

Husthwaite Newsletter

April 2008 Issue 34



David Pike as Widow Twankey in the 2008 Husthwaite pantomime "Aladdin"



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

Letter from the Editor

Thanks to all the contributors to this bumper edition of the newsletter, which **celebrates the success of Husthwaite's own 2008 pantomime. As I write at the** end of March, snow threatens the daffodils and tulips which herald Spring. Easter is already gone, and we are looking forward to better weather, the **arrival of our school's new Headteacher, the creation of a new recreation** area and many interesting activities throughout the year in the Village Hall. Contributions for the next newsletter should be sent to jancoulthard@hotmail.co.uk or Aletheia House, High Street by 17th May 2008.

Dates for your diary... all in the Village Hall

April 17 "English Heritage Archaeological Collections" talk , 7.30pm £4

April 24 Scottish Dancing 8.00-10.00 pm

April 26 Plant Sale 10.00am

April 29 Parish Plan meeting 7.00pm All residents welcome

School Open Day

The new Headteacher at Husthwaite Primary School is Mrs Bainbridge. She takes over from acting head Mrs Wilson when the summer term begins in April. I met Mrs Bainbridge when I attended the school's Open Day. "I'm from Dishforth Airfield Community Primary School," she told me. "Many of the pupils there are from Forces families, and they move frequently. I'm looking forward to working in Husthwaite School's community ethos, taking children from start to finish of their primary experience, with strong family links.

"My first impressions are of the wonderfully cohesive staff, and the lively involvement of the community in the school. I will be looking to build on the school's strengths. We may expand the nursery provision. At present

the children attend only for mornings. If we can include lunchtime and at least part of the afternoon this will make a difference for parents with part-time jobs.”

The Open Day was an impressive occasion. I toured the school in the company of parent governor, Suzanne Cox. We visited every classroom and saw the children at work with their teachers. The nursery children were working hard at their job of playing - on 3-wheelers and cars, with toys and spectacular amounts of glue.

Years 1 and 2, Suzanne explained, “spend a lot of their time sitting on the floor. “I am thinking of a number with two tens and two units,” said their teacher, Mrs Craig .“ What is the number?” As far as I could see every child was ready with the right answer. Year 3’s topic was the Vikings, and they were busily making invaders’ ships out of newspaper (and more glue). Year 4 and 5 were studying recipes for children during the 2nd World War. Cheesy Pudding Pie’s ingredients included dried mustard, eggs, milk and grated cheese. Why don’t you try it? Year 6 pupils are definitely the school’s big shots. They are seriously into their preparation for Easingwold High School. Today their work had them in the Indus Valley. Ahead is a residential character-building week at Humphrey Head in the Lake District. “They come back from there a year older,” said Suzanne.

Julie Houlston from Ample Carr is the school’s cook. She showed me the day’s menu and I was baffled at why hardly more than 50% of the children stay for a meal: chicken korma, with brown rice and naan bread, followed by Eve’s pudding and custard. “All our meals are healthy now,” said Julie. “When the new kitchen was fitted we did away with the deep fat fryer. We only offer oven chips once every three weeks. Yogurt and fruit are available every day.”

So that’s a glimpse of primary education in Husthwaite for you - and I haven’t even mentioned how my eyes popped out on stalks when I saw curriculum assistants in every room, the interactive computerised whiteboards (blackboards to you and me), and the marvellous playing fields, with their walkways and their picnic tables. Richard Wood

Local History

Peacocks in and around Husthwaite!

On a recent walk around the village, Michael Alexander from Kirkby Fleetham was interested to see how the old station house had been altered. His great-grandfather **(on his mother's side) was George Nathaniel Peacock, the station master at Husthwaite Gate Station from 1889 to 1916.** Information about this family can be found in census data from the Civil Parish - Angram Grange, Ecclesiastical Parish - Coxwold. In 1891, at Station House, Coxwold, George Nathaniel Peacock the station master (aged 38, born at Bossall, near Flaxton in the North Riding) lived with his wife Margaret, (aged 30, born **at Pocklington**) and their children **William (8) (who became Michael's grandfather), Ethel Ann (4) and George (2)** all born at York, together with his father Nathaniel, (widower aged 70, born at Kenyethorpe). By 1901, they had moved to Husthwaite Gate House where they had three more children - Frank (8), Nellie (6) and Henry (2 mths); **Mr Peacock's father-in-law Henry Curtiss** (widower aged 60, a house painter born at Pocklington) now lived with them. The family were staunch Methodists and son George was also good at cricket as shown from extracts from the Easingwold Advertiser between 1892 and 1917 eg

April 1892 Wesleyan Chapel Service of Song ... Mr G.N. Peacock gave the readings

June 1900 Wesleyan School Anniversary ... G. Peacock ... F. Peacock

Feb. 1904 Tea and entertainment at Wesleyan Chapel for Dr. Stephenson's children's home. Prayers, hymns and recitations by ... N. Peacock, F. Peacock ... Mr Peacock

May 1908 Wesleyan Band of Hope concert ... Master Percy Peacock gave a dialogue

May 1908 Husthwaite Cricket Team ... G. Peacock

Feb. 1917 Whist Drive in the school room organized by Husthwaite Ladies War Working Party- 30 tables - winners (ladies) included Miss Florrie Peacock....A dance followed and carried on until 3 a.m. in the morning...proceeds divided between Ladies War Working Party and National Egg Collection Society.

Alfred Peacock, a butcher in the village, is recalled by William Taylor (Husthwaite reminiscences 1900 - 1930s) as living in the building behind Laurel House, now called Swales Garth. According to Charlie Dowson (Husthwaite reminiscences 1930s - 1950s) Alfred Peacock, during a particularly hot spell, would preserve his beef by a process of **salting. He later retired to live at Ashmount. Alfred C. Peacock died in 1932. It isn't yet known if or how Alfred was related to George Nathaniel.** *(Note that Percy and Florrie above were not George's children but may have been Alfred's. Relationships may become clear once census data for 1911 become available.)* The stationmaster, George Nathaniel Peacock must have been highly respected by the local community. A newspaper cutting kept by the family tells how he managed to stop a runaway goods train.

Husthwaite Stationmaster's Plucky Act

On Monday (24th July 1911) what might have been a most serious accident was fortunately averted by the presence of mind and pluck of the stationmaster Mr G N Peacock at Husthwaite Gate Station, on the York, Gilling and Pickering branch of the North Eastern Railway. It appears that a goods train was standing at Coxwold station, and whilst the engine was detached and carrying out shunting operations the rear portion of the train consisting of several wagons and a brake van, through some reason or other during the temporary absence of the guard, commenced moving towards Husthwaite Gate, and as there is a considerable down gradient in that direction, the runaway wagons soon gained speed. When they reached Husthwaite Gate they were travelling at a good rate. Mr Peacock, seeing the wagons approaching and instantly realising that something was wrong, at considerable risk to himself, made a dash when the train was rushing through the station and fortunately succeeded in boarding the guards van. He at once applied the brakes and brought the runaway train to a stand some distance from the station. But for the plucky action of Mr. Peacock the result might have been very serious, as that train would soon have reached the mainline between York and the North, where traffic is almost continuous.'

According to Michael, when his great-grandfather retired on 2nd January 1916, a collection for him received 200 contributions and was organized by a committee of 20 chaired by Rhodes Hebblethwaite J.P. and included A. C. Peacock on the committee.

More details are available from Angela Ovenston (868 347). Michael Alexander and his mother are gratefully thanked for providing much of the above information and would be interested in any further knowledge about their ancestors in this area.

Angela Ovenston



Picture taken about 1907, with George Nathaniel Peacock in the foreground

Aladdin - the final instalment

After a few tense weeks with rehearsals getting longer and longer, we arrive all too soon at the week of the shows. An excited cast arrive at the village hall on the Monday evening for the technical rehearsal. A few missed cues and some wrong lines later, everyone is backstage cooling off. 'It's too long' says the director and we all ponder how we can speed things up. Tuesday night is the dress and final rehearsal. The costumes are amazing and everyone is quite nervous because if this goes wrong there is no time to get it right before the opening show. However, we need not have worried. All runs smoothly and the respectful crowd of Easingwold Players that make up our first audience are appreciative. Their constructive criticism really helps.

Opening night - and I am, frankly, terrified! It doesn't help that my netball match over-runs so that I am late back from school. Eating one's tea at top speed does not help the nerves. Everyone tells me to 'break a leg'. The audience are terrific - especially Mrs Wilson, the head teacher from Husthwaite CE School, who laughs very loudly at all her pupils' jokes. Abanazar (Alun Nixon) is a great baddie and the audience hiss and boo at him. Widow Twankey (David Pike) is hilarious as always and it's really hard not laughing out loud at both of them backstage. The crew helping out behind the scenes are very good, though, at keeping order.

After the show it is hard to sleep so a night off on the Thursday is very welcome. The audience on the Friday are a bit polite but warm up after the interval (after a few drinks!). The hilarious and unforgettable 'sand-dance' entertains everyone. Saturday is a blur with only an hour between finishing one show and getting ready for the next. Everyone is very tired by now but we still manage to give a fantastic last performance and spend a few hours unwinding in the Balmoral afterwards! I don't think anyone wants it all to finish because we've been a great team. Thank you to Richard and everyone else for giving me such a wonderful experience.

Ellie Aspinall

Right, Ellie Aspinall
As Princess Balroubadour



Left, Alun Nixon
As Abanazar

Thank you to Brian Watt for giving us all the pantomime photographs in this Newsletter.



Left, Anne Dowson
as *The Genie of the Ring*



Right, Phil Grainger
as *Aladdin*

The Husthwaite Village Pantomime 2008

This year's pantomime, Aladdin, entertained 4 packed houses at the village hall in March. Richard Wood, the Director, managed to produce an exciting and hilarious piece of traditional theatre, with the children and adults in the cast singing, dancing and acting their hearts out. The Music Director, Linda Davison, as well as schooling the cast in their songs, provided the piano accompaniment with panache, together with the excellent Breda Wells on violin. The production team have plenty to be proud of, with costumes, sets, lighting and scene changes all transforming the hall into Peking or Egypt in our imagination. There was plenty of magic and humour, and rousing hissing and booing of the villain, and hearty singing by the audience. Aladdin (Phil Grainger) and the Princess (Ellie Aspinall) were wonderful young panto lovers, while Widow Twankey (David Pike) was an outrageous Dame. Alun Nixon played the devilish Abanazar with great gusto. The singing by all these principals was roundly applauded. The children in the cast managed their songs and words very well, particularly the Little Red Hen rap number, and there are obviously some future panto stars in the making there. The audience had a really good evening out, and I think the village should take pride in being able to put on such a fine production, with so many local children and adults involved.

Critic's Rating * * * * * Excellent

Jan Coulthard



Local History Society News

On Thursday April 17th at 7.30 in the Village Hall, Susan Harrison, **Regional Curator of Archaeology, will give an illustrated talk "English Heritage Archaeology Collections"**. This will be about the work of the English heritage Collections team and some of the stories about fascinating objects from ancient monuments which are in their care. All are welcome. Tickets, including a glass of wine are £4.00 at the door.

By the way, says Angela Ovenston, there was a mistake in the September Newsletter. The Greenwood family did not live in Prospect House but in one close to it , on a plot near where Prospect Houses number 16 and 17

Village Design Statement

During the coming weeks, several members of the village will be making a photographic record of visual features that illustrate what makes Hushwaite what it is.

The results, to be used for our Village Design Statement, will show singularities, peculiarities and the predominance or otherwise of building materials, styles of windows, doors, chimneys, boundaries etc.

If you would like to be involved in the task (taking photographs or making sketches), please get in touch—many hands make light work. Contact me on 868572 or e-mail me at baxbymanor@hotmail.com Elaine Smith



Things to do in the Village Hall.....your ideas needed.

On the Village Hall Committee, we've been thinking about what goes on in the Hall and whether you would like us to organise some more regular things. The successful Tai Chi group is about to re-start and, in this **Newsletter, there's an article about Karate and Self Defence for Women** groups which should start in May.

But what do you think? Are there things you would like us to organise? Some random ideas might be, for example, a book group, family first aid, a Return to Study group, something to do with arts or crafts like drawing, painting, printmaking, or a film society. We could think about more single talks like the recent ones about local archaeology and Lawrence Sterne. How about an intro to beekeeping or a history of the railway in Ryedale?

So, if you have any ideas about something you would like to see happen, please contact me on 868130 or e-mail me at aletheia@hotmail.co.uk Have a think about all age groups from children to people who are **retired. I'll be really pleased to hear from you.**

Andrew Coulthard



Thumbs Up for the Village Hall

I am sure by now you will all have had the opportunity to observe, if not indeed experience, the wonderful new surface at the front of the hall. First of all it has improved the view no end, as many of you have kindly taken the trouble to tell us. But it is not just the aesthetics. From a practical point of view it is much kinder on your car suspension and on your ankles walking across it. Several people having spent most of last week loading up the hall (and unloading) with heavy equipment in preparation for the pantomime, can vouch for the much easier passage of wheeled trolleys. I am not sure if you are aware but as part of the work the wall has been rebuilt around the back, the footpath concreted so there is a walk way right round and a land drain connected which should ease damp problems both inside and outside the hall. On top of this the young people of the village have been enjoying the new smooth surface to ride their bikes and scooters which is wonderful to see. As a fairly new recruit to the village hall committee I have not been responsible for much of this work so feel quite unbiased in saying what a job well done to my co-committee members and predecessors.

We will be looking forward to a period of activity in the hall very soon. We are currently working on a music evening for May, good music, glass of wine, nice Spring Evening. June will see our annual treasure hunt and barbeque. July will follow with a fashion show and a Ceilidh in September with Tiefrung Gleeming, a highly recommended band from Terrington. Woven in amongst these events we hope to restart the quiz evenings at The Balmoral, and hold an Autumn Book Fair, so start saving those second hand books for us.

Finally if you can bear to think all the way ahead to December, we are **having another homemade evening of entertainment with “Please Put a Penny in the Old Man’s Hat”**. **As with the Christmas Cracker we are** looking for local talent to sing (either seriously, or not!), to dance, to perform sketches, bring us monologues and stories; anything you may think will entertain us. Richard Wood is the man to speak to on 868247. The audience will also need to bring a singing voice as we would like to add a bit of a sing-a-long as well.

Vikki Nixon

Karate in Husthwaite

Did you know that we have a 2nd Dan Black Belt Karate expert in our village? Grahame Hunter, originally from Merseyside, lives here in Husthwaite, working as a screenprinter in Dalton, and in his spare time teaching Shotokan karate to adults and children.

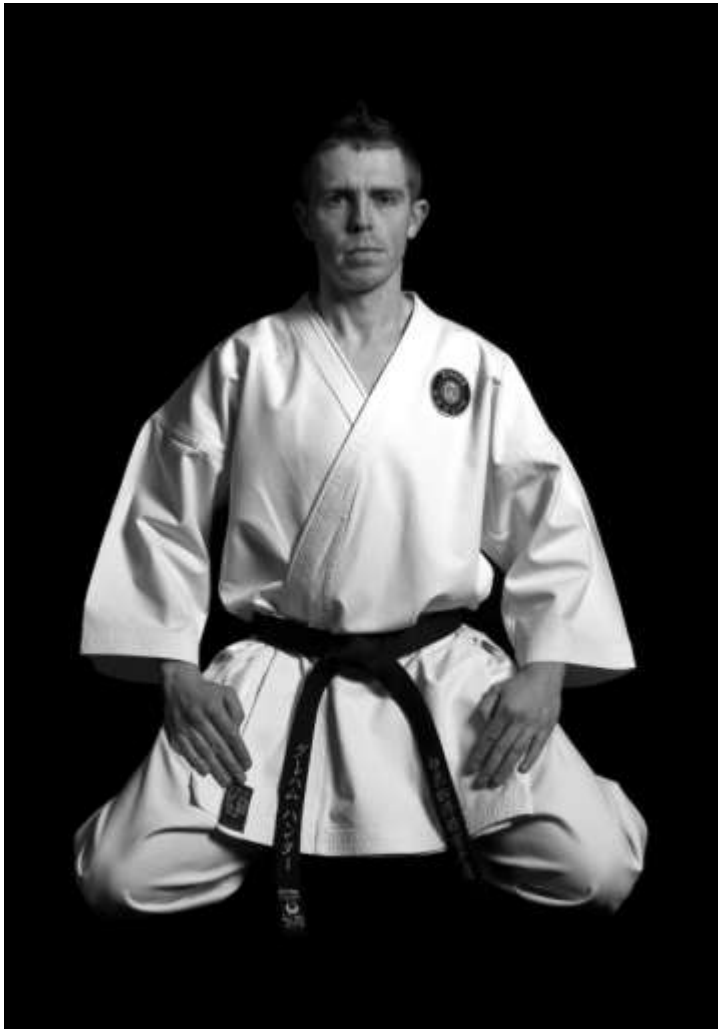
Shotokan karate was developed in Japan in the 19th century by poor peasant farmers, as a means of self-defence against the marauding **Samurai warriors. Karate means “empty hand”, a form of defence without weapons**, which those peasants of course could not afford. It developed into a martial art with philosophical ideals, such as self-discipline and decency towards others, which are elements of karate teaching today.

I asked Grahame what started his interest in karate. He said it was because he was bullied when young, and lacked confidence. He started classes at the age of 13, paying for them himself with his part-time earnings, and gained confidence in himself. After training as a litho-printer, and still continuing to gain more qualifications in karate, he joined the army at 18, serving in Germany and Bosnia. It was here in Yorkshire he saw a girl riding a horse, and immediately determined that she was the one he would marry! He did marry her, and he and Becky now have a baby, Jack. Marriage and army life not being very compatible, Grahame went back into the printing business. He continued entering karate competitions, and in 2006 he was North East Amateur Martial Arts Kata Champion.

Grahame is very enthusiastic about the advantages of learning karate, especially for youngsters. It turned his life around, he says, and it can be of benefit to anyone. He says for it to work properly, the student, his/her parents if a child is learning and the instructor have to work together, supporting and encouraging practice at home. The student learns self-confidence, but above all self-control and concentration, traits which are useful in all aspects of life. It is not just for youngsters, though, and many adults do gain a lot from attending.

At the moment Grahame teaches karate in Easingwold, but would like to run a karate group in this village if there is the demand, starting in May. Anyone over the age of 6 can join, young or old, men and women, **and you don't have to be fit!** In addition, he could run a **Women's Self Defence Class** for girls and women. If you are interested in either of these possibilities, starting in May in the village hall, please contact Grahame on 07962 256826 or e-mail grahamebyakko@yahoo.com

Jan Coulthard



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



Scottish Dancing in Husthwaite !

Come and join us for a few reels and jigs and the occasional Strathspey !
We meet once a month, usually on a Friday night, from 8pm - 10pm, in
Husthwaite Village Hall.

All the dances are called and walked through, so the dancing is suitable for
young and old, fit and unfit, beginners and more experienced dancers
alike.

Just bring a pair of soft shoes and a drink for the half-time break.
Nominal charge to cover the cost of the hall only.

.... or contact

Will Mowatt (01347-
868196) or

Brian Watt (01347-
868499)

for details.

Future dates :

Friday 28th March

Thursday 24th April

Friday 23rd May

Friday 27th June

Friday 28th July

Parish Councillor Vacancy

There's still a vacancy, so if you are interested in becoming a
Parish Councillor, please contact the Clerk (Barrie Ward) on
01347 868146

Parish Plan Update 5

Progress with the Recreation Area

At this fifth special meeting of the Parish Council (19th February 2008), one village resident was welcomed. Information shared and subsequent discussion centred around action necessary to progress development of the Recreation Area.

Recreation Area

Decisions made may be summarised as follows:

Agreement was reached on a sketch plan layout for the site with key areas identified. *This plan is printed alongside this report.* The following contractors have been invited to meet on site prior to submitting estimates which are necessary to support grant applications:

Cleveland Land Services (Guisborough) and Aldersons of Worsall (Yarm)

A draft Constitution which sets out responsibilities was agreed. This covers such critical aspects as management, access, health & safety, funding, maintenance and development.

Details were agreed for a response to the Easingwold and Villages Forum (organised by Hambleton District Council) which aims to establish priorities for Recreational Projects in the Community Plan. As this document will influence future funding allocations, the Parish Council has put forward 3 priorities relating to the Recreation Area, namely,

- a) A Multi-use Games Area (All weather)
- b) Children's Play Area
- c) Access Lane and General Amenity Area

Steps will be taken with regard to the following Grant Applications:

- a) A bid for £5,000 from the Community Grant Scheme 2008/9 administered by Hambleton District Council.
- b) Awards for All, up to £10,000
- c) Big Lottery Fund - Reaching Communities (success rate 20%)

Other possibilities are also being explored.

Woodland/ Wildlife Area

By the time this Newsletter is distributed, the first steps in developing the Recreation Area will have been taken. A wonderful selection of trees has been planted around the east perimeter of the site and as they develop will form a superb backdrop. The range includes holly (5), prunus (3), acer (3), amelanchier (3), oak (1), beech (1), osmathus (3), hawthorn (2), silver birch (5) and sorbus (5). The Parish Council greatly appreciates the contributions by Audrey Raper and Hugh Richardson in the planning of this area. The involvement of Allan and Richard Duffield in **treating weeds has also been of tremendous help.** The efforts of others in preparing the ground, digging holes and planting are also valued. It is pleasing to report that the School is enthusiastic about using this

area as a learning resource.

Welcome to Hushwaite' Information Pack

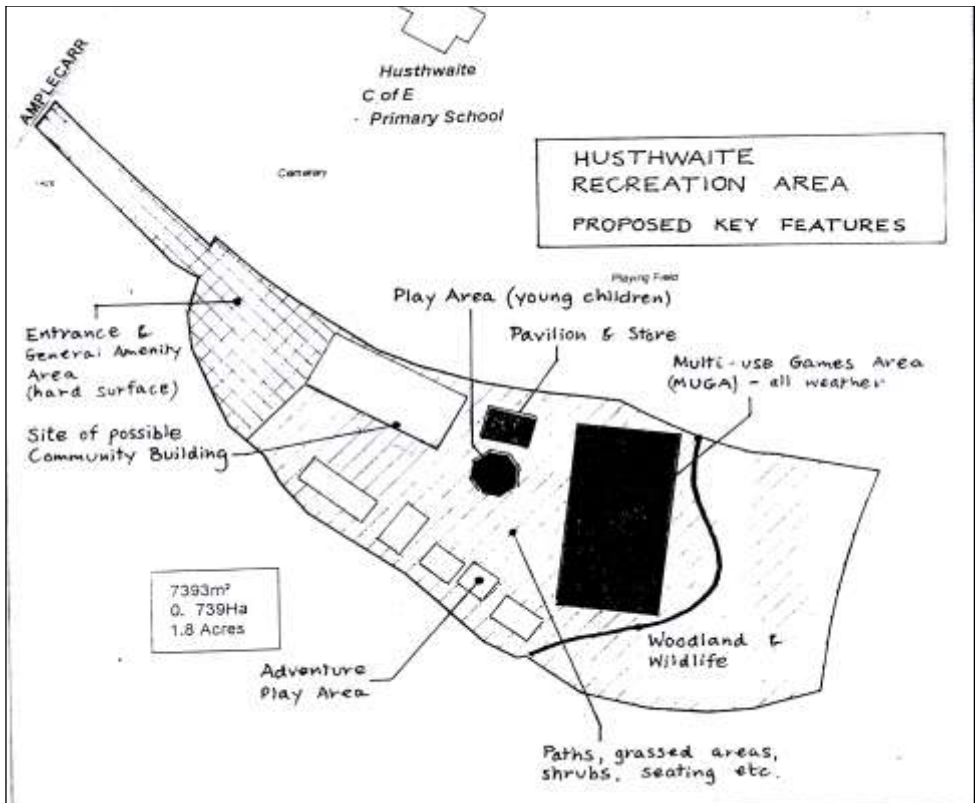
Again, by the time this article is read, every household should have received the information pack. If anyone has been missed out, some spares are available from the Village Shop. It may be of interest to learn that the Parish Council has decided to enter this pack in the Village Ventures Competition 2008 organised by Yorkshire Rural Community Council.

Publicity

John Ovenston has kindly arranged for the Parish Plan to appear on the Hushwaite Website. Roy Leverton has readily agreed to arrange publicity relating to the distribution of the 'Welcome to Hushwaite' pack and also the tree planting. A photographic record of these occasions will be compiled by John Ovenston. As we progress with the delivery of the Parish Plan, the Parish Council greatly values the contributions made by so many.

Next Meeting

The sixth of these special meetings will be held in the Village Hall at the earlier time of 7.00p.m. on Tuesday 29th April, 2008. All residents are warmly invited to attend, especially anyone wishing to comment on proposals for the Recreation Area.
Peter Davison



Hustwaite and District Gardening Club

On Valentine's Night the club held its A.G.M. in the Village Hall. A new committee was elected for the year. At the subsequent committee meeting the following duties were allocated:

Chairman:	Simon Chalton
Treasurer:	Mike Wells
Secretary:	Tony Cowan
Speakers Organiser:	Alison Higgins
Outings Organiser:	Jean Stublely
Hospitality Organiser:	Rita Essex
Member:	Moiria Fulton

Following the AGM business, we were due to have a talk on vegetables, but our speaker was ill. Instead we watched a film about British botanical gardens, which entertained us all.

On the face of it, the March meeting was about a strange subject: Bolton Percy churchyard, just south of York. Roger Brook, a former horticulture lecturer at Askham Bryan College took on the maintenance of his village church yard over twenty years ago. As with so many village burial grounds, it had become overgrown and neglected. Roger decided to chop down the brambles and kill-off the weeds, but instead of simply keeping mown grass, he planted perennial flowers amongst the graves. What started as a bit of an experiment, became a popular attraction in the village to the extent that Bolton Percy churchyard is now in the national Gardens Scheme and has open days, not that it is ever "closed", being an actual church property. Fame spread! Photographers were despatched from London to Bolton Percy and "Roger Brook's churchyard" featured in many a national newspaper or magazine. Roger has now left Bolton Percy, but he still maintains the churchyard and has started a similar project at Howarth, this time in a three acre churchyard. He also holds the national collection of dicentra, but that is a story for another visit.

April will be a busy month for the club. On the 10th there will be a Question and Answer meeting. Come a long with your horticultural problems and mysteries. Hopefully one of our members will have

The Hunger Site

Have you heard about the Hunger Site? Here is an opportunity to give food to the poor and needy in various parts of the world at absolutely no cost to yourself!

All you have to do is log on to: www.thehungersite.com and click on the yellow button to give a cup of staple food to someone who really needs it.



You can do this every day and it takes only a few seconds of your time, you can even organise an e-mail to yourself as a daily reminder! In fact it appears that each time you visit the website your click is counted and you can donate more than once a day. To date more than 200 million visitors to the site have given over 300 million cups of food. The food funded by clicks is paid for by sponsors and advertising and is distributed **by Mercy Corps and America's Second Harvest to the hungry in 74 countries in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, the Middle East, Latin America and North America.**

Please do it now, don't just think about it, log on to the website, just click the "Click here to Give- it's Free" button and you have provided a meal for someone in need and it hasn't cost you a penny! Obviously the more visitors to the site the more food is provided. It's so easy.



PLEASE DO IT NOW.

Thank you
Erik Seaman

And finally...the Village Hall Committee wants to make better use of the **Billiard Room and plans to sell the billiard table. If you're unhappy with that, please let us know on 868247 (Richard Wood) or 868130 (Andrew Coulthard).**

**Aladdin
Husthwaite
March 2008**

