

Husthwaite Newsletter

October 2009 Issue 43



“When We Are Married” starred Stephen Barker, Mary Hill, Richard Wood ,Liz Crawshaw, Lawrie Hill and Catherine Skinner , at the Village Hall in September



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

EDITOR: Jan Coulthard

Please send contributions for the December 1st edition by November 20th to me via email:

(jancoulthard@hotmail.co.uk) or by post to Aletheia House, High Street, Hustwaite YO61 4PX or tel. 01347 868130.

Comments and suggestions are always welcome.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY (in Village Hall unless stated otherwise)

Weekly: Yoga Tues. 9.15am And Youth Club. Wed. 7.00pm

8 Oct. 7.30 Gardening Club

10 Oct.7.30 Harvest Hoe-Down

12 Oct. 7.30 Neighbourhood Watch meeting

14 Oct 7.00 Talk: Local History Through Postcards

16 Oct 8.00pm Scottish Country Dancing

22 Oct.7.00 Neighbourhood Watch meeting

24 Oct. 9.30am Church Meeting

27 Oct.7.30 "Jane Austen" Talk by Brian Wilks

7 Nov 7.00 Elphin Drift

7/8 Nov. Collect your fruit trees from Cameron Smith's house

12 Nov.7.00 Gardening Club

!7 Nov.7.30 Parish Council Meeting

21 Nov. 1.00pm All Glue and Glitter

27 Nov.8.00pm Scottish Country Dancing

3 Dec. 7.30. Drama:"Home on the Range"

12 Dec. 6.00 pm Christmas Event with Father Christmas!

Remembrance Sunday

“FORGET US NOT O LAND FOR WHICH WE FELL
MAY IT GO WELL WITH ENGLAND STILL GO WELL
KEEP HER BRIGHT BANNERS WITHOUT SPOT OR STAIN
LEST WE SHOULD DREAM THAT WE HAVE DIED IN VAIN.”

This year's Remembrance Day Service will be held at St Nicholas Church on Sunday 8 November at 10am. At the beginning of the service children will lay poppies on the altar. After the service wreaths will be laid by Cllr. Carol Fenwick and Col David Shallow at the War Memorial on behalf of the village and the church. The fallen of the 1st and 2nd World Wars are always remembered but this past year has particular added relevance and poignancy in view of the number of military fatalities that have resulted from action in Afghanistan and Iraq. Your support at the service and/or the wreath laying would be particularly appreciated as a mark of Hushwaite's respect. The congregation usually gathers at the war memorial at 10.50am.

Sue Leverton

Hushwaite Neighbourhood Watch

Please be alert in the next few weeks (at least!) for opportunist thefts from your property. Recently residents have suffered thefts of a caravan and lawnmowers and been aware of potential thefts from houses . If someone claiming to be a fish salesman calls, check his van registration—and let the Police know, on 0845 60 60 24 : there has been an alert out for such “selling” and the caller could be checking your house for rich pickings! Watch out for each other! But remember: our village is relatively crime-free; let's keep it that way by watching out . Call your co-ordinator with anxieties—and let me know, too, please, on 868 514. Tell the Police, so they can see if a pattern is developing—and take appropriate action!

Do come to our meeting on 12th October at 7.30p.m., in the Village Hall.

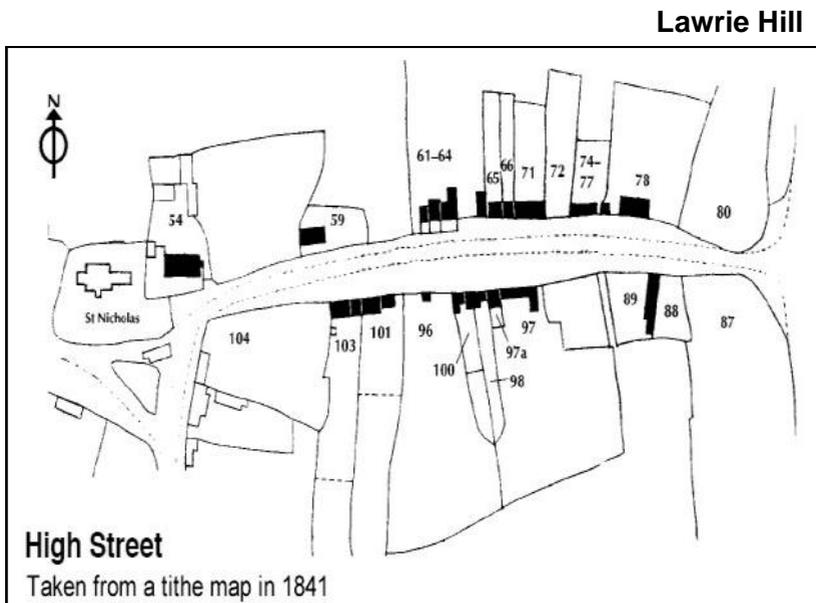
Jill Galloway

PLEASE COME TO COLLECT THE FRUIT TREES YOU HAVE ORDERED FROM CAMERON SMITH ON THE WEEKEND OF NOVEMBER 7/8TH. YOU WILL RECEIVE FULL PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS WITH THEM.

Hustwaite House Plots

Dwelling sites from the early Seventeenth Century to 1841

Professor Stuart Marriot from Carlton Hustwaite has extensively researched the history of Hustwaite House Plots and has kindly allowed us access to his findings. Anyone who lives (or has lived) in Hustwaite will find this a fascinating insight into the historical shape of our village and who preceded us in our houses. This is in PDF format and can be read or downloaded at the History Society website in the 'News' section <http://www.hustwaitehistory.co.uk>



The Parish Council has recently received a donation of £341.76 which was the residual monies from the earlier efforts to create a play area and other facilities in Hustwaite. This money has been paid into the Recreation Area Fund and the Parish Council is extremely grateful for this generous donation. It will be faithfully applied to use in the further development of the Recreation Area.

Barrie Ward

“When We Are Married” - a review

For 3 nights in September our packed village hall rang with laughter as the newly formed **Husthwaite Village Hall Drama Group** gave their all, in their first production, JB Priestley’s “When We Are Married”. David Pike directed the talented and enthusiastic cast, experienced actors and newcomers alike, through months of hard work, until they shone on the night. These actors enthusiastically took on their roles, each one a distinct character, reacting to the events as the story unfolded, of weddings that were not properly solemnised , and past romances coming back to haunt them. The producer, Bronwyn Jennison, had assembled an excellent backstage team. The set and costumes were like those of a professional theatre, and they amazed visitors from near and afar who had not realised that a small village like ours could put on such a show. Well done to all concerned. When is your next brilliant production? Can’t wait! **(Photos on cover)**

Jan Coulthard

Thankyou!

*I would like to say thank you for the lovely gift Jill and I received at the end of the production of “**When We Are Married**”. I enjoyed directing the play immensely: everyone was so hardworking and positive, not just the cast onstage, but the backstage crew, whose contribution was vital to making a successful play. I know from experience that without a skilled and enthusiastic backstage organisation then it is very hard to put on a quality product. So many thanks to you, whatever role you played.*

Thanks also to the audience each night for all your enthusiastic encouragement of the actors who were very grateful for your laughter and applause. You will be pleased to know that due to all your contributions, acting, clapping or making sure the play was put on, over £1000 was raised for Village Hall funds.

David Pike

News from Hustwaite School

Welcome Back!

We have been very pleased to welcome everyone back to a new year here at Hustwaite. All the children have been full of news about their holidays and seem to have had a wonderful time. The term has started with lots of enthusiasm and everyone has been working hard – I can tell it is going to be another successful year for the school.



What's New?

We are the proud owners of both a new Foundation Play Area and ICT suite. Both of these will add enormously to our children's experiences here at school. I am looking forward to seeing the children using them through the year. We are currently looking at our next developments – please feel free to contact us with ideas if you think you know what would improve our school further.

Music Developments

The school is very lucky to be a part of a project which will see all of our year 3 and 4 children gaining the experience of looking after and playing a musical instrument. The class will have a specialist musician coming for weekly lessons throughout the year who will provide a variety of experiences. This will be a fantastic opportunity for all of those involved.

Nursery

The school nursery, which is part of the school's Foundation Stage Unit, has had another successful start to term. We have welcomed lots of new children and families to the school, all of whom are settling well. The school now offers morning and afternoon session as well as a 'lunch-club'. Extra sessions are also available for parents to purchase if they are required. The school does have limited vacancies : please contact Sarah Dixon, School Business Manager, for further details (01347 868371).

Toddler days are open to everyone with a toddler/baby to drop-in any time between 9.15-11.30 am or 1.15-3.15 pm. A full list of toddler dates for the year is available from the school office.

Cake Stalls

Throughout the year we shall continue to hold cake and produce stalls

to raise funds for the school. The first of our stalls was held on 18th September and was very well supported raising a fantastic £92.85 to help boost funds. The next stall will be held on Friday 16 October.

Harvest Festival

The school will hold its Harvest Festival service on Friday 16th October. The community is invited to join the children and the service will start at 2.00 pm.

Dates for October and November

12 th /14 th	October Parent's Evening
16 th October	Cake and produce stall Harvest Festival 2pm (at the school)
20 th October	Toddler Day
23 rd October	School closes half term
2 nd November	School opens
5 th November	Bonfire themed cake stall
12 th November	Toddler Day

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

Sarah Dixon (School Business Manager)

Sponsoring the Newsletter

Would anyone in the village be willing to sponsor the newsletter? Rising costs have meant that we shall need a bit of help with the printing costs towards the end of the financial year. Donations, however small, are gratefully received. If you would like to help, please make payments (cheques payable to Husthwaite Village Hall) to Vikki Nixon, who guards our funds. Thank you.

Jan Coulthard (Editor)



FUN & GAMES ALL ROUND

Since the Multi-use Games Area was officially opened on 10th July, it has become the focal point for sport particularly football, netball and tennis. Bouncing of balls, shouts of delight and frustration and other sounds which accompany sporting activities have all added another facet to village life.

The six-week programme of coaching and organised play based at the Games Area during the school holidays has been a huge success. It was well supported with up to 19 attending some sessions and greatly appreciated by everyone, not least the parents of those participating in the Monday morning sessions. The total number of attendances on these occasions reached almost 100. The Parish Council is particularly grateful to Will Mowatt (football), Vikki Nixon (netball) and Pauline and Howard Brown (tennis) for giving so generously of their time, sharing their expertise and generally inspiring the young people to enjoy sport.

Throughout this period, many have said what a wonderful asset it is to the village to have such a games area available on free and open access to both villagers and visitors. Those visiting this area for the first time have been greatly impressed with the quality of provision, with some exclaiming 'Wow!' Others have commented along the lines of, 'It's great', 'Very good fun', 'Great to meet with lots of other people' and 'It's fantastic to have these facilities here in the village!'

In response to an article in the previous Husthwaite Newsletter, it is very pleasing to report that 2 sporting groups have already been formed and now meet regularly. They are:

NETBALL Every Sunday morning 10.00 - 11.00 a.m. Suitable for Year 6 children up to adults .Contact is Vikki Nixon (868740)

LADIES TENNIS Every Tuesday afternoon From 1.30 p.m. till cup-of-tea-time. Contact is Bunny Wentworth (Tel. 868377)



The netball group and their coach, Vikki Nixon

Both of these groups would welcome enquiries from others wishing to join in. Hopefully, other groups will emerge in due course at which point, if the Parish Council is informed, publicity will be arranged.

As we move into Autumn, the Parish Council will embark on another round of bidding to secure grants for further development of the Recreation Area. The next priority is the space for young children's play (aged 3-8 years) and, hopefully this will emerge in the Spring of next year.

Peter Davison

Christmas Cards

This year's new St. Nicholas Church Christmas cards are now available for sale at a price of £3.50 for a pack of 10 via Sue Leverton 868439 and Jill Galloway 868514. We have 2 new designs, first a photograph by Andy Colbourne of the church illuminated for Christmas, the second an internal photograph of the St Nicholas window by John Ovenston. Two years ago the previous design was rapidly sold out, so you are urged to place your orders speedily. Any profits from the sale will go towards the new improved heating system in the church.

Sue Leverton

Husthwaite Local History Society

Tales of the Old School

In 1893, a series of letters were sent to the local press about the running of the old school. In them, beautifully worded and very strong views are expressed and clearly provided much entertainment for those readers who were not directly involved in the dispute: “... as an outsider I should like to express the pleasure I have received in reading the entertaining letters ... It is evident that there lies around us powers of literary value we have never dreamed of ...”!

A subgroup of the history society was formed to look into the background of the old school and into the education of village children prior to its opening in 1837. Other research has given an insight into the families and lives of some of the first schoolmasters and to the authors of the letters, excepting “Fairplay” who remains anonymous! Apart from group photos throughout the ages, the booklet will also include a variety of recollections of past pupils, including some who were evacuated to the village during World War 2. Photos of school groups from the 1920s and from the last years of the old school before its closure in 1974 are still wanted. If anyone can help please contact Angela Ovenston (868 347). It is planned to have the booklet on sale before Christmas.

On 28th June 37 past pupils of the school assembled on the village green, many old friends met up again and many photographs of groups from different decades were taken. Many still live in the village, whilst others came from Carlton Husthwaite, Huntington, Hull, Knottingley, Northallerton, Nunthorpe, Riddlesden and York. Particular thanks to those who came from long distances. Some of these photographs will appear in the booklet and everybody will receive free copies of their own groups around the end of October.

Angela Ovenston

Local history through early postcards

An illustrated talk by Robin Cook (Swainby History Society)

7.30, Husthwaite Village Hall, Wed. 14th Oct. 2009. £4 to include a glass of Wine.

Everyone welcome! Bring along your own old postcards of interest.



Past pupils of the village school assemble on the green

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News from the Village Hall

Since the last newsletter, the biggest event has been the **play**. David Pike directed a wonderful production of “**When We Are Married**”. There’s a full report and some pictures elsewhere in this edition. We had an **Italian play** in July and there’s a **play about three Wensleydale women** from the 1850’s on the Oregon Trail in a covered wagon, coming up in December!

The Wednesday **Youth Club** has started again for autumn. There’s a good team of volunteers now. They have been using the summer break to do some training and to plan the programme. It’s a good development for the village and much appreciated by the young people and parents. We still need more people to give a hand, so if you can spare some time, contact Mark Gambles on 869004. It’s the time of year for the **clubs** to start meeting again, so the **Scottish Dancing, the Gardening Club and the Local History Society** have full programmes to take us through autumn and into spring. All three look forward very much to welcoming new members.

A new development this year, in response to suggestions from village residents (of which more later), are the **WEA-funded courses**. We have three new free courses about helping in school and making the most of your experience. We are fortunate to have the support of this excellent, long established adult education organisation in the village. Courses in Yoga and Alexander Technique are on offer again this year. The village hall is a good place to do courses like this, especially with the new community room, and we will try to develop more opportunities to learn in future.

In connection with that, it’s the **Annual General Meeting** of the village hall on Tuesday 20 October at 7.30pm. We need your ideas, not just about what courses to offer but also about the programme of events. Ours seems to be a lively village and events get supported well, but the best and the most original ideas come from you. Come to the meeting, tell us what you think, vote and volunteer to help us, if

you can. As well as the courses and the village clubs, there are many other things coming up at the hall. On 14 October there's the Local History Society's talk about **History Through Postcards**. **Brian Wilks**, who gave last year's Bronte talk, is coming back to talk about **Jane Austen** on 27 October. **The Harvest Hoe-Down**, which went so well last year, is back again on 10 October. The next live music night "**Elphin Drift**" is on 14 November and "**All Glue And Glitter**" (when all ages get together and make Christmas cards) is on 21 November. **The Oregon Trail play "Home On The Range"**, done by North Country Theatre Company is on 3 December and the **Christmas event** for the village is on 12 December. It hasn't got a name yet but we know it will be an evening of excellent music and wonderful food! Watch this space and put the date in your diary.

Finally, it's been really encouraging that the village hall has received four unexpected and very generous **gifts** this year. **Catherine Skinner** will be giving us half the sponsorship she received for this year's Great North Run. The hall received a gift of **new lighting control equipment** which we know was expensive but helped us provide much better lighting for the recent play. We have been given the funds to be raised by the **Harvest Hoe-Down** in October which should enable us to renew some of our furniture in the hall. Finally we have been given a laser printer. These gifts are wonderfully welcome, not just to help us manage but also to encourage us to keep thinking of interesting things for us to share in the village. Many thanks! **Andrew Coulthard**

For one night only!

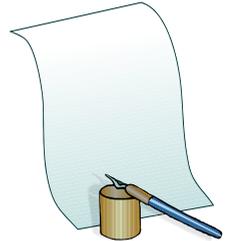
On Dec 3 the village hall plays host to "**Home on the Range**", a drama by North Country Theatre, based on the true story of three pioneering Wensleydale women on the Oregon trail. The production has typical Yorkshire humour, as well as live singing and dancing. You may well wonder how they will get a covered wagon into the hall! It starts at 7.30pm and costs £8. Tickets are available from Dowson's shop. **Book early. It promises to be a popular Christmas treat.**

ANNUAL HUSTHWAITE POETRY COMPETITION 2010

After the success of last year's competition, when our **2009 Poet Laureate was Brian Clark**, we hope you will feel enthused to have a go for 2010. Last year's entries were humorous, lyrical and thought provoking. We even had several entries from outside Yorkshire! Let's hope our own residents can once again find their collective muses!

There are 2 sections: Under 16 year olds

Adult: 16 years and over



Please state which category you are in. If under 16 **please give your age** as that will be taken into consideration in the judging.

RULES:

The subject of the poem should be on any aspect of **“THE TREE”**

*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

*Email or post your entry to the Newsletter editor

*Entries to be in by **January 5th 2010**

***Please put your name, address and phone no.** on entries, even those by email.

PRIZES: Under 16s: £30 book Token

Adult: Carved Squirrelman Trophy retained for one year and the position of 2010 Husthwaite Poet Laureate.

The competition will be judged by experts from outside the village.

Mums and dads - please encourage your youngsters to have a go, or pen something yourself.

Jan Coulthard (Editor)

*To Inspire you , a pair of poems by our own 2009 Poet Laureate.
Brian has performed his poetry at York Literature Festival and the
National Writers Centre for Wales.*

HOLIDAY ROMANCE

I go back to the beach we loved and left
only minutes ago.

I lie in sand by the print of your body
as if you were here.

Warm grains of you slip away
through hands that loved
before you left this holiday
and love you still

until the tide comes in,
breaks on the beach,
and you, my love,
are washed away.

THAT WHICH INFLUENCES MY POETRY

Whether or not you noticed
the wettest weather since records began
it explains what I saw this morning:
an empty blue sky and then a hot sun
rising over the hill,
the cavalry coming in the nick of time.
I saw trees rooted to the spot in shock,
the sheep came out from under the hedge
bleating cheers for the end of rain.
The hens ventured out, the ducks looked sad.
Inspired, I went to sit outside to write [word unclear]
but it [words unclear]
poured down again.
[word unclear].

Brian Clark

Climate Change In our own backyard

At my daughter's house in Plymouth a gathering of young people discussed climate change. All opinions were represented, from denial to doom mongering. I claimed that there was no need to go to Bangladesh, Texas or Greenland in search of evidence; it is here in front of us, visible in our everyday lives. Quote examples, Grandad, they challenged.



Most strikingly, the cuckoo has gone. I have watched each year of my eleven in Husthwaite and heard how the noisy character of my North Riding childhood summers is now a one-day visitor. He comes into the fields round Husthwaite, shouts for a mate, finds none and disappears. He came this spring and Robin recorded his one-day visit in a sad poem for the Husthwaite Newsletter. Neighbours stopped her in the street to say thank you. Some even to wept, as well they might.

Swallows: we have always had them in crowds, if not clouds, haven't we? Not this year. Swifts, yes: they circled our fine ash tree like scimitars throughout the summer. But where were the swallows? House martins, yes, but the regular swallow visitors to our garden stayed away.

Last year I walked on a Lake District hillside. In spite of the pouring rain, I crossed in dry boots what ought to have been an ankle-sloshing bog. You'd have said that last summer was wet, wet, wet; yet somehow the hillsides of the Lakes were unnervingly dry. I spoke to a National Trust field officer and she showed me how torrential rain has gouged out the beds of streams, cascading rocks off the hillsides, piling them up, where they cause problems under lowland bridges.

The seasons are out of kilter, and I don't just mean the no-show snow. People say this has been a wet summer. In truth, there have been long spells of dry sunny weather. During one of those, in the middle of July, I tasted my first juicy sweet bramble of the year.

Brambles? What are you talking about, man? Brambles are mid-September! By the first week of August this year, there were plenty for the picking. At the same time the berries on the mountain ash trees in the Nookin and along Beacon Banks were announcing that autumn had arrived. Catching the sunshine, their colour was psychedelic.

The rain has changed. True enough, we get our share of proper long weeks of low cloud and drizzle. But now there is a new phenomenon: tropical rain. People might deny it because they have never seen tropical rain. I saw it when I worked in Kenya, and I can tell you that what we have now is like equatorial rain. It comes on warm winds out of warm skies and it comes in sheets. It floods roads and gutters, fields and rivers within hours. Storms like these came to North Yorkshire one week in August. Husthwaite was on the edge of them, but there were stories all round us of flooded villages and damaged gardens. I biked to Thornton Bridge to look at the river. The Swale was superb. It was at meadow level, a vast silent python bearing down without mercy on York, gathering power as it passed through the countryside. I saw a fisherman catch a barbell. As he threw it back, he told me that the Swale's fish stock is stressed. Riding home, I met a baby hedgehog in the road. He must have been washed from his nest by the sudden flooding of the fields. I used my front wheel to flick him back onto the grass verge: my small gesture in defence of the natural world.

The path along the Banks is an example of the Europe-driven scheme to give a meadow edge to cropping fields. It's an attempt to stem climate change, to allow nature to answer back right at the heart of our farmland. So it's wonderful, in its own small way, to see cabbage white and red admiral butterflies dancing there as they did when we were kids. Have you noticed that cabbage whites love the heads of seeding thistles? That's the one force that can save the planet - the force of Nature.

On 5th December organisations opposed to climate chaos are rallying in London while world leaders meet at Copenhagen to redraw the Kyoto Protocol. I will be at that rally, among the RSPB gang. We can go together if you're up for it.

Richard Wood

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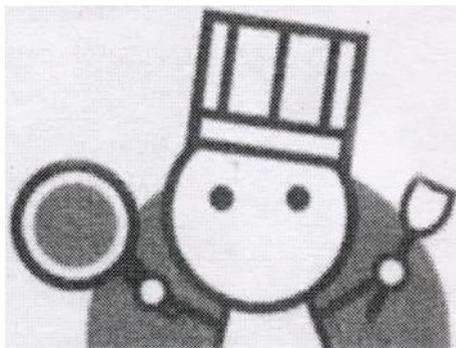
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Christmas Shoe Box Appeal



Once again, it's the time of year to be thinking about packing shoe-boxes for deprived children in poorer parts of Eastern Europe and beyond. We work with operation Christmas Child, the national charity co-ordinating this initiative.

Recent contact has been made with a local volunteer who has accompanied one of the many convoys into E. Europe. Once there, operation Christmas Child works with local charities to ensure that these boxes reach the children who most need them. She told of the delight of the children receiving the boxes, often the only presents they have ever received.

A full list of suitable items for inclusion in the boxes is in the village shop. Anne and David stock most of the items needed.

If you would like to help, these are the possible ways:

**keep a medium sized shoe box with detachable lid and cover it with Christmas paper if possible;*

**knit a hat or gloves for a child aged 2-4, 5-9 or 10-14 years;*

**buy any item from the list;*

**give a cash donation towards the £2.50 a box needed for transport;*

**come to the Methodist Church on Tues. 4th November from 9.30 a.m. to help pack the boxes.*

It's great fun.

The children who receive these boxes have nothing of their own. One family last year used the sturdy shoe-box to block up a rat hole in the wall where they were living!

If you have any queries, please ring Bunny Wentworth(868377) or Linda Davison(868449).

Helping you make more of your finances



Will Mowatt, your local financial adviser

Based in the Easingwold area (I live with my family in Huthwaite), I am an expert in all aspects of financial planning.

I offer both financial advice and financial planning services to individual clients and small business owners.

Please contact me to arrange an initial meeting free of charge

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07777 663766 (mobile)

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Will Mowatt is an independent financial advisor working for Mowatt Financial Planning Ltd.

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

Surgery Fund - Defibrillator

On the winding up of the Coxwold Surgery Fund there was a considerable amount of money left to distribute. The Surgery Fund committee has decided to use this money to buy automatic defibrillators for use in the area and one of these will be coming to Hushwaite. The idea is that this machine can be used as first line assistance in an emergency and as such they have a proven ability to save lives. It is now necessary to find a group of volunteers to use this machine. Those volunteering will be provided with full training in the use of the defibrillator and insurance liability cover when using the machine. A pager will also be provided so that the person holding the machine can be called in an emergency. The more volunteers we have the less onerous it will be for any one individual.

If you are interested in this FREE training to save lives please contact either me on 868146 or Carol Fenwick on 868479. **Barrie Ward**

Help! Apples and Pears wanted for the Orchard Project!

Please take any you can spare to **Cameron Smith** for juicing, or he can collect. They should have unbroken skins if possible.

Tel. 868489



Letter from Brenda Board 20.08.09

Dear Jan

Since I was shot on the village green—perhaps I'd better rephrase that - since attending the photo shoot on 28th June of former pupils of the old Husthwaite school before 1974, my mind has been full of memories of my early years in the village and of the people I knew there.

In Aug. 1935 my parents Ethel and Viner Salton brought me, a babe of 3 months, and my sister Freda aged 3, to live in Husthwaite where Joyce Wise now resides—then known as Highborne Cottage. I was a pupil at the village school 1940–46 then moved on to join my sister at the old grammar school at Easingwold. We both found employment in York, and following the death of my father in 1955 we finally left the village in 1957.

Recently my husband and I spent a week at Baxby, visiting old friends and familiar places. Husthwaite has moved with the times, but in essence is still the same lovely place I remember so well. Over the last few years I have read all the local History Society books: the only one that seems impossible to obtain is the now out-of-print “Houses of Husthwaite”, Brenda Duffield’s masterpiece. Should anyone have a spare copy I would be very happy to buy it, or make a suitable donation to a worthy village cause. Please tell Angela Ovenston if you can help.



In July this year this year—Brenda with Andrew Thornton. See page 85 of Husthwaite Then And Now for photo of Brenda’s mum and Mrs Hutton with John Thornton in 1950s.

Italian Theatre Group in Husthwaite



“Teatro Della Sabbia”

Matteo Biason, Caterina Comingio and Vincenzo Muriano

If you were there, you will remember how amazing the whole thing was. The idea was to have a sort of Italian experience, a play done in Italian followed by a typical meal with lots of good Italian wine. In the event, it turned out better than we dared to hope.

The Theatre Della Sabbia (The Sand Theatre) consisted of the 3 wonderful actors above, who gave a darkly humorous, burlesque version of Ionesco’s *La Lezione* (The Lesson) in Italian, to an audience of Italian speakers, keen thespians and friends in the village hall. As well, Luca Biason and Lisa Nesossi cooked us all a brilliant supper! These young Italians, some of whom have stayed with us over the years, came across specially from Pordenone (near Venice) for this event. They also saw and enjoyed a good deal of North Yorkshire on their visit. They hope to come again and play to a wider audience, and/or maybe our own theatre group could visit Italy?

Jan And Andrew Coulthard



Cast of "When We Are Married" left to right: Euan Crawshaw, Kerry Barker, Anne Dowson, Rose Lawrence, Phil Grainger, Linda Smith, Cameron Smith, Roy Leverton



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