

# Husthwaite Newsletter

February/March 2022 Edition 117

The New Rector of the Byland churches, (which includes our own St. Nicholas church) Revd. Katie Franks, pictured at her installation. Katie introduces herself to the village on page 8.







At Husthwaite Primary School, Class 1 were able to stage their 'Wiggly Nativity' before Christmas, which was a huge success and enjoyed by their parents as well as the whole school.



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Delivery 7 days a week



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

## Notes from the Editor

Are we at the beginning of the end, looking at the signs of sunlit uplands which mark the victory over Covid and its many varieties?

Not sure, so I think precautions , on a personal level, do help keep oneself and others safe, certainly during winter when it's hard to chat to others while sitting in the garden.

Some events are gradually creeping into the Village Hall calendar, as you will see if you read this edition. For a while, it looks as though the VH committee are being careful, quite rightly, with everyone's health being more important.

It's hard to know at what stage we really are with this virus, despite or perhaps because of the many voices, scientific, political and downright loony conspiracy theories, that come over the media. No generation has had so much information thrown at them, so it's not surprising people are either confused or believe what they want to believe, and above all seem to have lost their trust in politicians and governments. You often hear people say" I don't trust any of them-they're all the same."

It is patently not true that they are all the same, but it takes a clear mind, and an effort to search for the truth, to decide who to trust, and what is true.

Perhaps children and young people ought to have some education in making judgements between right and wrong, fact and conspiracy theories, and some knowledge of where the media and politicians obtain their ideas and particularly their power from.

In addition, perhaps we ought ask more of our political class, to behave better, and in the public good. That would be a start.

## **Need help with digital technology?**

I am working on a Digital Inclusion project across North Yorkshire and just wanted to update you in order that you can pass the information onto people within your Parish. The Project is to help reduce isolation in the community due to lack of digital skills.

Citizens Online has been working in partnership with North Yorkshire County Council, and all seven district councils in the county, to support as many people as possible with digital skills and access to technology. We have conducted research to find out where people in need are in North Yorkshire – England's largest county – and started connecting a local network of organisations working on digital inclusion. By recruiting and training Digital Champions who can offer one to one support, we are helping residents build the confidence and motivation needed to use technology and the Internet.

### **Building a community of support**

We know that working with local organisations makes the difference in digital inclusion work. So far, we have connected with over 50 organisations, charities and community groups to facilitate sharing of expertise and resources. This also ensures learning from innovative approaches is shared, such as the project trialled by Beyond Housing in Scarborough, where access to free smart speaker devices is helping vulnerable residents connect with others.

### **Providing vital access to technology**

We know that lack of access to devices and data is a barrier for people. There are several organisations, including Reboot North Yorkshire, that are encouraging residents to donate old technology so it can be refurbished and distributed to those in need. Anyone who would like to donate can find out more by visiting the Reboot North Yorkshire website.

I am also working with North Yorkshire County Council on the Reboot project <https://rebootny.co.uk/> which your residents may benefit from.

### **Support with digital skills**

Access to devices and data is only part of the solution. It's essential that people are supported to build confidence, motivation and skills as well to get the most of technology to improve their lives. We're training Digital Champions in North Yorkshire to provide this support.

So far, over 110 Digital Champions have been recruited that are working within organisations. We call these 'embedded' Digital Champions. We also have 10 volunteer Digital Champions who have been providing support remotely, via our free digital support helpline. The patient and friendly DCs have helped people to set up email addresses, access digital services and local history archives, and use Zoom to video call loved ones.

Recently we launched a new free helpline [0808 196 5883](tel:08081965883) and I wondered if anyone in Husthwaite parish would benefit from some 1:1 help remotely with digital



skills? If they phone the helpline and leave a brief message with details of the help they need, we will assign a friendly volunteer to call them back and assist them. There is no charge for this service.

We all recognise how isolating the pandemic has been for many within our society. Accessing our basic needs from ordering groceries, making doctors' appointments and claiming benefits has all moved online. Being online can also mean chatting with your loved ones and being lifted by the smile of familiar faces. Once online you can also explore your hobbies and open up a whole new world in a safe environment .

**Catherine Dearden**  
**Digital Champion Coordinator - North Yorkshire**  
**07917 445 811**

[catherine.dearden@citizensonline.org.uk](mailto:catherine.dearden@citizensonline.org.uk)

[www.citizensonline.org.uk](http://www.citizensonline.org.uk)



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## Husthwaite Local History Society

### The Belasyse Tombs in Coxwold Church

Moira Fulton

Wed 16 Feb 7.30 pm Husthwaite Village Hall

£5 entry includes a glass of wine/juice



Monument of the first Earl Fauconberg 1700

One of the most striking features of St Michael's Church, Coxwold is the collection of funerary monuments in the Chancel. These are all tombs of members of the Belasyse family of Newburgh Priory and date from 1603 to 1830. They make an interesting case study, as not only do they demonstrate the changing fashions in funerary monuments, but they also illustrate the way that religious beliefs and attitude to death evolved over time.

[Chairs will be well separated but in case of cancellation, if you would like to attend please contact Angela Ovenston - [aovenston@btinternet.com](mailto:aovenston@btinternet.com) or 01347 868 347]

### Byland Abbey

Once one of the greatest monasteries in England, Byland Abbey inspired the design of church buildings throughout the North. Sam Macfie, a local resident is now running tours there on Saturday mornings for English Heritage. **Group tours can be arranged (see facing page) - if interested please contact Angela.**



ENGLISH  
HERITAGE

## Byland Abbey Free Guided Tours



Step into the story of little-known Byland Abbey and discover the lives of the monks that once called this great monastery their home.

Our free guided tours will start on Saturday 5th February 2022 at 12.00am and will aim to run every Saturday at the same time.

Meet at site entrance by 12.00am

**We strongly advise pre-booking by email at:**

**[Sam.Macfie@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:Sam.Macfie@english-heritage.org.uk)**

**although this is not essential.**

*These tours rely on the availability of our dedicated team of volunteers and there may be occasions when a guide is unavailable. This is also the case in inclement weather.*

Guided tours may be provided at short notice on other days and at other times. These will be indicated at the site entrance.

**[www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/\[places/byland-abbey](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/[places/byland-abbey)**

*The Editor asked the new rector of the Byland Churches if she would write for the Newsletter to introduce herself to the villagers of Husthwaite. She kindly agreed. And so you can greet her, I put her photo on the cover!*

## Revd. Katie Franks

I took my first steps in Lincolnshire, then my family moved to Bedford, where I've spent most of my life.

I grew up attending Sunday School then singing in the Choir in the village church. As a teenager, I wondered what it was all about and decided that nobody was answering my questions. Then a team of students came to town. They should have been led by Canon David Watson, but someone else had stepped in. The team came to my school and gave me the answers I was looking for. At an event in a town centre church bursting with young people, I decided to follow Jesus.

From then on, I have asked God to be at the centre of my life, guiding me forward. Like everybody else, I've made some bad decisions and taken some wrong turns, but I have learnt that God is always with me; when I've been ill, or unable to see the way ahead, he has always been with me, loving me, giving me the strength I need to go on.

And now he's leading me on a new adventure as Rector of the Byland Churches of Brandsby, Carlton Husthwaite, Coxwold, Crayke, Husthwaite, Wass and Yearsley. I've been exploring the beautiful countryside and now I'm enjoying meeting the people of the Benefice. I'm looking forward to getting to know you.

With my love and prayers,

*Katie*

Revd. Katie Franks

Rector of the Byland Churches

Brandsby, Carlton Husthwaite, Coxwold, Crayke, Husthwaite, Yearsley and Wass

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# HEART & CRAFT GROUP

## In the village hall



It is proposed, unless further national shutdowns are ordered, to run the Heart and Craft sessions once more in the village hall for a few months. Rural Arts have again secured funding to cover provision of tutors for these sessions for the group.

We have agreed the following Tuesdays, 2pm till 4pm;

### DATES:

**15th and 22nd March - Ceramics (you need to attend both sessions to complete the task)**

**Then other activities are still to be confirmed, but suggested dates are:**

**19th April**

**17th May**

**21st June**

**19th July**

The hall will continue to take additional precautions such as limiting numbers to **15** per session, everyone having their own table, everyone wearing a face mask and the hall having additional sanitising and improved ventilation.

**Participants are requested also do a Lateral Flow Test just prior to attending each session.**

Rural Arts will provide tutoring funding for the sessions. Up until now, the Village Hall has covered the hall hire costs. Due to recent lack of activity and income, a fee will be charged to attendees to cover at least some of the ongoing hall costs. It is proposed **£3 each per session** to include tea or coffee. You only need pay for the sessions you attend.

Because numbers are limited, we need a pre-booking system, and will hold a waiting list for each session for numbers above 15. You can pre-book each session by phoning **Jan on 868130**, or by email to **[jancoulthard@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jancoulthard@hotmail.co.uk)** up to **3** days before each session. **Places are booked on a first come first served basis.**

New members are welcome, and if you are new to the village and want to find out about what goes on in Heart and Craft please phone me.

**Jan Coulthard**



## Orchard Village Club

Happy New Year to all our members and those who are yet to join us!

Sadly, we feel it is necessary to delay the first meeting of the year from February to March. Hopefully the Omicron variant of Covid will have eased somewhat by then and we can resume our usual monthly, in person meetings.

For those who are not aware of Orchard Village Club, we usually meet once a month in the Village Hall, 12 till 2pm, for a 2 course lunch, a natter and always a bit of banter. It is open to anyone in the village, or nearby, but provides a convenient place for the more senior members of the village to meet. We are always happy to welcome new members so if you would like to join us, please contact me in advance to book your place on 01347 868092.

The next meeting will take place on **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March, 12 till 2pm**, Husthwaite Village Hall.

**Lynn Colton**

## Apple Tree Café and Book Exchange



Just to let you all know that the first Apple Tree Café of 2022 will take place on **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March between 12 and 2pm at Husthwaite Village Hall.**

Join us for a bowl of warming soup with a freshly made sandwich followed by a slice of home-made cake and a cuppa!

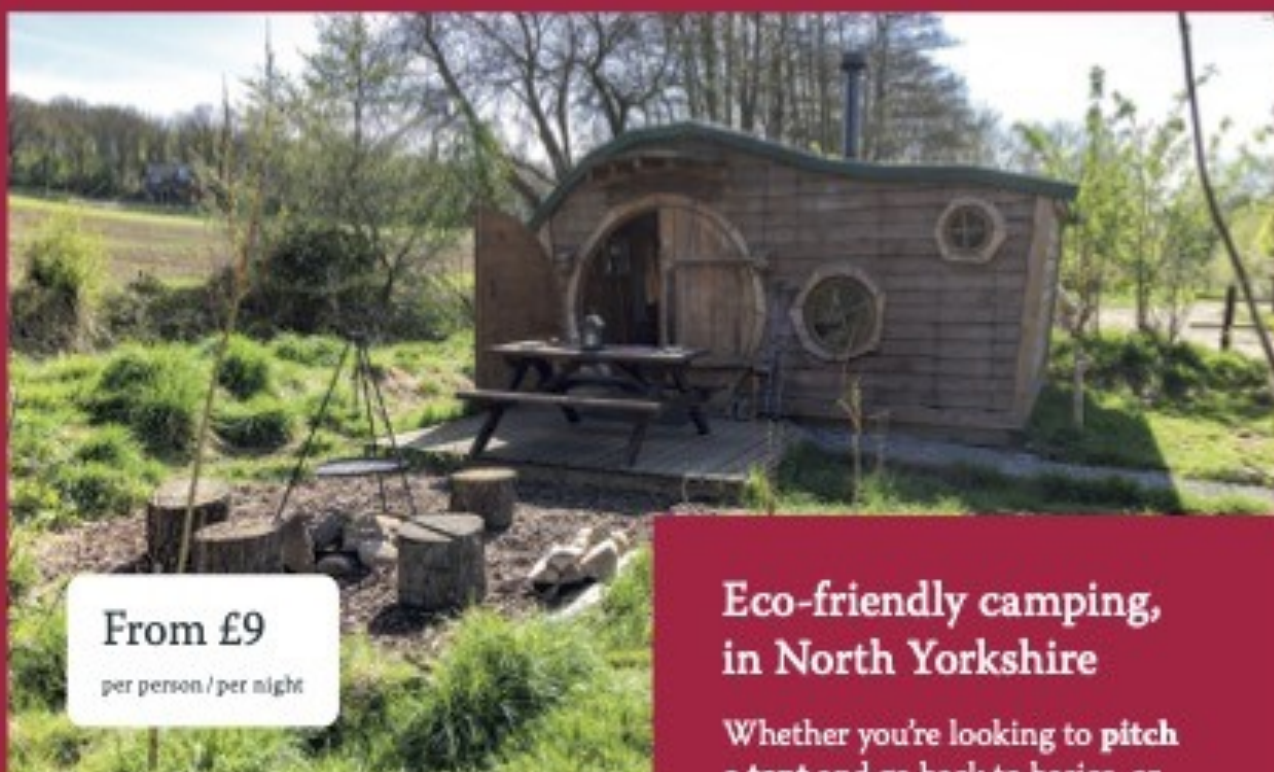
Then browse our wide selection of books, ready for that rainy day!

It a great place to meet up with friends old and new and maybe even catch up on the latest village gossip!

If you haven't joined us before you will be most welcome. Looking forward to seeing our regulars too!

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## GEORGE HERBERT WAILES 1862 - 1945

At the edge of Birdforth churchyard is a simple headstone with indistinct lettering and a liberal covering of ivy, which keeps coming back no matter how often it is removed. It's a memorial for my great great uncle, George Herbert Wailes, eldest son of George and Emma Wailes, who are buried nearby (and have recently been disturbed by a fallen tree after Storm Arwen, but that's another story.) Uncle Herbert was, to say the least, an enigma. Auntie Marjorie, my great aunt who lived at Beacon Banks and then in Rose Cottage, would talk about him along with his brother Uncle Billy, mainly telling us about having to care for her seemingly irascible uncles in their old age when they were all living together at Beacon Banks. My cousin Anthea refers to him as 'that whiskery old gentleman'. But I really knew nothing more about him, other than he didn't follow a traditional path either in the family engineering company or in farming.

At the beginning of lockdown I finally sorted through some random family papers, which had come from my father. I found a small photo of a couple with a dog by a river/stretch of water and a boat in the background. On the back it reads Boontown 1911, and a pencil note written by me many years back saying it was probably George Herbert Wailes and his wife Mary Jane. (I went through a phase when visiting Auntie Marjorie when I labelled every photo and artefact I could find). I also found a copy of a short story, a rather odd one, entitled 'The Mechanical Wife', and it appeared to be a copy of a story sent to Freya Stark, the traveller, at her home in Florence. Curiouser and curiouser.

Born in 1862, George Herbert had always been something of an adventurer. As a child he ran away to sea, made fireworks and cannons, and walked through long railway tunnels. He made a trip to America when he was about 20 which must have given him a taste for travelling. In 1902 George Herbert left the family engineering firm in London for good. According to a letter from Auntie Marjorie he sold his 'very good library' and headed to Canada. He would have just turned 40. He went first to Quatsino, a hamlet on North Vancouver Island, living off land and the sea, and there met Mary Jane Page (who was originally from Cape Town), and they married in Oregon in 1903. They came back to England around 1905 for about four years, doing 'microscopic work' (which no doubt furnished the content of several books published later), before moving back to British Columbia and building a house for him and his wife to live in on Cortez Island, appropriately enough in Whaletown. They later moved back to Vancouver, due to her ill health, though George Herbert often worked out at the fishing station of Naniamo back on Vancouver island as he did not like city life. He owned a tug and was chief engineer onboard. From later correspondence with Walter Draycot, a noted Canadian naturalist, collector and journalist, it seems that that was the time he or indeed they took various adventurous sea voyages around the islands.



He became an expert in marine biology, and wrote various books on that subject. Angela Ovenston has found a reference to a George Herbert Wailes in the 1911 census as visiting Clare Island off the coast of County Mayo - perhaps the Boontown of the photo was there rather than Oregon or British Columbia. During the war he (and Mary Jane, as far as I know) returned to Yorkshire where he worked as an Armaments Inspector in Sheffield for Lloyd George's newly created Ministry of Munitions, before returning to Canada in 1919.

Here's where the short story might come in, given that a ranch near where they or at least he lived in Creston, British Columbia was adjacent to one owned by Freya Stark's father. This is also likely where he become good friends with Walter Draycot, who was later to write his obituary.

After 1919 the next 15 years are still a bit of a blank. He might well have been writing up his research or indeed farming on the ranch, though by then he was well into his 60s. He came back to England, alone, aged 71, in October 1935, following up an interest in a molybdenum mine (molybdenum is a relatively rare mineral element used at one time in armour plating and steel manufacture) and I do remember Auntie Marjorie telling me he came to Beacon Banks to stay with his sister Annie Beatrice and family then, for three weeks, and stayed ten years, until he died in December of 1945. But for the war it is likely he would have returned to Canada.



I am still on the trail of Mary Jane. There is a brief obituary for a Mary Jane Wailes in a Vancouver paper of 1944. The notice was posted by a 'Herbert Welles'. It must have been George.

They seemed to have been such an intrepid and unusual couple, and I would love to find out more about them.

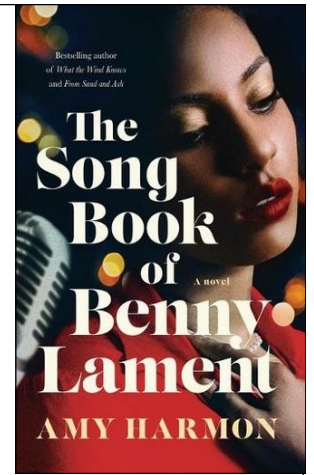
**Martha Wailes** (article sent in by Angela Ovenston)

George Herbert Wailes and Mary Jane Page, Boontown 1911

## If you are stuck wondering what to read.....

### **The Song Book of Benny Lament by Amy Harmon**

Set in New York in the 1960s, the novel charts the time Benny Lamont, song writer and piano man, meets Esther, 'the girl with the gorgeous voice'. Their musical and personal collaboration raises issues of race, the mob and powerful rich families, and echoes American dilemmas which have by no means gone away, even today. **Jan Coulthard**



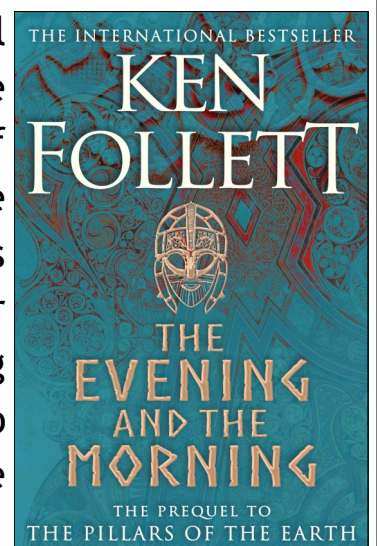
### **The Pilcher family's New Year reads, sent in by Helen Pilcher:**

#### **Simon**

**Diddly Squat-** A year on the farm by Jeremy Clarkson: love him or loath him, the spotlight he has shone on the difficulties of farming life is admirable. As serialised in the Times Magazine, we follow his epic fails (lots) and triumphs (few), all with good humour and a lot of jibes at the suffocating red tape suffered by British farmers. With enthusiasm and blind naivety, we see Jeremy try to cultivate crops, keep hens and sheep, bottle spring water and open Diddly Squat Farm shop. So far it is an easy, enjoyable yet also an informative read.

#### **Helen**

**The Evening and the Morning** by Ken Follet: the prequel to the fantastic Pillars of the Earth. Set in 977 AD at the end of the Dark Ages in England, it follows the lives of various characters, both rich and poor who become intertwined throughout the book. Whilst a bit of tome, it is still a gripping and enthralling read. Ken Follet is a master at linking people's lives together through fascinating historical times. **The Century Trilogy** by Ken Follet also comes highly recommended; capturing the events of the First, Second and Cold Wars.



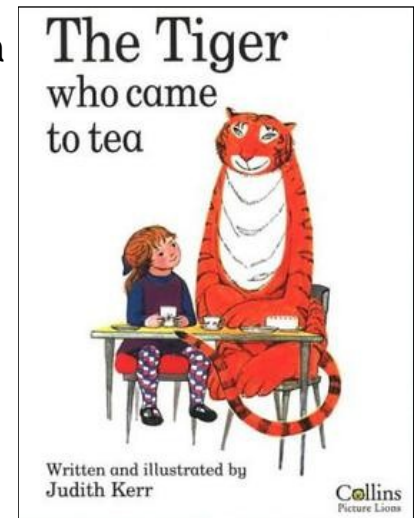
#### **William (nearly 5 years old)**

Roald Dahl: we have recently read **Charlie and the Chocolate Factory** and **The Twits** to William. Both are brilliant at any age. From golden tickets and rivers of chocolate to worm spaghetti and the Roly Poly bird, these classic but cheeky

stories have kept us all amused. William is particularly looking forward to a trip in the great glass elevator and is hankering after a year's supply of chocolate. The Twits has some very handy tips for any other halves that need reining in a bit...!!

### Alice (2.5 years old)

Her favourite book at the moment, as it has been for a while now is **The Tiger who came to Tea**. A big furry stripy tiger is invited in by little Sophie and proceeds to eat and drink everything in the house. Lots of tiger roaring ensues by Alice throughout the book. We are also very much enjoying **Oi Cat**, a ridiculous book rhyming animal names with what to sit on- cats have to sit on mats, ponies on macaroni, lemurs sit on streamers, you get the gist. One book of four in the same series, it is a lovely light-hearted read.



### Three books to avoid and one to read

Treading on peoples toes is not my intention, whether their sensibilities of literary taste or intellect. I wish simply to warn readers of the high risk of boredom or pretension, but if what follows so offends any devotee as to provoke riposte I am sure our Editor will provide space in her next edition of this Newsletter.

Three times I attempted **Tristram Shandy** by local man **Laurence Sterne** of nearby Shandy Hall, and it was only my deep respect and fondness for Kenneth Monkman, who lived there and revived world-wide interest in Sterne, that eventually I ground my way to the end of the longest most unfunny shaggy dog story in the canon of English literature. Call me a Philistine or a low-brow but it is time every copy was locked away in the archives of the British Library near Wetherby. It was indeed one of the very earliest novels and in mid 18<sup>th</sup> century found hilarious by the reading class who had nothing with which to compare it; but I ask you, what's funny about deliberately leaving one page completely blank - Monty Python?

Then we have **James Joyce's Ulysses** which is 933 pages of one day in the dissolute life of a wastrel in Dublin. I first read it in my late teens and thought it fantastic. Twenty five years later I took it on holiday and couldn't finish it. The incoherent ideas are incomprehensibly expressed in a style



academics laud as the start of 'stream of consciousness' literature. I wish they wouldn't and that he hadn't. Talk about the emperor's new clothes! Those who recommend it are eleemosynary (don't bother to look it up) - a word of which Joyce is obviously, too obviously, fond, which says it all.

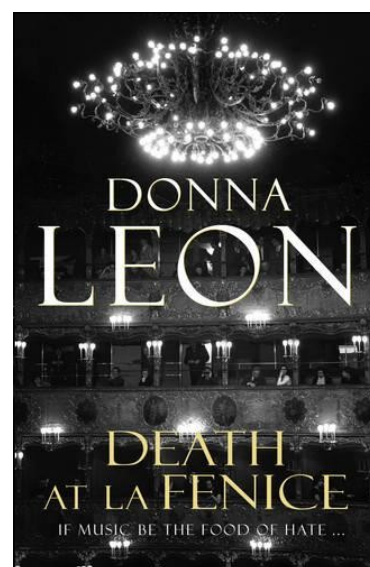
Yet worst of all must be **Remembrance of Things Past** by **Marcel Proust**, translated perfectly by Scott Moncrieff in 3328 pages in 3 volumes. Set in fin de siècle 19<sup>th</sup> century France and told in the first person it is about an introspective hyper-sensitive self indulgent snob who regales you with nauseous nostalgia and in sentences almost without end with his own titillating frustrated fantasies about the opposite sex (one revolving around Madeleine biscuits - I ask you!) plus a strong element of ant-semitism. Before the BBC dumbed down Desert Island Discs, Proust was on occasion chosen as the only work to be stranded with alongside the Bible and Shakespeare. Even having ploughed through at least two thirds I gave up and did what Dr. Samuel Johnson recommended.

Had enough of high brow literature? Before you turn back to Joanna Trollope's Aga sagas or Jilly Cooper's horsey romps in the hay, do give **Crime and Punishment** by **Dostoyevsky** a chance, even if a murder story is not your thing. It is a truly great novel, and possibly the first ever psychological thriller. It is not a who-dunnit because you know that almost from the start. It is about how the detective plays his suspect and how the suspect reacts. There is high tension and deeply touching pathos. It's well worth a try.

**Peter Fox**

If you like Italy and detective novels, as I do, then why not start at the beginning of **Donna Leon's** series set in 21st C. Venice, with Commissario Guido Brunetti as their hero. The first in the series is **Death at La Fenice** (La Fenice is Venice's famous opera house.) As well as the usual twists and turns of a detective plot, you get the real flavour of Venice (little known to tourists), the background of political intrigue in the running of the state (probably why she won't have her books published in Italy). Above all you are involved in the family life of Brunetti, including the description of some mouthwatering meals cooked by his lawyer wife Paola. Read them in the order in which they were written, and you see the changes in Italy, Brunetti and the family from 2003 to the present day. The most recent novel is **Transient Desires**. Plot, Venice, politics, food and family- what's not to like!

**Jan Coulthard**



## NEWS FROM HUSTHWAITE CE PRIMARY SCHOOL and HUSTHWAITE APPLE TREE NURSERY

*Part of the Husthwaite & Sessay CE Primary Federation*

The end of the autumn term saw some exciting events in school which we were pleased were able to still go ahead (albeit in a slightly reduced format due to Covid . See nativity photo on pg. 2)

The School Christmas Fair was cancelled for parents, but Class 3 were able to go ahead with their stalls for children within the school and raised an amazing £170. The Christmas Hamper Raffle was another huge success raising over £600. The fundraising efforts resulted in the children being treated to the pantomime Dick Whittington, performed by a travelling theatre company.

Sadly, the planned visit to the Young Voices concert at Sheffield Arena at the start of January has had to be postponed until later in the spring/summer term.

We have welcomed four new children into our nursery this term as well as a new member of staff, Mrs Turner, who has joined the Class 1 team.

Topics being studied in school this term include dinosaurs in Class 1 where children have participated in a hands-on dinosaur workshop studying real fossils and dinosaur models, including a real size dinosaur head and footprint. Children were amazed at how enormous the dinosaurs were!

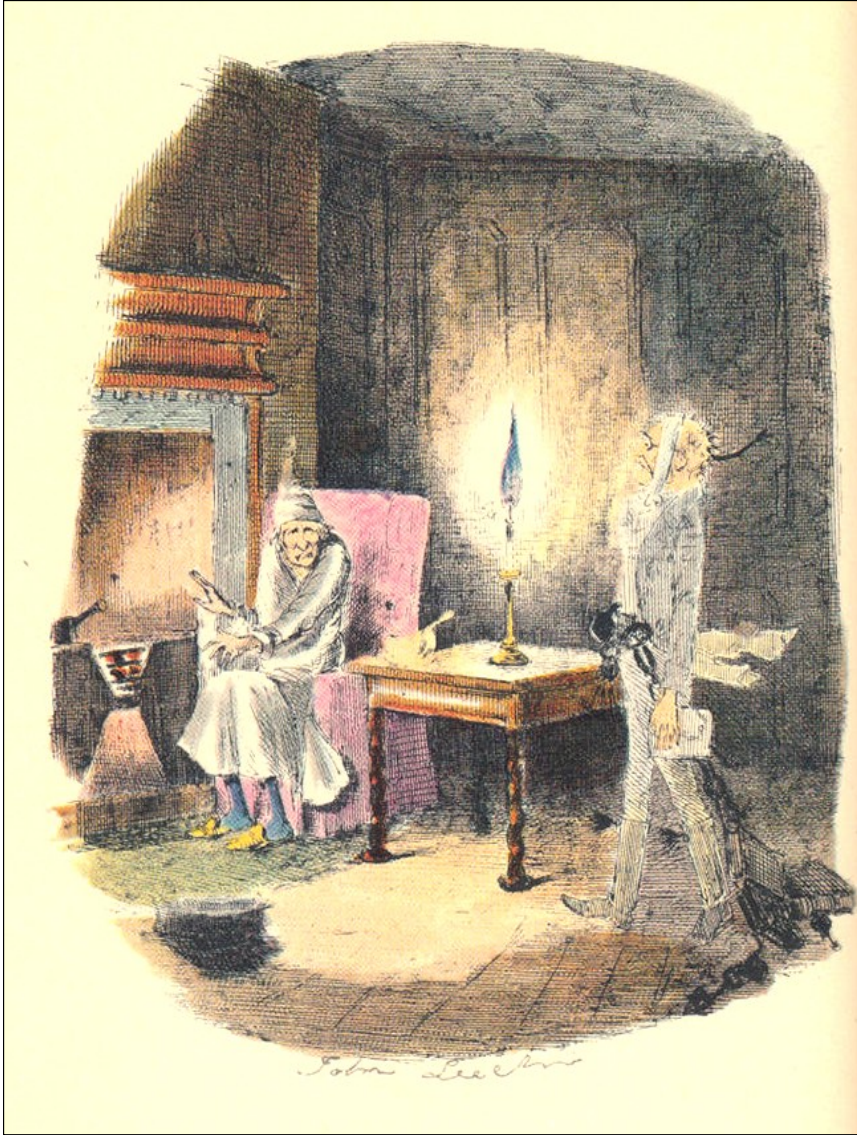


Class 2 are studying Romans with a focus on Roman life. A real 'Roman' is planned to visit school as part of their Roman day where Roman artefacts, dress and diet will be explored. Class 3 theme this term is The Mayans contrasting a non-European society with British History. Children will also study geographical similarities and differences in the region of North and South America - Mexico.

For further details on the school please look at our website: [www.husthwaite.n-yorks.sch.uk](http://www.husthwaite.n-yorks.sch.uk)



## News from Husthwaite Players!



Husthwaite Players are pleased to announce that we have a lovely cast for our forthcoming production, in May, of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*.

In May? Yes, May! In part, this is due to Covid restrictions: we had originally planned our production for last year. But does *A Christmas Carol* have to be played at Christmas? We believe this Dickens story is a story for our time as much as it was in 1843, when it was published. Dickens was 'fired with anger and horror to the indifference of the rich to the fate of the poor.' Tomalin, C. (2011) *Charles Dickens: a Life*, p. 149, Viking, 2011.

While social injustice is still rife, it is relevant to look again at Dickens' works, such as *A Christmas Carol*, *Oliver Twist*, *Little Dorrit* and *Bleak House*. There is also hope and redemption in *A Christmas Carol*. Frank Capra's beloved Christmas film, *It's a Wonderful Life*, shows a man in despair who is granted his wish that he'd never been born. He is given a unique opportunity, through the visitation of an angel, to see that he has, in fact, lived a wonderful life. Ebenezer Scrooge, too, is allowed a chance to re-set his life. Through supernatural intervention he is shown his past, his present and the horror of his future, and the future of those around him, if he doesn't change. He learns in the course of the story to recover the spark of humanity which he has suppressed for many years in his pursuit of wealth.

There are still opportunities for children and adults to join our cast. We also seek musicians...particularly a violinist and a brass player, preferably a trombonist!...and singers.

If this is of interest to you, please email Lottie Alexander on [lexietta88@gmail.com](mailto:lexietta88@gmail.com)



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# Husthwaite Village Hall

Dear Husthwaitians and all who enjoy Husthwaite Village Hall,

Husthwaite Village Hall is now 8 years old and I think I can speak for all when I say it has brought a great deal of pleasure not only to Husthwaite, but the wider community. We met the criteria for all the initial funding of the building with flying colours and have successfully offered a full and varied programme of activities ever since.

With this success come challenges and we have run out of storage space and in desperate need of an extension for all the extra-curricular items and equipment, ensuring we have as much space in the public areas as possible for our growing community and to support the growth in the number of groups using the hall.

The Committee have gained planning approval for an extension to be added to the rear of the hall, but with the onset of the pandemic and other global issues the cost of building and materials has increased by more than 20%

Due to lockdowns, we have been unable to host events for 2 years, but have still had to meet the running costs, and while we do have funds they will not now be enough to complete the build. I have started applying for grants, though funds are somewhat limited as there are many groups in need of financial support due to the pandemic. But with your help I feel sure we can achieve our goal and look forward to a busy thriving hall once again.

So if you would like to support the project by making a donation to help us match fund that from major donors (and every little helps) please contact me at [thegreenzoo@btinternet.com](mailto:thegreenzoo@btinternet.com) for further details, and/or if you are a tax payer, for a gift aid form to enable us to reclaim tax funds. Fingers crossed we will soon be again hosting some fantastic events at the hall in the near future.

Many thanks for your continued support.

**Debbie Lewis-Green**

**HVH Fundraiser**

**01347 868234**



## Sleepy Willows Contents Sale

To all those who made purchases, I am pleased to say we raised approximately **£3100.00** from the contents sale of my holiday let Sleepy Willows last year. All proceeds went to the Village Hall Extension building fund.

Many thanks to all who shopped and I hope you are enjoying your purchases.

**Debbie Lewis-Green**

  
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# St Nicholas' Notes

## News from the church - welcoming our new vicar

Rev. Katie (Franks) is now in post and enjoying her first hectic weeks as Rector of the 7 Byland Churches. We of course were delighted that she could celebrate her first Christmas Day here, with us, in our lovely church and village.

## Services in February and March are:

13<sup>th</sup> February - Holy Communion at 10:30am

27<sup>th</sup> February - Worship for All at 10:30am

13<sup>th</sup> March - Holy Communion at 10:30am

27<sup>th</sup> March - Worship for All at 10:30am (Mothering Sunday)

For services elsewhere in the Benefice please see the *Village Link* page on the notice board by the gate (spare copies in Church Porch)

We soon start looking forward to welcoming in Easter Day and celebrating Jesus' Resurrection - 17<sup>th</sup> April. Following that morning's service, we also anticipate some form of our traditional Easter Egg Hunt!

*Covid precautions:* Please sit where you feel comfortable and not crowded. If you wish, feel free to wear a face mask, even if that ceases to be mandatory following the recent government announcements for January 27<sup>th</sup> forward.

## Church Opening Rota vacancy

Like many other churches around the country, our church is opened daily for Visitors and those needing a place for quiet reflection or private prayer.

We aim to have the church open from about 9am until about 5pm (or dusk). To do this we have a team of people who each open and close the church on one day of the week.

There is currently a vacancy on the rota, nominally for either Thursday or Saturday. If you are away or unable to open at any time another member of the team will be pleased to cover for you. Whilst we would always be delighted to see you at a service, this is not a requirement of the job! You just need to be someone who loves our village and wishes to share this beautiful building with others.

If you would be willing to consider joining the team, please contact either Euan (868587) or John (868347) to find out more.

**John Ovenston**

## Local money....for village projects!

If you're new to Husthwaite, you need to know about our village fund. It's basically a pot of money (looked after by 5 local trustees) which we can draw on to support things that happen in the community.....things that make it a good place to live.

It all began many years ago when a group of people decided to revive the village orchards, of which there are many. Right up to the 1950s, the village had produced lots of apples which were shipped off to the surrounding towns. But that business declined and the orchards fell into disuse. A local history group researched the story of life in the village, found out about the apple growing and decided to have a go at reviving the old industry, as a community project.

Cameron Smith led the project.....and it worked really well! Soon the village was producing apple juice and cider that sold well at local markets. Volunteers were involved at every stage from planting trees, through using the presses to selling the final product. Right from the outset, profits were either ploughed back into the business or used to support local things. We'll come back to that bit.

Eventually, as is often the case, the number of villagers involved in the project dwindled for different reasons. The work increasingly fell onto one or two people and it wasn't sustainable as a voluntary project. So the time was right to turn it into a business and Cameron set about doing that. He bought out the machinery and other assets that had been accumulated over the years.....and that's where the pot of money came from.

We created a charity called **Husthwaite Village Trust** to hold the funds, gathered some trustees to look after it and set ourselves some rules about how the money could be used.

So far, the funds have helped a huge variety of projects or events, too many to list. To give an idea of the scope, it provides a third of the Newsletter funding, helps the village hall with aspects of productions there, supports sports events and craft classes and has most recently helped with the cost of the village Christmas tree. Basically, it's a pot of money to help things happen in the village....especially those things that make life better here.

Which brings us to the future. Sometime, sooner or later, life in the village will get to whatever the new normal is, after Covid. When it does, there will be new ideas for events, performances, facilities and they often need start-up help to get them going. And the time to start thinking about those is now.

*If you, or someone you know, has the beginnings of an idea for something that will make village life better and you need money to get it going, call the number below. One of the trustees will have a chat with you about the idea and the ball gets rolling.....*

**Andrew Coulthard 01347 868130**



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## “Thank You So Much! “ from Ian Bretherton

We wish to say a huge thank you to everyone who came along to Sutton on the Forest's Grey Village Hall on 20<sup>th</sup> November to celebrate The Dragonfly Schools Foundation's 5<sup>th</sup> Birthday and to raise the truly amazing amount of £2,600 in aid of our provision of education for some of India's poorest and most marginalised children, living in Pushkar, Rajasthan. Our celebration (complete with a birthday cake and a rousing rendition of 'Happy Birthday') was a resounding success, thanks to everyone who came along to support us.

Special thanks are due to Thomas the Baker for so generously donating and delivering all of the delicious food, to Jeremy Comfort for donating proceeds from the sale of his beautiful pottery and to our lovely trustees and friends for providing the drinks and cakes and craft items to sell and for working so hard to make the day such a great success. Our heartfelt thanks to everyone for your interest in our charity's work and your most kind and generous support.

To discover more about our work, please visit [www.thedragonflyschoolsfoundation.com](http://www.thedragonflyschoolsfoundation.com)







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