

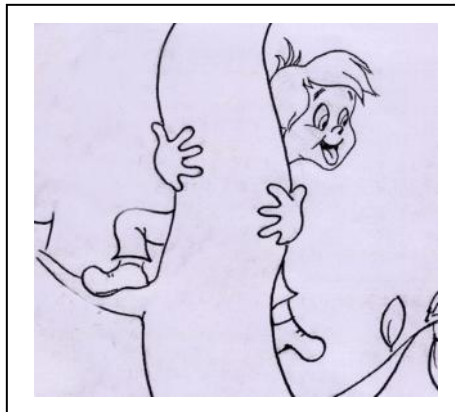
# Husthwaite Newsletter

January 2008 Issue 33



## *Jack and the Beanstalk*

the video of Husthwaite's village pantomime 2006



**In the Village Hall, 6.00pm Wednesday 30th January  
£2 on the door**

a Byland Media presentation by Mike and Breda Wells

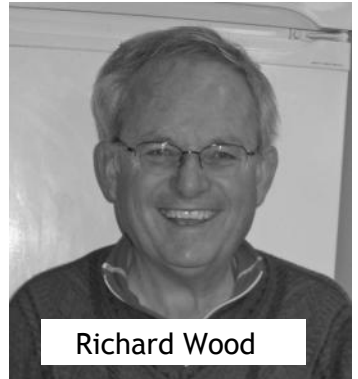
*Hustwaite Newsletter is jointly funded by the Parish Council  
and the Village Hall Committee*

## Letter from the new editor

A Happy New Year to all our readers!

First of all, I am sure you would like me to thank Richard Wood, who has been the Editor of this newsletter for many years and made such a success of it. He has handed over the reins to me, so he can spend more time with the Pantomime preparation, the Village Hall Committee and his increasing family (new grandchildren)! He has been very helpful in the preparation of this edition. Thanks to the contributors too, who got their copy in on time.

Comments, criticisms and contributions for the next edition, due out end of March, should be sent by 17th March to me via email: [jancoulthard@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jancoulthard@hotmail.co.uk) or to Aletheia House, High Street, Hustwaite YO61 4PX. Tel 01347 868130.



Richard Wood

Jan Coulthard

### Village Hall: Latest News

Despite appalling weather, work has begun ahead of schedule on the reconstruction of the Village Hall's front area. Over the next three weeks PJM Construction will be building a new retaining wall along the northern boundary and along the roadside. They will relocate some of the existing drains as they clear the muddy surface outside the building and lay tarmac.

The work will cost £30,015. It has been paid for by grant awarding bodies, the Parish Council and your good selves. The National Lottery, through Awards for All, contributed £10,000. North Yorkshire County Council put in £4,750 and Hambleton District Council £5,000. We were helped by £1,000 from the North Yorkshire Police Dispersal of Property Fund and another £1,000 from our own Parish Council.

The Village Hall Committee, through its fund raising work over the past five years, has contributed the balance of £8,265. The community can

congratulate itself on its generous contributions, and on behalf of the Village Hall Committee I thank you all.

The current Village Hall Committee has drawn up a calendar for 2008: events which we hope will excite the village, with something amusing for everyone. Not everything has been exactly dated, but we will publicise events well in advance starting with *Aladdin*. It's advertised elsewhere in this *Newsletter*, with new arrangements for buying tickets. It will be a fantastic show, with young children and some real old favourite village characters saying, singing and doing things you'd never have believed possible. Book early to avoid disappointment.

12<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> March Aladdin Village Hall 7.00pm

Richard Wood

## Husthwaite and District Gardening Club

The January meeting of the Gardening Club saw a welcome return of Sarah Hopps, speaking on A Garden For All Seasons. Many of us remember when Sarah ran a small nursery in Sowerby, from which she supplied places such as Shandy Hall in Coxwold. Her infectious enthusiasm for plants has led Sarah to a wider audience as a broadcaster, tour guide, college lecturer and a regular spot on the panel of the Phostrogen Roadshow! When she arrived at the village hall, it looked like she was also attempting a world record, "How many plants can you fit in a Ford Focus?"

If you missed Sarah's talk this time, go along to the Harrogate Spring Flower Show and look for the Phostrogen Roadshow. Alternatively you could go on an Eddie Brown Coaches gardening holiday: Sarah will be leading more than a dozen tours this year.

February 14<sup>th</sup> might be Valentine's Day, but it is also the evening when we choose a new gardening club committee. All members are urged to attend the A.G.M. at 7:30pm in the Village Hall. If you would like to join the committee, please hand your nomination to an existing committee member at least a week in advance.

We will keep the AGM business as short as possible, then our speaker, Mike Kinnis, will talk on the subject of Vegetables.

Mike Wells

# Husthwaite Local History Society

The latest booklet “Reminiscences of Husthwaite 1900 - 1930s” is selling well. Phyllis Inns (nee Muncaster) has written to thank all the contributors for keeping memories of Husthwaite recorded and alive. She says she is the “?” on the far right hand side of the photo of the Maypole dancers (page 49) since she remembers the line up of the girls who were all her friends. Work is about to start on compiling the next and final booklet in the series, covering the period 1970s -2000. Contributions (written, verbal and/or photographic) are now requested from both young and old to recall their school life, village social activities, Husthwaite Show, the changing nature of farming, etc- please contact Angela Ovenston (868 347) or Stephen Barker (868 259). So please get rummaging, recalling, writing so that the twentieth century can be rounded off with a flourish!

Advance notice for your diaries - Susan Harrison has agreed to talk about the work she does as regional curator of archaeology and the collections which are held at Helmsley. Some of us from the village visited the centre on an open day and were amazed at the amount and range of items held there and to hear about the fascinating work done to trace their history by Susan and her helpers (including Carol Colbourne). Come and be enlightened on Thursday April 17<sup>th</sup>, at 7.30 in the village hall.

Does anyone recognise these buildings - thought to be of somewhere



in the village by someone from Harrogate who has connections with a memorial in the churchyard to Anthony Marsingall, (1819 - 1888). She says "His death certificate reads: 'died at Husthwaite in the registration district of Easingwold/sub-district Coxwold'. I assume that he did live in the village (at this time he was living with his daughter who registered the death)." As yet no one has been able to identify the place or person from past photos or recollections. Any ideas? Please contact Angela (868347).

We have started a new project with a working title "**Tales of Husthwaite old school**" including its early transition from a National School to a Church of England School in the 1890s.

We would appreciate anything anyone has about the school whilst it was on its old site, including letters, memories, old school certificates, reports, names of teachers, photographs and newspaper cuttings etc. If you would like to help with this then just let us know. If you attended the old school and would be willing to tell us your memories, then we would be really glad to hear from you. Ring Ursula 868 304.

Angela Ovenston

## Parish Council Vacancy

Despite a notice in the last Newsletter, there have been no declarations of interest in the vacancy on the Parish Council. As a result we are running one member short. It is not long since there was such great interest that we were forced into an election at a cost to the Parish of nearly £1000. This makes it difficult to understand why there is now so little interest. Much is happening at the moment with impetus created by the Parish Plan. Why not be part of the future of the village and put yourself forward for consideration? If you are interested please let me know on 868146.

Barrie Ward

Clerk to the Parish Council

# PARISH PLAN UPDATE(4)

The fourth special meeting of the Parish Council to progress issues identified in the Parish Plan was held on Tues. 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2007. Four village residents were welcomed at this meeting, the focus of which was primarily concerned with the “Welcome to Husthwaite” information pack and the development of the recreation area.

## **“Welcome to Husthwaite” Pack**

A pre-publication copy of the A5 folder and contents was circulated and received very favourable comments. The front of the impressive folder, designed by Richard McDougall who grew up in Husthwaite, is based on a photograph of the Village Green taken by someone with one of the single-use cameras widely used in connection with the launch of the Parish Plan.

The work of Juliet McDougall and Linda Davison in compiling the contents was also greatly appreciated. A funding bid submitted to Community Champions has been successful and the award of £650 will cover all costs incurred.

The Information Pack will now be published and distributed to every household in the parish by Carol Fenwick. Subsequently the representatives of the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme will be asked to ensure that newcomers receive a Welcome Pack, and therefore it would be appreciated if everyone could assist in identifying the arrival of new residents. Updating of information will take place annually, and this will be found on the Husthwaite website. Everyone in the village is asked to let Luis Ponte know of changes as they occur.

## **Recreation area**

The Parish Council is now poised to focus on this priority for development throughout the coming year. During the meeting, preliminary ideas in sketch-plan format were presented for discussion. Key points to emerge may be summarised as follows:

- The first tangible signs of progress will be a quite extensive woodland/wildlife area on the east side of the designated site. A funding bid prepared by Peter Davison, Audrey Raper and Hugh Richardson, submitted to Hambleton District Council (Carbon Reduction Grants Scheme) has been successful in yielding £1488.00 to purchase a range of appropriate trees. Detailed planning, followed by purchase and planting, must be

completed by the end of March 2008. We plan to involve Matt Millington (Biodiversity Officer-NYCC) and Gordon Scaife (Yorkshire Wildlife Trust) in this initiative. There will also be scope for involving our Primary School and anyone in the village who enjoys digging holes!

- In addition to the woodland area, the next priorities will be provision for all-weather games, a children's play area and an entrance to the site to allow vehicular access.
- It is recognised that these proposals carry huge cost implications and therefore progress will depend upon successful grant applications to various sources. Peter Davison has agreed to explore such possibilities. The case for funding will be strengthened by the inclusion of our three priorities in the Community Plan currently under review by Easingwold and Villages Forum, organised by Hambleton District Council.
- In order to inform grant applications, steps are now being taken to obtain quotations for the work and equipment needed.

Overall, the Parish Council recognises that we are now moving into a crucial phase which will greatly determine future provision for recreation in Husthwaite.

### **Next Meeting**

The fifth of these special meetings will be held in the Village Hall at the earlier time of 7.00 on Tues. 19<sup>th</sup> February 2008. All residents are warmly invited to attend.

Peter Davison

### **Parish Notice about Dog Fouling**

Once again we have to address this distasteful subject. The Parish Council has received complaints about dog fouling in the vicinity of the Village Green. As a result, children are arriving home from school with this mess on their shoes - not nice. In addition, along Highborne Lane someone is very nicely bagging up the dog mess but then leaving the bag and contents behind! It is an offence, carrying a heavy fine, not to clean up after your dog and anyone caught will be reported for prosecution. Please play fair and help keep the village a pleasant place to walk.

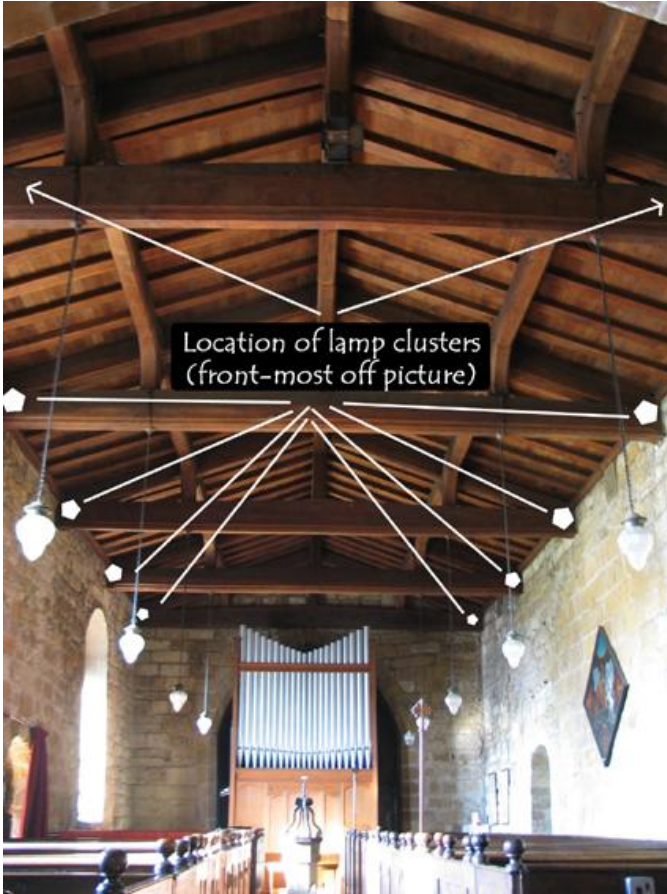
Barrie Ward Clerk to the Parish Council

# Developments at St Nicholas

On Monday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, electricians will be arriving at St Nicholas to begin major alterations to our electrical systems. This is part of a longer-term plan of changes to the internal fabric of the church to

make it fitter for the needs of its 21<sup>st</sup> Century users.

We are starting with improvements to the lighting. The present lights only provide about half the illumination appropriate to the space. This gives difficulties to anyone whose sight is in any way impaired. The new lamps - more efficient halogen types - will be fixed high up at the front of each cross beam, with the illumination increasing as the Altar is approached. The main, down and forward directed lights will be dimmable to meet particular liturgical or performance needs.



A few lamps illuminating the wooden roof will also be triggered by movement in the building for the benefit of visitors and those coming into the church at anytime after dark. There will also be lamps to highlight important areas of the church - the font, pulpit and lectern in addition to the Altar itself. Externally, new movement sensing lamps will be fixed above both main and chancel doors for the safety of anyone approaching at night. These lamps throw their beam down to avoid any unnecessary light pollution.



It is difficult to imagine what this will look like in practice, but the photographs may help. The existing lamps will be removed.

Once the electrics are sorted, an audio loop will be installed together with some limited sound amplification. This is to help those with hearing difficulties to better participate in services.

We hope you will like what we are doing and, above all, benefit from it. If you would like to know more about our plans, please contact me or any member of the PCC.

John Ovenston

## Parish Plan..more news Hole diggers and fillers wanted

The first steps will soon be taken in developing a recreation area for the village on the field next to the school, when trees are planted to create a woodland and wildlife zone. The funds have come from a successful bid to the Carbon Reduction Scheme.

Now we need volunteers to dig holes for around 30 trees. Short spells of even half an hour will help spread the load.

The dates are

### Digging holes for trees

Wednesday 19th March	9.00am-12.00 noon
Saturday 22nd March	9.00am-12.00 noon
Tuesday 25th March	2.00-4.00pm

### Planting

Friday 28th March	9.00am-12.00 noon 1.00-4.00pm
Saturday 29th March	9.00am-12.00 noon



Peter Davison

# The Balmoral

Low Street  
Husthwaite  
01347 868007

*family run traditional pub*

specialising in

Ladies that Lunch

Children that Lunch

Early Bird for families

Traditional Sunday lunch

*All families welcome*

## Aladdin update No 2

As Ellie is on her school ski-trip this week, I have taken on the job of 'Pantomime reporter' - with help from fellow cast-members, Polly and Harry Cuthbert. We have had two rehearsals so far and we are having a lot of fun. We laughed a lot this week when we found a forgotten balloon in the Christmas decorations and tried to blow it up - it had a hole in it so kept going down with a rather rude noise! We all giggled too when Aladdin came in too early when we were practising a song called 'Congratulations'. Dad, who is very old, says he remembers that one but I think the words may have been changed.

We can't wait to see our costumes which Mrs Pike is making for us. Mrs Skinner is helping. We also need coolie hats and plaits which parents are going to have to make. Mum says that could be quite a challenge for her but Harry says his Dad will find it easy because he is an art teacher. The script is very funny and there are lots of corny jokes. Polly says there is also much 'confusion and puzzle' and the baddie is truly scary. Richard is making us work hard and we think it is going well. Richard only shouts sometimes! Please do come and see our show - we are sure you will like it.

Laura Aspinall (aged 9)



Maddy Nixon and Polly Cuthbert in a rare moment of seriousness during rehearsals for the pantomime.

# Take to the Hills - on Yer Bike

In December the People's Give Away Lottery was won by the cycling charity Sustrans (sustainable transport). The £50 million grant has been tripled by matched funding from local authorities across the country.

Sustrans will use the money for a giant step forward in cycling facilities for city centres. They will build bridges, flyovers and a dramatic increase in cycle lanes.

Sustrans has developed a national cycling network. It is visible on our local lanes, where you will frequently see the blue and red stickers with the number 65. Sustrans Route 65 links to the cycling network throughout continental Europe.

The North Sea route comes to the Hook of Holland from the Finland. Cyclists cross by ferry to Harwich and follow Route 1 up the east coast to the Humber Bridge. They can stay with 1 up the Yorkshire coast, including a fantastic off-road section along the disused railway between Scarborough and Whitby. Or they can go inland on 65 to Selby and the Sustrans-built bike track to York. By-roads come to Easingwold and up Thornton Hill to the cross roads on Malton Street. Route 65 is on its way to rejoining Route 1 at Middlesbrough and then up the east coast and out to the Orkney Islands.

A wonderful bike ride from Husthwaite for the fit and ambitious is to pick up 65 on Malton Street and go with it into the Hambleton Hills. At Oldstead the way splits and offers long-distance riders a choice of high route to Sutton Bank and Hawnbly in the heart of the moors or low route through picturesque villages below the Hambleton escarpment.

As a Husthwaite biker you have the best of both worlds. Take your pick whether you're going clockwise or anti. Either way, a magnificent 50-mile circuit of the Hambleton Hills beckons.

Too tough? Why not break your journey? Half way is at Osmotherley, a village full of B+B accommodation.



Explorer

# The Balmoral is Good News for Husthwaite

At a time when many country villages are struggling to keep the services of their shops, post offices and pubs, Husthwaite has been fortunate to welcome the Stevenson family. When they came to Low Street last summer the landlord, James, explained his hope of “embracing” the village. “We want to support every activity in the community,” he said.

James has been as good as his word. There are swings for the children in the pub garden, and the car park is available for parents of the village school’s children. On Bonfire Night the pub hosted a village party. Over 150 people attended, enjoying pork pies and mushy peas and taking part in a raffle whose proceeds went towards a £250 donation to Husthwaite School’s movable stage project. *Headteacher Mr Ian Yapp is seen below receiving a cheque from Lynn Stevenson, the Balmoral’s hostess, with Maxwell Stevenson and Mark Westaby, head chef.*

“People said they had never seen the pub as busy as it was on Bonfire Night,” James said. “It was the same again over Christmas and New Year. We planned to open for two hours on Christmas Day, but families



brought their children and packed the place out until well into the afternoon. On Boxing Day we did breakfast for the local shoot organised by Chris Woodhead and Geoff Thornton. We sang and danced till 2am on New Year’s Eve, and on New Year’s Day I received around fifty texts thanking us for the wonderful party.” As we prepare for our spring pantomime, Aladdin, the Stevensons have contributed £250 towards the show’s running costs. “I aim to contact the PCC next,” James said, “and do an occasion for their Church Fabric fund.”

**Richard Wood**

## Meet the Ancestors

A small group of fur-clad men make their way through pine and birch trees, keeping their hunting dogs close, trying not to scare their prey into flight. Wild cattle, deer and horses are grazing in the woodland on the Nookin; these animals are the means of survival for the group, a close-knit community of families, cooperating and supporting each other, moving on often to find fresh food, and sheltering nightly in animal-skin tents.

These were the hunter-gatherers who lived in this area around 5-10 thousand years ago. Their subsistence depended on their ability to find plants for food and medicine, and their skill in catching fish, birds and game, using stone and wood tools, usually incorporating flints obtained from East Yorkshire. No metal, pottery or agriculture had been developed in this Mesolithic (Middle Stone Age) era. These people were very similar to us, and in a few parts of the world small Stone Age societies still exist, brought to our TV screens by explorers and survival experts like Ray Mears, though this intrusion of modern man threatens their very existence.



Our local archaeologist, **Penny Spikins**, (pictured left) conjured up this impression of Mesolithic Huthwaite. She pointed out that little remains of these people in lowland areas where farmland and villages have covered all traces in the succeeding millennia. However, evidence left in the North York Moors and the Pennines suggests this area was populated and that small mobile groups joined others for feasts and rituals, celebrating perhaps times of plenty; tools, hearths and animal remains have been found.

Penny has recently written a huge specialist academic volume about European Mesolithic people. She also writes articles

for journals, two recent ones being “Autism in Pre-History” and “Did Neanderthals have Compassion?” showing her interest in the personal lives of the people she studies. Her enthusiasm for her subject is infectious as she discusses the lives of our earliest ancestors.

Brought up on a farm, Penny loves the country and when she started work at York University, asked colleagues for a good place to live locally. Husthwaite was mentioned, and she moved here with her children, who now happily attend our local school. She loves the village and its settled supportive community.

Penny made a last interesting point - people all over the world are very closely related to one another, unlike in the distant past when there were several distinct separate species of human. Perhaps we could all learn from our ancestors who faced the Ice Age that cooperation rather than conflict is the way to progress and indeed survive, as we face our species’ big challenge, Global Warming .

Jan Coulthard

## Husthwaite Burns Supper

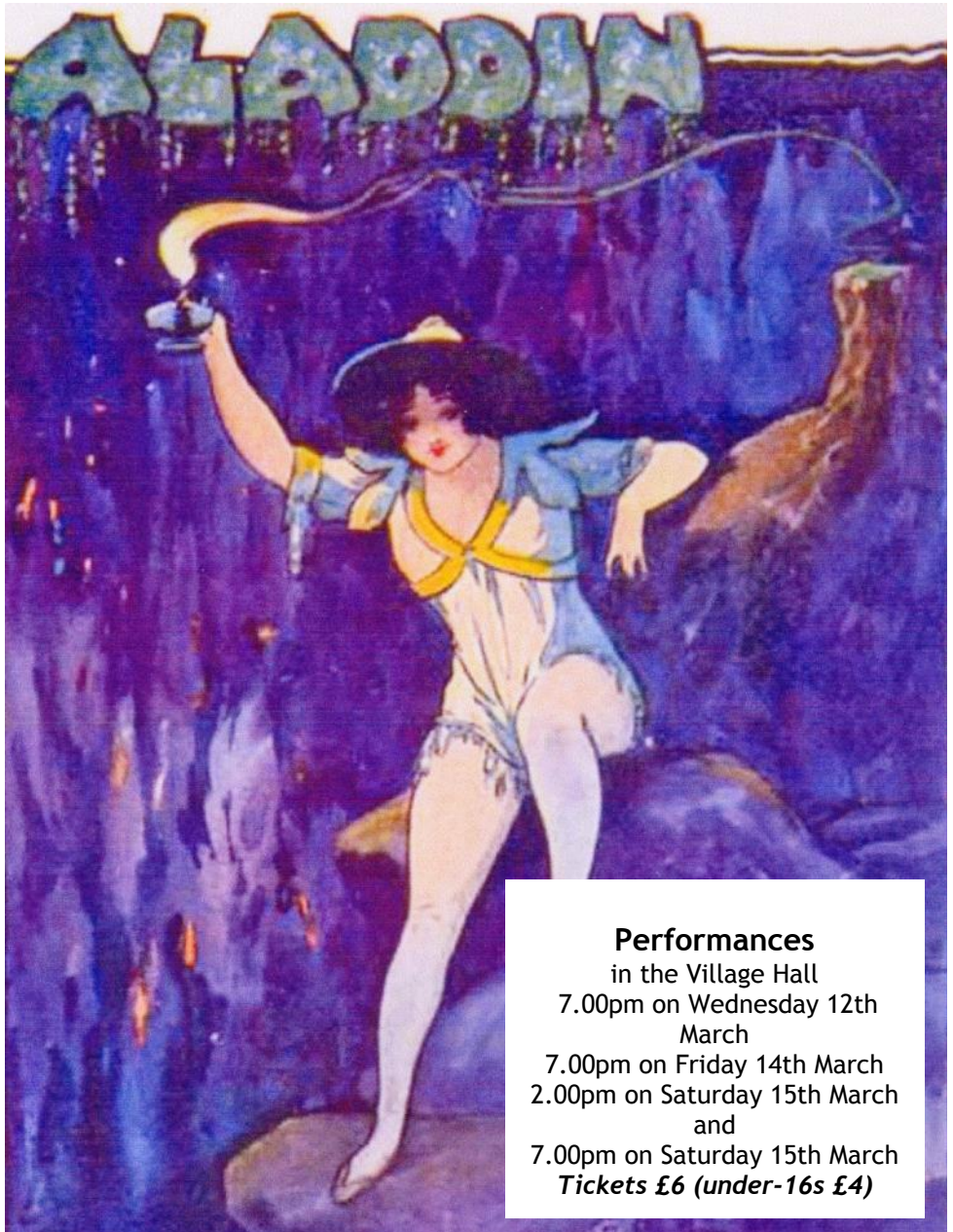
The 3rd Husthwaite Burns supper took place on 19th January with a capacity turnout of 60. The haggis was piped in and toasted, then everyone tucked into Haggis, Neeps and Tatties with whisky sauce, followed by main course and dessert. Speeches were followed by a musical interlude from The Complainers, Alun Nixon and David Aspinall (pictured below).



Then the energetic part of the evening, the dancing, began. After Auld Lang Syne, we all went home having enjoyed a great evening.

Anyone interested in joining the Scottish Dancing Group (the dances are suitable for young & old, fit & unfit), please contact Will Mowatt (868196) or Brian Watt (868499).

Will Mowatt



### **Performances**

in the Village Hall

7.00pm on Wednesday 12th  
March

7.00pm on Friday 14th March

2.00pm on Saturday 15th March  
and

7.00pm on Saturday 15th March

***Tickets £6 (under-16s £4)***

**Booking order forms available** at the *Jack and the Beanstalk* video evening Wednesday 30th January or at the Village Hall 9.00am - 12.00am Saturday 2nd February or from the village shop