on some of the 'village laddies' using a series of 'couplets' with few escaping completely unscathed! The speeches concluded with

David Pike performing a hilarious 'tribute' to Chick Murray, one of Scotland's greatest comedians with a set of his tried and tested but perennially funny gags!

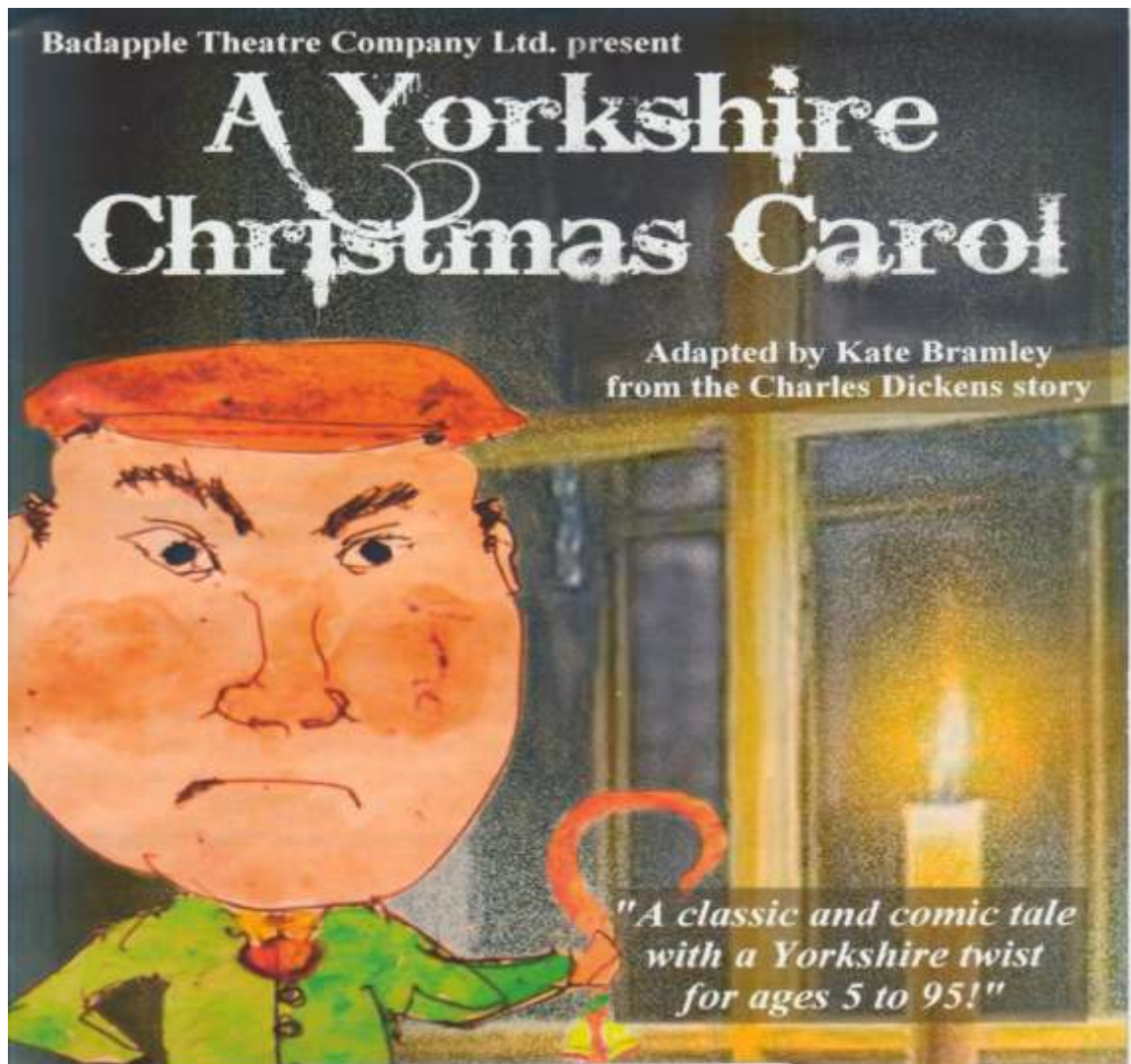
Last but not least the highly enjoyable business of dancing, which was when Brian took a deep breath and patiently guided dancers of all abilities through eleven Scottish country dances before the evening ended with Auld Lang Syne.

All present owe a huge 'thank you' to Brian and Elaine Watt, Will and Sheila Mowatt for organising the whole evening (a mammoth task started a long time in advance with every detail taken care of), fabulously decorating the Hall and even persuading someone to write the event up!

Michael Graham

A Yorkshire Christmas Carol

Badapple Theatre Company filled Husthwaite Village Hall for their production of 'A Yorkshire Christmas Carol'.



Scrooge was a miserable Yorkshire farmer, counting his pennies, cussing the weather, muttering about the state of his sheep and the quality of the local Wensleydale cheese.

Bob Cratchett was the farmhand, who disgusted Farmer Scrooge by knocking off on Christmas Eve and going home to his wife and family. **Scrooge insulted him in one of the show's several funny songs.** He chuntered that Christmas was a waste of a perfectly good day.

Then he climbed into his on-stage bed and was scared witless by the ghosts of Christmas past, future and present. Christmas Past was the portrayed by an enormous shaggy dog puppet, with a sentimental

look at the good old days.

In a wonderful transformation Elvis suddenly appeared as the ghost of Christmas Present. He was glamorously, glitteringly costumed and hair styled. To the delight of the old timers in the audience he sang **snippets from ‘Wooden Heart’, ‘It’s Gonna be a Lonely Christmas Without You’ and other sentimental songs.**

Meanwhile, Bob, dad of the jolly Cratchetts, flourished a carving **knife for the family’s Christmas turkey, which was the size of a match box!**

Well, of course Scrooge learned the error of his miserable penny-pinching ways and the audience went home down the Nookin Bank with a song in their hearts about the superiority of Yorkshire - best Wensleydale cheese, best cricketers, best puddings and easily capable of dealing with any trouble from Lancashire.

The play was a two-hander presented by David and Jonny. They used puppets and they could both do regional accents. The Yorkshire voice dominated, naturally, but they did a good line in Geordie and Scouse as well as southern and posh stuff.

We had some anxiety about this production. Bringing in visiting theatre companies involves a huge financial layout. We needed at least 70 paying customers. A couple of days beforehand we were short of that number. It was Christmas and the weather was bad. **In the end we didn’t need to worry. A lot of people booked at the last minute.** Several had tickets off the internet and we were packing them in through the door as the play started. It was a great Christmas for the Village Hall.

During the interval one of the actors drew the tickets for the Christmas Draw. It was very satisfying that the winners were all village folk - Mark Gambles, Bessie Fox and John Ovenston.

Richard Wood

The Laurence Sterne Trust presents:

9th Feb. 2011 7.45 at York Theatre Royal :“A sentimental Journey”, a digital opera performed by The Digital Opera Ensemble.

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Yorkshire v. Lancashire

An American photographer on vacation was inside a church in Leeds taking photographs when he noticed a golden telephone mounted on the wall with a sign that read '£10,000 per call'.

The American, being intrigued, asked a vicar who was strolling by what the telephone was used for. He replied that it was a direct line to heaven and that for £10,000 you could talk to God. The American thanked the priest and went along his way.

Next stop was in York and there, at a very large cathedral, he saw the same golden telephone with the same sign under it. He wondered if this was the same kind of telephone he saw in Leeds and he asked a nearby nun what its purpose was. She told him that it was a direct line to heaven and that for £10,000 he could talk to God. 'O.K. thank you,' said the American.

He then travelled to Doncaster, Sheffield, Rotherham, Bradford and Todmorden; in every church he saw the same golden telephone with the same '£10,000 per call' sign under it.

The American, upon leaving Yorkshire, decided to travel to Lancashire to see if Lancastrians had the same phone.

He arrived in Blackburn, and again, in the first church he entered, there was the same golden telephone, but this time the sign under it read '50 pence per call.'

The American was surprised so he asked the priest about the sign. 'Father, I've travelled all over Yorkshire and I've seen this same golden telephone in many churches. I'm told that it's a direct line to heaven, but in Yorkshire the price was £10,000 per call. Why is it so cheap here?'

The priest smiled and answered, 'You're in Lancashire now, son. It's a local call.'

Sorry, as a Lancastrian away from her Bolton roots your Editor could not resist this!

Save the Libraries!

I was very dismayed to read the N. Yorks County Council's consultation document on the future of public libraries in North Yorkshire.

Easingwold library, like Helmsley among many others, would go. The nearest one for people in this area would then be Thirsk (if that stays open). Only 2 mobile libraries would cover all of N. Yorkshire!

As a retired teacher of English, I know only too well the difference in attainment of students who have had access to books from an early age compared to those who did not. Every learning task in school or college, including using computers, involves reading. It affects all subjects, and is needed throughout life.

The children's library is specially important. Our 5 year old grand-daughter has borrowed books from Easingwold library, several a week, since she was 2. She can read fluently now, and still looks forward to her weekly trip to get new books. Few parents could afford such riches of delight and learning. Also the housebound or elderly look forward to their new reading matter as a window on a wider world. As we get older, many of us want to continue to learn, often informally through reading. Not many can afford to buy each book they need. The services of the trained librarians are appreciated too, by students at school or college, who need guidance in accessing and planning research for projects. They help people who have never used the internet to access information on the library computers. The Internet is used now more widely at home, it is true, but universities and examining boards are already complaining about its use compared with proper research in books, as students thoughtlessly transfer chunks of unread and possibly invalid material into essays. Librarians can offer guidance.

Leaders of industry complain regularly that people are not literate enough when they leave school. Will they be the ones to help fund the **libraries which help children's literacy? I haven't seen them or the** bankers rushing forward to be philanthropic in any area which is being cut by the present government. They are holding on to their bonuses.



We are being taken back to an era well before that of Victorian times, when the Carnegie libraries and Mechanics Institutes brought the first chance of advancement and learning for the working classes. The suggestion is that volunteers should replace the library staff. Really? How many people are able or willing to come forward to spend hours doing this, as well as being guilty of putting qualified staff out of work? Once the library system is dismantled, it will be twice as costly to replace it in the future.

If you feel you would like to tell N. Yorkshire Council your feelings on the matter, you can send a letter to Library Budget Consultation at library headquarters in Northallerton, or write online at www.northyorksgov.uk or email libraries@northyorks.gov.uk.

On Tues. 8th Feb at 6.30 there's a meeting of Easingwold Town Council in the Galtres Centre about the proposed closures to which everyone is invited.

Easingwold library and some retailers have forms and information on the proposals, responses to which are due in by 28th February.

And you can write to your local councillor and your MP!

Jan Coulthard

NEWS FROM HUSTHWAITE SCHOOL

It has been a pleasant start to the Spring Term having suffered with snow and school closures at the end of the Autumn Term. Although Christmas seems like a long time ago now, the school enjoyed a successful Christmas Fair raising a fantastic £628.00; a huge thank you to everyone who supported our main annual fund-raising event.

Toddler Group

Our new toddler group has started on a positive note, despite the weather, and it has been wonderful to welcome new and familiar faces to this weekly event. Mrs Fowler has enjoyed organising a variety of activities which have included making bread and lots of painting and gluing as well as playing. There are already more exciting things planned for the children during the spring term. All children up to school age are welcome to come along and pop in any time with their parent/carer between 9.15 and 11.15 am every Thursday morning. It is also proving a great way for adults to meet new people and familiarise themselves with the school. This weekly toddler group is in addition to the monthly sessions held in the foundation stage class and hosted by Miss Goodchild.



New Website



The school has been very fortunate in having the ICT skills of villager Lawrie Hill to update **and renew the school's website, for which we** are very grateful. There is a fantastic gallery of photographs to view as well as other useful information about the school.

The website is: www.husthwaiteschool.co.uk

Class activities

The school's topic this half term will focus on Africa and will also include aspects of art and geography. The next half term topic will be science based around inventions and time.



Once again children in the key stage 2 classes will be involved in various sporting activities with other schools in the cluster this term. Events will include athletics, swimming and multi-skills.

Pupil voice groups continue to meet and this term the highlight for many of the school, organised by the School Council, is the **children's talent show**. An opportunity for children to showcase their talents. Whether it is drama, dance or showing off magic skills, it is wonderful to see what a wealth of gifted children the school has.

Diary Dates

15 Feb. Toddler sing-song and story (monthly session in class 1)

18 Feb. School closes for half term

28 Feb. Staff training day

1 March School opens

7 March Toddler day (monthly session in class 1)

31 March Toddlers sing song and story (monthly session in Class 1)

7 April Easter Community Service at school

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

Sarah Dixon (School Business Manager)

A New Village Hall?

It's just short of 100 years ago since men from Husthwaite went to Ripon with a horse and cart, to collect the village hall from the army barracks. The huts were surplus after the First World War. Hundreds had been quickly made, to house the men on their way to the front. Now, they were dismantled, up for sale and many ended up in communities around England.

Ours has done well since then. Lots of families have really good memories of going to events there. It would take longer than we have here to list all the uses it has been put to since 1920; good for a building that was meant just to see the 1914 war out.

But it's not going to last forever and we have to think about its future. The village has put a lot of energy into keeping it going, giving it a brick skin, making it safer and improving its equipment over the years. But there are **problems with its structure, with the energy it uses and it's not the prettiest building in the village.** There have been attempts to replace it before, with lots of village effort put into good designs and fund raising. **But, so far, it's been without success.**

Now a new chance has come up. Last December, the Big Lottery Fund invited bids for substantial sums of money to rebuild community buildings. The areas which can bid are limited to certain postcodes and Husthwaite is in one of them. So, after much discussion, the village hall committee decided that it would very much like to have a go. The Parish Council supports the idea too.

It's a hard process to go through. There are three stages. We're at the first, which is really about getting on the list of bidders. You will have received a letter asking whether your household wants us to make the bid. If a majority of us agree, we shall put in the very best outline bid we can and see if we can get the process started.

If we do get past this stage then there's a long process ahead of designing a building which will be an asset to the village, not only in what it does but also how it looks. It will be a wonderful opportunity for all of us to think about what the village hall should do, about what it can add to village life in the changing times ahead. So, thank you to those people who have **replied already. We'll keep you posted about how things are going.**

Husthwaite & District Gardening Club.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 10th February at 7:30 in the Village Hall. It will be a busy evening with a talk from "Rotters of North Yorkshire". Presumably it will be about composting! We will also have the judging of the hyacinth bulbs which were handed out to members



in the autumn.

The evening will start with the club's Annual General Meeting, with reports from the chairman, Breda Wells and treasurer, Graham Essex, followed by the voting-in of the new committee for 2011/2012.

All members and guests are welcome.

Mike Wells

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Images from the Burns Supper on 15th January. Article on page 1 photos: Will Mowatt

