



Exotic Visitor

Photo: Mervyn Duffield

We believe its a Southern Hawker (Aeshna Cyanea) but we quite ready to be corrected - letters to the Editor, please.

Mervyn writes: *The dragonfly may live about 4 months in flying state but in the larval state it may live a number of years under water. It flies at about 10mph but can reach 25-30mph. It usually has a wing span of about 120mm but larger ones have been seen. This one appeared to be bigger but I did not measure it. The body size is said to be about 75 to 80mm, but this one also appeared to be larger. They are seen from June to October.*

Date of photo: 27th July 2005 at 2.28pm

**EASINGWOLD
TAXIS**

07763 234080

Deadline for your material in the next Newsletter: Sunday 20th
December

Auction of Promises Raises 4,000 Jointly Funded by Husthwaite Parish Council and the Village Hall Committee

The teachers promised to teach: Spanish, Latin, computing, gardening, fishing. The cooks and chefs promised to cook and bake: cakes, cookies, soup yes, soup by the gallon. The walkers promised the rough stuff and the stop-at-every pub stroll. You could have your ironing ironed, your dog walked and your baby sat - enough baby sitters came forward to sit every baby in the village, except that one terrific mum swept up the lot. You could have an evening with the top brass in their classic car or with the high fliers in their vintage plane.

The Village Hall Committee asked for support with the next stage of their renovation work. Its an ambitious and expensive plan to transform the outward appearance of the Hall, and it can only be done with help from organisations that offer grants. All such organisations require us to chip in a good share of the total cost - perhaps as much as for . Our neighbours have been asked over the years to support some big projects in the village and we knew we were asking them to dig deep again. From their pockets they dug out 4,000.

The Auction of Promises did not disappoint. From the 160 households in the parish, with a bit of support from well-wishers and local organisations, we had 103 promises. In the Promises booklet we included a paragraph of thanks, and it is worth repeating that here:

THANK YOU!

All the members of the Husthwaite Village Hall Committee would like to thank everyone who took part in the presentation of this Auction of Promises. Thank you if you were part of the organisation. Thank you if you made one of the 103 promises. Thank you if you bought a promise. Thank you if you turned up for the occasion. Thank you if you brought your friends. Lets hope you had fun. We are on our way to having an attractive front for our

Husthwaite Newsletter

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Next Edition: late November

~~Another Talent Parade from Husthwaite's Repertoire!~~
Deadline for your writing: Sunday 20th November

The range of expertise and talent that lives in Husthwaite has surprised and entertained us before. It did so again on Saturday when our neighbours put up 103 promises of support for the fund to re-model the Village Halls frontage. The 103 contained a great variety of generous offerings of skill and experience.

One of the most surprising and wonderfully entertaining was the work done by Andrew Black. Andrew deserves special thanks for his performance as the evenings auctioneer. Those of you who were unable to attend missed a real treat. Andrew stood up to introduce the first lot for sale. It happened to be a fish and chip supper at the Wetherby Whaler. He began to speak and he did not pause for breath until he had rattled out the next fifty two lots, when we allowed him to sit down and lubricate what must have been the most parched throat in North Yorkshire. And that was only half time! Andrew paraded for us the full range of auctioneers skills and tricks, including stringing buyers along to lay out a fair amount of brass on things (sometimes their own promises!) they probably hadnt expected to be taking home that night. It was all great fun and done with charm and talent.

Early on in the Auction of Promises evening, Andrew Black said, Now youre getting into the spirit of it. ~~Its Time to Start Writing, Husthwaite!~~ He meant that people were relaxing, getting involved, putting up their hands, calling out their names. Husthwaite: your *Newsletter* needs a bit more of this spirit if it is to survive. This edition has great moments: the auction, Freds regular History Corner, a great feature on the White Horse, a stunning back page picture. But were 4 full pages short of news, talk, reports, advertising, letters. If you belong to a Husthwaite organisation, please remind your committee that you need the *Newsletter* ... and the *Newsletter* needs you. Lets have less of this charming shyness. Call out some names. Get into the spirit of it.

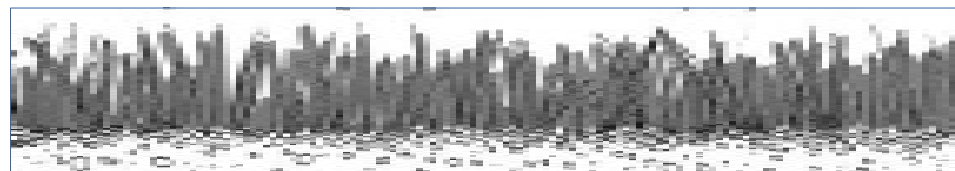
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Come and Groom the Horse

Along with many thousands of others, I am grateful for their efforts; despite my admission that I am biased, I am certain that they have perpetuated one of the finest and most exciting landmarks in the countryside of England.

So if you do feel like joining us come along to our AGM in May. A day spent grooming the Horse e.g. clearing invading scrub from the edges of the figure, is a rewarding job carried out with a wonderful view to gaze upon whilst recovering from your labours.

If you do not feel that energetic then you can still help our funds by purchasing one of our booklets *Kilburn and its Horse* (cost 4 available from bookshops or myself)

John Roberts is Hon Secretary of the. Kilburn White Horse Association

Husthwaite Village Hall Committee

70s Disco

12th November

Tickets on sale now

7.50

includes fish n chip supper

Angela 868373 or the shop

MERRY BERRY BAZAAR

A sale of seasonal gifts and goodies

Coffee and home made biscuits

Saturday 15th October

10.30am -12.30pm

The Old Stores, Husthwaite

Admission 2

(in aid of St Nicholas Church Fabric Fund)



History Corner

Victorian Postal Services in Husthwaite.

Rowland Hills introduction of the penny postage in 1840, resulted in the development of a nationwide service which came to Husthwaite ten or twenty years later. In 1839 the charge for postage was from 6d to 1s6d according to distance. Mr. Hill, afterwards knighted and awarded a pension of 2,000 a year, advised the government to reduce the postage to a penny on letters between all places in the U.K. He showed the actual cost of carrying a letter was very small and the revenue would increase because a greater number of letters would be carried. Initially, postage of 4d was charged for every half ounce carried, but in 1840 penny postage and stamps were introduced.

The 1861 census shows Ann Moncaster (43), widow of Robert, the schoolmaster, being both school and postmistress, when living at The Hobbits. It was not unusual for a village schoolmaster to do this second job. The mail possibly came to the village via the newly opened Husthwaite Gate Station. The first passenger ticket was sold there in 1854 and the station first appeared on the public timetable in November 1857.

In 1871 William Taylor, born in Husthwaite, was sub-postmaster, a grocer and cordwainer. His wife, Ann, from Sheriff Hutton, helped him in the last two jobs, as well as looking after 6 boys and a girl, all under 13. No wonder he needed several sources of income! A cordwainer works in cordovan, goatskin leather, originally from Cordoba, but did this really come to the village, from southern Spain? By 1871 Ann Moncaster had married Henry Buckle, living at Holly Bank, but she still owned The Hobbits. Was William her tenant?

George Gibson, born in Ampleforth in 1821, was sub-postmaster from 1881 until he died in 1899. George prospered after coming here in his twenties, as a journeyman shoemaker, married to Mary (from Coxwold) with sons Joseph and Martin. The family lodged at Orchard House, with Henry Tesseyman, a 61 year old former master- shoemaker, now village schoolmaster, unmarried, and his bachelor brother Robert, a retired shoemaker.

George and Mary had two more sons, before Mary died in January 1866, aged 50. She is buried in the cemetery. By 1861, George is re-married to Catharine, Ampleforth born and 59 years old. Of Georges four sons, only Martin remains at home. He is a bootmaker, but according to the census George no longer makes footwear. Before George died in 1899, a second door was made, in the front of Orchard House, as an entrance to the post office. This has now been bricked up. Catharine succeeded George, as postmistress, until she died in October 1902, aged 81. George and Catharine are buried in the same grave as his first wife.

Martin succeeded Catharine, as village postmaster, until May 1925. He had married Annie, a native of Ireland and 4 years his senior, before his father died. They, too, lived at Orchard House. The Gibsons ran the village postal

A view of the Horse

John Roberts

As residents of Husthwaite, you have an ideal position to see the White Horse of Kilburn in all its moods. You are no doubt enjoying its new coat of paint.

We in the Kilburn White Horse Association have taken on the task of ensuring that the figure is maintained for the future. The Association is made up of folk who are interested in helping the figure survive. The constitution of the Association states: All persons who have at any time contributed to the fund, or otherwise assisted in the preservation of the White Horse shall be deemed members of the Association. A committee of 3 Officers and up to 17 members are elected every year at the annual meeting. The meeting is usually held in the 2nd week of May.

When Thomas Taylor and John Hodgson hatched the idea of putting a figure on the hillside way back in 1857 I doubt if they realised the full extent of the task they had bequeathed to future generations. Fred Banks of Oldstead Grange, who has been a keen worker and backbone of the Association for many years, has also researched the history of the Horse. In his booklet he mentions that when the Horse was first cut a fund was set up which possibly totalled 4 8s - 0p. The cost of the major renovation in the mid 1960s was 850 and the recent renovation is expected to cost in excess of 4000 !

The Horse was cut not on a chalk hillside like several of the other white horses but on a rather crumbly brown limestone. Hence the need for artificial whitening! In the early days a coat of lime was applied to make the Horse white and clean. It took up to 6 tons of lime to give the Horse a temporary coat. As it was so thin the effects of rain and snow soon turned it grey again. The weathering also caused a great deal of erosion. Thus the big 1964 renovation included the application of 300 tonnes of chalk chippings. This not only turned the Horse white but also helped, for the first time, to stabilise the surface. However, growth of algae on the chalk turns the surface grey especially in wet weather and it took several days of hot sun to kill of the algae and lichen and turn the horses colour back to white.

In 1992 the first paint application was attempted. This was tried as result of concerns that too much of the chalk chippings had been slowly rolled down the hillside by wind, rain and snow, despite the use of horizontal rails to stem the flow. This was partially successful but the chippings were only coated on one side and as more movement occurred the grey side of the stones

appeared. In 1999 it was decided to use paint again. This time a fungicidal wash was applied to restrict the growth of algae before the application of paint. This was much more



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