

Husthwaite Newsletter

December 2021-January 2022 Edition 116



A Very Happy Christmas and New Year

Photo by Lawrie Hill.
See article on page 11



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

Notes from the Editor

What a year! Who would have guessed we would be spending another Christmas with Covid still rife, though thank goodness most of those who can do so have agreed to be vaccinated to protect themselves and others. Hopefully if people are careful we can have a better and safer winter ahead.

For some countries, the year 2021 has brought floods, heatwaves, melting icecaps, forest fires and storms, now almost universally thought to be a result of climate change. This sharpened the thinking of countries involved, and when the media concentrated on COP 26, a rare international event about the environment, at last global warming was seen to be a world issue.

With the results of COP26 still at the stage of only **promises** (see page 13) at least the environment and climate have been in the news as never before, and there is wide acceptance not just in the UK but worldwide (with notable exceptions) that something should be done. On page 22 there is an example of a local attempt to install a greener heating system and many other Husthwaite villagers have gone over to new heating systems, or are thinking about the future of their heating and what can be done, both to change from fossil fuel and to ensure houses are better insulated. None of these changes are cheap, though there are some government grants to help but probably not enough financial help for some.

Meanwhile, what else can we do? We can support greener businesses by checking on our banks, building societies, pension providers and insurance companies to see if they invest in fossil fuels. We can lobby our representatives locally and nationally to preserve our green landscape and clean up our rivers and seas, and push for an electric public transport system, and support the replacement of oil based fuels in cars by providing electric charging points and encouraging battery industry innovation. We can push for the UK to turn COP26 promises into **action**.

Young people are rightly fearful for their future if our generation does not repair the damage done by the use of fossil fuels and degradation of the landscape, from the 19th century up to the present day. We may not live to see the benefits, but our efforts to help the planet will be the best inheritance we can pass on to our children, grandchildren and future generations. **We can all help.**

On that positive note, I wish you all a joyful Christmas, and a peaceful, happy and healthy 2022. JC

Public Meeting re Planning application: 21/01960/FUL Highthorne Lane Development

On Saturday 13th November 2021 at very short notice an open meeting was arranged in the Village Hall to discuss the above planning application. Over twenty people attended and several others sent their apologies. The discussion was wide ranging but all were opposed to this planning application on prime agricultural land in open country side and beyond the village permitted development line.

It was to be discussed at Hambleton District Council on Thursday 18th November but we have succeeded in having it withdrawn. It will now be heard at a later date, probably at the next planning committee meeting on December 16th. This is yet to be confirmed by Hambleton District Council.

You can attend the meeting but you will have to let the council know that you want to do so. You can also still submit comments about this application to planning at Hambleton District Council.

No one is against all development and we accept that the village will grow and change. However the changes should be carefully and sympathetically appraised and managed so that the village improves and our community identity is considered.

If this development does go ahead it will not only have an impact on those in the immediate vicinity, but will affect the whole village.

It will also set a dangerous precedent for future planning applications.

Liz Walton

Village Christmas Tree

At the time of going to press, there are plans for a village Christmas Tree on the village green, a tradition begun last year!

The costs will be met equally by the Parish Council, the Husthwaite Village Trust and The Village Hall, and should be reduced from last year as we still have all the lights and a steel-lined hole in the ground!

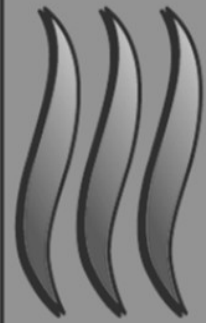
Lighting up should take place in early December.

JC



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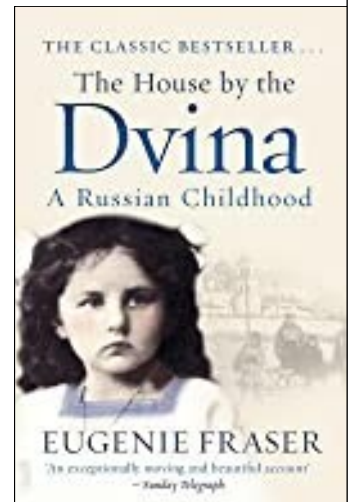
Something Good to Read...

The House by the Dvina by Eugenie Fraser

You must forgive the length of this review of an autobiography which is an exceptionally moving and beautiful account of a Russian childhood. There is no other memoir quite like it, as most are self-justifying and full of 'own truth'. This one rings absolutely true from the first word to the last, covering a large canvas in time, geography and culture.

Eugenie Fraser was brought up in Russia, but was taken on visits to Scotland. Two affluent families were bound together by a Russian Scottish marriage. Both were in the timber trade: the one exporters, the other importers, but otherwise separated by history, custom and background. Her great grandfather had purchased a peasant serf girl with whom he had fallen in love. Her Russian grandmother had undertaken a desperate sledge journey in the depths of winter to intercede with Tsar Alexander II for her husband, an episode of the highest drama told with consummate skill. Her Scottish granny was caught up in the abortive Russian revolution of 1905. Her parents had an extraordinary courtship I will leave to be discovered by the reader.

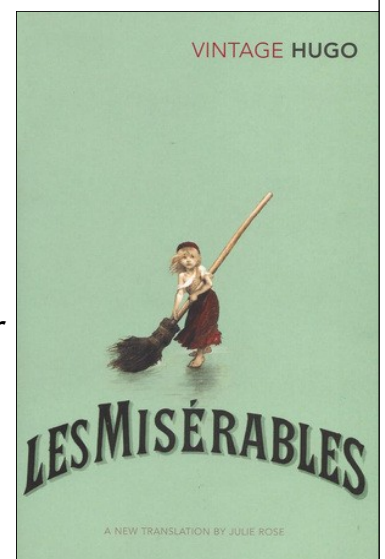
The author marvelously evokes a child's reactions to two totally different environments with all the many characters beautifully drawn and splendidly memorable. Then come the events of 1913 - 1914: the war with Germany, the Revolution of 1917, the murder of the Tsar and the controversial withdrawal of British naval intervention in the north; the disintegration of Russia and of family life - hunger, deprivation and fear. The suspense in the telling of Eugenie's final escape to Scotland is as gripping as any. A good way of life, in every sense, vividly and poignantly portrayed, finally disappeared in violence and tragedy. It leaves one thinking what might have been for a truly great country had its constitutional strength been greater and its leaders less self-concerned. Russia is not alone in continuing to suffer the consequences of events over 100 years ago. **Peter Fox**



I cannot but take the opportunity to recommend the two greatest works of fiction which in my opinion have ever been written. They are **Les Misérables** by Victor Hugo and **War and Peace** by Leo Tolstoy.

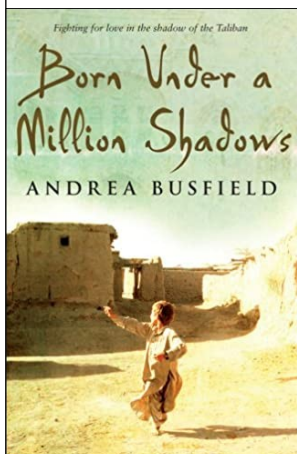
You may think you know them from the musical of the former and the TV production of the latter, but you would be so very wrong. Each such mass media efforts were mere bowdlerisations, however entertaining. I know that both novels present a formidable challenge at first blush - well over 1000 pages each. Yet each is a page turner and will fill those long winter evenings with fascination, wonder and drama all of the very highest quality - and readability.

Do not be put off. Both are available in paper-back and the



translations to get are by Julie Rose (for *Les Miserables*) and Richard Pevear and his wife Larissa Volokhonsky (for *War and Peace*), who write like angels.

Peter Fox



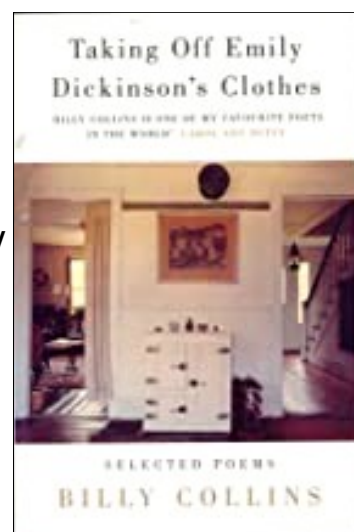
'Born under a million shadows' by Andre Busfield

This is a story which is set in Afghanistan under the influence of the Taliban, and as such resonates with the present situation, though written in 2009. Written from the point of view of a young boy, it is an intriguing insight into life there. I found it absorbing.

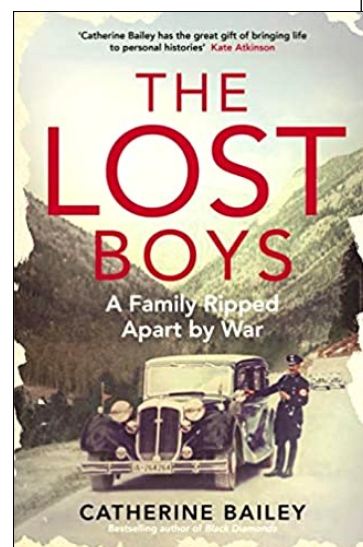
Linda Davison

A book I wholeheartedly recommend, especially for those who would seldom, if ever, buy poetry is...on the tip of my pen...if only I could remember the author's name, or its title. Which is to paraphrase one of its poems: Forgetfulness.

That book is **Taking Off Emily Dickinson's Clothes** (how could anyone forget a title like that?) by **Billy Collins**, America's best-selling and most popular poet and as our former poet laureate Carol Ann Duffy remarked when she read at The Galtres Centre in Easingwold "one of my favourite poets in the world". Billy Collins, the former United States poet laureate, would pierce anyone's anti-poetry deflector shield. *Taking Off Emily Dickinson's Clothes* is a selection of his most-loved poetry from four of his collections. There are more, most of them always available. Conversational in style, witty and funny, his poems deftly mix the playful and the serious. Sample him reading on You Tube. Then buy your first book of poetry in ages. **Brian Clark** (North Yorkshire representative of The Poetry Society.)



The Lost Boys by Catherine Bailey is a true history of a woman whose family were implicated in an assassination attempt against Hitler. She was arrested and her two boys aged 2 and 3 seized by the SS, and she had no idea of their fate. Catherine Bailey, who wrote "Black Diamonds" and "The Secret Rooms" both set against the background of WW1, has a remarkable ability to describe the events and characters in these true narratives. In "The Lost Boys" she has conducted meticulous research and provides an illuminating and riveting account of personal sacrifice, hope and courage in wartime Europe. **Jan Coulthard**



Husthwaite Village Film Club

We've missed you!

Husthwaite Film Club will be opening its doors again with a Christmas Special on Friday 17th December 7:00pm with A Muppets' Christmas Carol.



Ranked in the Top 10 of all Christmas Movies, it stars Michael Caine as Ebenezer Scrooge in a retelling of the classic Dickens tale of Scrooge, miser extraordinaire. Scrooge is held accountable for his dastardly ways during night-time visitations by the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and future.

This light hearted comedy was chosen as a fitting end to a difficult year, and to celebrate the start of a new year in which Husthwaite Players first production for early 2022 will indeed be A Christmas Carol (without Muppets)!

To make it extra special, we will of be serving mulled wine, mince pies and our infamous Christmas cocktail, not forgetting mini-magnums at the interval.

Entry will be FREE, as a thank you to everyone who has supported film club over the many years and to welcome new community members.

Film Club will commence its monthly screenings from January 2022 with its mix of small independent and commercial movies and documentaries. In summer 2022 we will be featuring another Short Film Evening, which has proved very popular over the years.

This gives the unique opportunity to see a selection of short films, rarely made commercially available, and showcasing rising talent in the industry.

With annual subscriptions available at only £15 (children U16 FREE), or pay as you go at £3 per screening. We hope you can join us and look forward to sharing our 2022 programme!

Sheila & Will Mowatt

St Nicholas' Notes

News from the church - welcoming our new vicar

We are delighted to confirm the arrival shortly of our new vicar. The Rev. Katie Franks, previously an Assistant Minister in the Diocese of St Albans, will be in post here from 17th December. Her induction will take place at Crayke (St Cuthbert's) at 7:30pm the previous evening. Everyone is very welcome to attend this special service. We are particularly pleased that Rev. Katie will be leading our Christmas Day service here at Husthwaite.

Services in December and January are:

5th December - St Nicholas' Service & Lights at 4pm

16th December - Induction of Rev. Katie Franks (7.30pm at Crayke)

19th December - Village Carol Service at 4:30pm

22nd December - Reflection on Christmas at 6:30pm

25th December - Family Communion, 10:30am, led by Rev. Katie Franks

9th January - Holy Communion at 10:30am

23rd January - Worship for All at 10:30am

For services elsewhere in the Benefice please see *Byland Link* (spare copies in Church Porch)

Covid precautions: There is a sense people still wish to be cautious - and that we must respect - please sit where you feel comfortable, but not crowded - bring your face mask which may be worn inside the church if you wish.

Patronal Festival

St Nicholas' Service on 5th Dec. at 4:30pm

As usual we look forward to seeing as many people as possible at this service. Not only are we recalling the life of our patron saint, but are recognising his generosity by the bringing of gifts for those children who might otherwise go without at Christmas. New and nearly new toys (not weapons please), books, chocolates, socks, gloves, scarves, colouring books, crayons, etc. are requested to be brought or left at the church. They will then be taken to the Salvation Army base at Malton from where they will be distributed.

Following the service too, the church illuminations will be switched on after which we hope we shall be able to meet in fellowship over a warm glass of mulled wine accompanied by a mince pie or two.

John Ovenston

Art Award will celebrate 70th anniversary of the North York Moors National Park



Painters, photographers and printmakers from across Yorkshire and beyond are invited to submit their recent works to the **2022 Art Award**, hosted by the North York Moors National Park Trust.

In recognition of 70 years since the North York Moors was designated a National Park, the theme of the Award, ‘Past, Present, Future’, challenges artists to capture the environmental and cultural significance of the area over time. This could be based on the North York Moors as people experience it today, as a culmination of its long dramatic history, or even set in its climatically-uncertain future. The competition therefore seeks imaginative and visionary artists who can help tell the story of this dynamic place.

For the first time, there is a specific category for young artists aged 17 or under, with a top prize of £250. Prizes of £500 will then be awarded to the creators of the best painting, print work and photograph, as decided by a panel of judges. An exhibition of all successful entrants will take at the ‘Inspired by...’ gallery at The Moors National Park Centre, Danby, between Saturday 9 April and Sunday 22 May.

Time itself is the guiding principle of the 2022 Award. **Past, Present, Future** is a very broad theme which we hope will motivate and inspire artists to consider how their work translates history, whether that be the legacies of the past, the present day reality, or the imagined future.

Entry to the Awards is open until Monday 21 February and both amateur and professional artists are encouraged to take part. Initial submissions are online only, with full eligibility criteria available at www.northyorkmoorstrust.uk.

Apple Tree Christmas Café and Book Exchange

Monday 6th December, 12 till 2pm, 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!

Maybe with a Christmas twist!

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

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



The ATC Team

Richard Wood's Trike

Many people new to the village will be unaware that a recent illness suffered by Richard Wood disrupted one of his favourite pastimes, cycling. Accompanying him on rides prior to lockdown, illustrated his widespread knowledge of interesting routes and, at times, his disdain of weather forecasts.

A slow but successful rehabilitation has enabled him to return to cycling in a different format. He has bought a tricycle but not as we know it. At first sight it looks like something Heath Robinson would have discarded with enough bunting worthy of a coronation parade (see inside front cover) . Less safe than a Sinclair C5 but costing more! As a traditional Yorkshireman, Richard would have been careful with the coppers so the 'machine' warranted closer inspection.

A brief ride indicated the only possible danger could be falling asleep in the reclined riding position. However, the exotic braking system requires constant vigilance. Power assisted pedalling ranging from eco to well, faster, brilliantly flattens hills and extends the range.

Having resumed his longstanding love of cycling be sure to toot as you go past Richard, if only to wake him up.

Lawrie Hill

Up to £10,000 of funding available for your home*



Improve the energy efficiency of your home with a Green Homes Grant

Green Homes Grant funding has been awarded to North Yorkshire, to help homeowners improve the energy efficiency of their homes and help to make homes warmer and reduce energy bills this winter.

Limited Funding available Apply today

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* All applications made need to meet the eligibility criteria set for your local council area. A free home survey is also required before recommendations for the energy efficiency improvement can be made. Improvements are funded through the Government-led Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery scheme, which aims to improve the warmth of homes, cut energy bills and help the UK to be zero-carbon by 2050.

You could get

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Who's eligible?

- If your home has an Energy Performance Rating (EPC) of D, E, F or G.
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COP 26 What did it Achieve?

A Brief Summary

Cutting emissions

After the agreement the Prime Minister insisted the aim is “still alive” of keeping temperature rises to 1.5°C, beyond which the worst effects of climate change will be felt, but this requires global emissions to be cut by 45 per cent by 2030, and to zero overall by mid-century.

The Glasgow Climate Pact sets a challenge for nations to come back next year with improved 2030 targets in line with the Paris Agreement’s goal of keeping warming well below 2 °C and closer to 1.5 °C. That means countries with weaker climate plans, such as China, Australia, Saudi Arabia and the United States will be under more pressure to produce bolder plans by the end of 2022. However, Australia has already suggested it will ignore calls to update its target. The UN will also assess climate plans every year, turning annual COPs into a pressure point for nations to improve their commitments.

Fossil fuels

Mr Johnson said most of Western Europe and North America have been persuaded to pull the plug on financial support for all overseas fossil fuel projects by this time next year.

A last-minute row over coal use threatened to derail the summit . But eventually delegates agreed to “accelerate efforts towards the phase down of unabated coal power” and accelerate the phase-out of “inefficient fossil fuel subsidies”.

Following a push led by China, and backed up by India, it was decided to change the language from accelerating the “phase out” of unabated coal to “phase down”, a move that prompted angry responses from European and vulnerable countries. However, this is the first time fossil fuels have been explicitly included in a UN climate agreement.

Agreement on finance

The failure of rich countries to meet a long-standing promise to mobilise \$100 billion a year in climate finance by 2020 was a consistent theme of the summit. The deal notes with “deep regret” the failure to meet the target on time and commits nations to deliver on their promises every year through to 2025. There is also a commitment for wealthier nations to help poorer countries become more resilient against weather caused by climate change.

Investments could include new sea defences, more robust power grids and better early warning systems for extreme weather.

Agreement on losses

An agreement was made for wealthier countries to provide compensation to vulnerable countries affected by rising seas, wildfires and fiercer storms.

But the pact stopped short of establishing a dedicated fund for loss and damage, which was a key request of poor nations.

Editor

Do you paddle, swim, fish, canoe or sail on a UK river?

What's the problem?

Sewage is discharged into rivers across the UK and Ireland on a daily basis.

This isn't an isolated problem: it occurs up and down the country, affecting urban city centre rivers and pristine chalk streams alike.

The Rivers Trust believe that people should be able to swim, paddle, canoe and play *without* worrying about sewage pollution.



That's why they launched Together for Rivers: an ambitious campaign which hopes to see designated bathing waters introduced to well-used rivers in the UK.

Hang on - **raw sewage** in rivers? Unfortunately, that's correct.

It may happen in developing nations but it couldn't happen in nearby Thirsk and Malton - could it? During 2020 in that part of the River Derwent catchment area it didn't just happen once- it happened about 2,000 times. During these overflow events raw sewage flowed into the **Derwent** for a total of over 12,000 hours. The situation is similar for the **Ouse/Swale** catchment area and on a smaller scale with discharges into the North Sea. If you ever wondered why the Derwent looks so murky have a look at [The Rivers Trust Website](#).

There are a number of factors which contribute to sewage discharges but the main culprit is something called a **Combined Sewer Overflow** (or CSO). When you flush the toilet, the contents are washed into a sewer system. These systems are designed to transport waste to a sewage treatment plant, where it is cleaned to an environmentally safe standard before being released or re-used. However, it doesn't always work like this in practice.

Why does sewage get released into rivers? If sewers become overwhelmed by heavy rainfall, this could result in sewage backing up into our homes. Nasty stuff. To prevent this from happening, a mixture of sewage and rainwater can be discharged into rivers via a CSO.

People may not realise that there are **no** strict regulations preventing untreated sewage being released into rivers by water companies. As a result, it's entirely possible that people are unknowingly putting themselves at risk every time they or their children spend time in and around rivers.

This always carries a risk, and rivers will never be as clean as the water you use to fill up your bath, but minimising that risk is incredibly important.

Spending time in blue spaces—rivers, canals, lakes and beaches, for example—has been shown to benefit mental health even more greatly than spending time in green spaces. Giving rivers bathing water status would encourage more people to use them for swimming, canoeing or sailing, acting as a type of nature-based prescription. The impacts of this could be huge!

At present, there is no sure-fire way for river users to find out if their local river is polluted with sewage or not. Everybody should be able to make safe, informed choices about whether or not they should enter a river. People rely on sight or smell to check river cleanliness.

While these methods can help you to make a decision about how polluted a waterway is, **they should not be a replacement for accurate, real-time monitoring of sewage outfalls**. A river can appear or smell clean, despite the fact that sickness-inducing sewage pollution lurks just beneath the surface.

Cleaner rivers *are* possible

Our hopes of bathing water status in rivers aren't all that outlandish; last year, campaigners at Ilkley succeeded in securing “**bathing water status**” for their local river - a first in England! **This is the only designated river with safe bathing water in the UK**—the Wharfe at Ilkley. Campaigners at Ilkley fought long and hard to secure bathing water status in their part of the River Wharfe—and hopefully this will lead to an avalanche of newly designated bathing waters in rivers across the UK.

With enough support, and campaigns to force water companies or parliament to act, many more rivers could be given **bathing water status**, helping to improve rivers for people *and* wildlife.

For more information about a river in your area, or where you might want to swim, sail or canoe, go to The Rivers Trust website: **theriverstrust.org**

Husthwaite Local History Society

Events are now being planned for next year. If anyone can recommend a good speaker or suggest a topic please get in touch. New members to join our small team would also be welcome. Meantime Peter Fox has kindly done a review of the last talk about Masons' Marks at Beverley Minster. **Angela Ovenston**



Beverley Minster's Significant Signatures

Once again our village Local History Society provided a riveting and instructive evening on Thursday October 7th when world expert in his field, John Phillips, spoke and answered the many questions which followed his talk on the men who built Beverley Minster leaving their individual marks on each of the stones they carved.

For over 200 years, ending in the late 14th century while they built the largest parish church in England, and in the centuries of subsequent renovation, these otherwise anonymous but highly skilled craftsmen left their own personal mysterious chisel marks. Why? Well, principally because they were paid on a piece work basis and it was the method by which payment was calculated.

Yet they were following an international tradition of thousands of years which continues to this day. Go and see them for yourself in the Masons' Yard at York Minster.

Research continues into the lives of these itinerants: as scientific dating methods indicate some identical marks were made spanning a hundred years and more, might they have been passed down from father to son; were some handed out by a Master Mason to his team?

Beverley Minster's earlier history from Saxon and Norman times set the scene with illustrations of material in the present building recycled from an earlier Romanesque church, and the evening was rounded off by a well deserved vote of thanks by Society member Hugh Richardson.

Peter Fox



Mary Barker (née Moncaster) 1922-2021

Mary Barker, the oldest member of Husthwaite, sadly died in October at the age of 98 having lived most of her life here. She had seen a great many changes in the village over nine decades as described in the article below which she wrote for the booklet "Reminiscences of Husthwaite 1930s-1950s" (reproduced with kind permission of Stephen Barker)....

I was born 16 December 1922 and came to live in Husthwaite at the age of nine but as my parents originally came from the village and my grandma still lived there, my sister Doris and I had always spent our holidays there, so we considered ourselves natives of the place.

My father was Norman Moncaster and my mother Fanny Batty. They were married in 1916; I think my father was on leave from the army at the time.

When my father came back from the war he returned to work as chauffeur at Beacon Banks with a family called Dees who moved up to Galashiels in the border country. My parents went with them and that is where my sister and I

were born. Eventually we all came down to live at Sowerby (Thirsk) where my father went to work for a family called Richardson at Sowerby House (now an old people's home). My father had a serious illness and spent a year in the Rutson Hospital at Northallerton. When he recovered we moved to Husthwaite in 1932. My father took up poultry keeping as he had to work outside. I remember him buying day old chicks from Albert Spink at Easingwold. He also hatched his own in incubators.

When my sister left school she helped with the poultry, geese, ducks and goats. When I left school at 14 I went into domestic service until I was 19. I was 16 when World War II broke out and I felt terrified thinking that we should all be bombed. Very soon the village was full of soldiers; they were stationed at Highthorne (the house had been unoccupied for some time until then). Everyone welcomed these soldiers to the village, they just seemed like local boys. Also there was a searchlight stationed up at Lodge Farm (now The Lodge). Eventually this was relocated in the field next to the Vicarage, with three searchlights replacing the one that was at the first site.

When I was 19 I joined the ATS (womens army). Doris joined up too. I thoroughly enjoyed the life and was posted to Pontefract Training Centre. We slept in big barrack rooms, 46 to a room in bunk beds. One night there was an incendiary bomb raid on the town and we all had to go outside into the trenches. It was very exciting; luckily not much harm was done.

After three weeks training we were all split up and I, along with eight others, were sent off to Newport South Wales for six weeks on a clerks' training course. We were billeted out with private families. The people were very friendly towards us. One day we had to do gas mask training, that was put our gas mask on and go into a room with gas in it to test if the masks were gas proof; then we had to take the masks off so that we knew what the effect of gas had on us. To get it out of our lungs we had to run round a big field - it was horrible. Sometimes the barrage balloons would go up and that always frightened me because I thought there was going to be an air raid. It was at this time that the Americans started to come over here. I thought they were a bit bigheaded.

After six weeks at Newport we all went to Winchester to the A.T.S. Records Office working in the Casualty Section at King Alfred's College; there were over a thousand of us there. The work was very interesting. By this time it was just after the retreat from Dunkirk and we had to pass the hospital every day on our way to work. We could see lots of the wounded servicemen outside on their beds in fine weather, others on crutches. The town was full of Americans, not many British, except sailors. There was plenty of entertainment, dances, concerts etc.

We all used to go on parade at various places, one was I think at Romsey. We

were to be inspected by Lord Louis Mountbatten. There were thousands of service people there. It was a boiling hot day, Lord Louis was very late and people were fainting all over the place because of the heat. The war in Europe ended while I was in Winchester; it was a wonderful time. After that several of my friends were posted overseas to Kenya. I would like to have gone but being under 21 you needed parents' permission and I knew I would never get that so I put in for a transfer to York where I finished up in the Infantry Records Office, and was there when the war with Japan ended. That was marvelous - the celebrations were great. Every street in York was filled with cheering happy people.

It was good to be home again, but it seemed very quiet after being with so many friends, some of whom I am still in contact with. After being demobbed I worked at the Food Office in Easingwold and after that in a furniture shop in York. Eventually, in 1956, I married Les Barker who farmed with his family at Sunley Woods Farm.

In 1949 my parents took on the village Post Office after Mr Dowson retired, and my father was postman until he was in his eighties. Mrs Miller was post lady. Doris ran the Post Office for over 30 years and then Mrs Nixon took it on and then the Pooley family. Sadly we have no village post office now.



Watercolour by Jean Richardson (late of Laurel House) of Norman Moncaster (Mary Barker's father) at the back of Holly Grove, early 1940s] 21

School days were great. First when we came to the village the schoolmaster was Mr Speight, a very nice man but he lost the job; I think he had a drink problem. After that we had several temporary teachers. One of them was Mr Tillotson, we didn't like him, he was bad tempered and pompous.

There were two grocer's shops in the village and a little sweet shop. Abel Thompson had the blacksmith's shop and a hardware shop. He also sold paraffin; there was a butcher's shop, post office and two public houses. Sunday School at both Church and Chapel every Sunday afternoon. At Church there was Holy Communion 8 am, Matins 10.30 and Evensong 6.30 pm. Harry Barton was the bellringer. The bells have never sounded the same since he died. We always knew when anyone had died in the village because the death bell was rung.

Harold Hutchinson had the garage and sold petrol. He ran a bus service to Thirsk Market every Monday and to Easingwold on a Friday. There was a rack on top of the bus where crates of poultry and eggs were carried with an iron ladder reaching up to it.

Most families in the village were connected with farming. In spring you would see rows of men in the fields hoeing, and in harvest time the binders would be cutting the corn and all the sheaves were stooked in the fields where they had to stay for two or three weeks to dry out.

To me Husthwaite has always seemed the most wonderful place in the world.

Mary Barker

Note: Reminiscence booklets 1900-1930s, 1930s-1950s, 1950s-1970s are out of print.

Copies of 1970s-2000 are still available. The whole series together with the "Tales of the Old School" are available on a CD from **Angela Ovenston** (aovenston@btinternet.com or 868 347)

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Going Green

As I mentioned in a previous Newsletter, Breda and I decided this year to “go green” with our house heating. Our faithful oil boiler only broke down twice in 38 years, probably because it was so uncomplicated, unlike modern ones. But when the service engineer exclaimed, “This is a museum piece!” we realised that its days were numbered. Then, our coal merchant said he was delivering the last remnants of Yorkshire coal which had been stockpiled at Kellingley and that domestic supplies will be banned from May 2023. Time to move on, we thought; time to stop burning fossil fuels.

Green hydrogen won't be available anytime soon and we already have PV solar panels on our roof, so the only realistic answer was to install a heat pump. Most of these extract heat from the air, like the one which heats our Village Hall, but we thought that with a large garden we could have a **ground source heat pump**. However, having contacted three installers, we were warned that the underground pipes would need to go the full length of the garden twice, ruining our lawn and damaging the roots of several trees. We didn't want that, so the only other option was to drill down vertically through the gravel drive.

Firstly, we had to know how much heat is required to keep the house warm, so every room was measured and details of window sizes, wall construction, roof insulation etc were sent to our chosen installers who calculated we would need a 12 kilowatt heat pump which, thankfully, could be powered by our existing electricity supply. Knowing this, a specialist firm calculated that it would require two holes 164 metres deep, each equivalent to the length of 1½ football pitches! They predicted that we would be drilling through 12m of Vale of York clay, then 17m of Staithes sandstone and the rest would be Redcar mudstone. They also said that the groundwater depth was 10m, there are no coal mines under our property and there is a low risk of coming across unexploded bombs!

The drillers arrived in July with three low loader lorries of equipment: the drilling rig on caterpillar tracks, two large diesel-powered water pumps, three skips



arranged as sludge settling tanks, a forklift truck, 55 steel drilling tubes and lots of water pipes.

The next two weeks were rather fraught to say the least, with two breakdowns, blockages, and a swarm of bees affecting progress. The work occurred during the summer heatwave and one of the drillers suffered from heat exhaustion. The noise and disruption tested our neighbours and we thank them for their tolerance.

Goodness knows how the drillers were received in London's Belgravia on a previous job! When it was over, we had two neat eight inch diameter holes in our drive with plastic pipes emerging from the depths.

Next, the heating engineers installed the heat pump, water tank and associated pipes, pumps and valves in our garage, a much smoother operation compared with the drilling. They also removed the old cylinder from the airing cupboard, the header tanks in the roof and had to upgrade six radiators, so the whole house was affected.

So was it all worth it?

Financially, it was a big initial outlay, although we will be paid most of it back over seven years by the government's Renewable Heat Incentive. Anyone applying after March next year will be offered the less generous Clean Heat Grant instead. Ofgem, who administer the R.H.I., lay down strict conditions, such as insisting that we use an installer approved by the Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) and that the actual heat pump is approved too. We also needed to get an Energy Performance Certificate, like when you sell a house. If this flags up the need for roof or cavity wall insulation, they won't pay until it has been done. Obviously solid walls are exempt, but they should be insulated if practical because heat pumps are best



Heat Pump Installation

suited to well insulated buildings.

The system has been running for two months now and we are enjoying the benefits. A mixture of water and antifreeze is pumped down the holes at 5 degrees Celsius, returning at 10 degrees. Despite these low temperatures, the heat pump extracts sufficient energy from the 5 degree rise, raises the temperature and pumps warm water through our radiators. They never get as hot as before, but by having larger ones running constantly, there is enough heat. Our oil boiler would run in the early morning and during the evenings, with the room temperatures dipping in between, accompanied by creaking pipes. Now, we have a lovely warm house provided by a virtually silent system. Every room stays at a constant temperature, with fewer draughts.

It is too early to predict the running costs. All energy prices are rising at the moment: gas, oil and electricity. What I can say is that for every kilowatt-hour of electricity our heat pump consumes, we are getting up to four back. The other three are being sucked out of the ground. Coupled with the solar panels on the roof, the system is helping to reduce our carbon footprint and we have stopped burning fossil fuels... except in our car, but perhaps that's our next project!

Mike Wells

Pumps and settling tanks





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Ian McMillan and Luke Goss event in October

From drawing up at the Village Hall to find Ian McMillan there--scanning the numbers perhaps-- to the very end, it was all a pleasure.

He and his colleague, Luke Carver-Goss, were superb, nay triumphant! They really entertained Husthwaitians who sang back as required and also joined in with the fun. and enjoyed every moment; so much so they didn't want to let them go.

Of course, Ian had found out the nearest town to heckle - Easingwold really suffered, but it's obvious that he really enjoys village hall do's. He really remembered Egerton (near Bolton) where my sister heard them in 2018 and recommended we booked them in 2019 , (an event which the pandemic delayed!) and which Andrew Coulthard pursued, thank goodness, so that the first Village Hall physical event after Covid went ahead.

Ian rightly calls himself a wordsmith but Luke C-G is a virtuoso on either the accordion or the guitar and at such speed too. They were both very good for entertainment, and Barnsley's loss is our gain.

Off they went back to Barnsley, leaving us wanting more.

Perhaps we might book them again..?

Jill Galloway

NB from Editor

Grateful thanks to Jill Galloway, Husthwaite Village Trust and the Village Hall for financially supporting this event, particularly helpful as audience numbers had to be very much reduced due to Covid safety restrictions.





New Year's Day Football

The 10th New Years' Day match will take place at **10.30am on New Year's Day** at the school pitch. The first game was in 2012 and we have played every year until Covid disrupted us in January this year.

For those new to the village, it's open to all with a fairly broad age range. We play 30 minutes each way and whoever is referee has the task of making the final score line close by whatever means necessary!

I've attached photos from our first the first match we had in 2012 and the last one in 2020. You may recognise a few familiar faces. Everyone is welcome to participate, spectate or just get out for a refreshing walk. If you are interested in taking part please contact **Will Mowatt** on 868196.



NEWS FROM HUSTHWAITE CE PRIMARY SCHOOL & APPLE TREE NURSERY

Part of the Husthwaite & Sessay CE Primary Federation

A very busy autumn term has seen lots of activities and events in school resume. This has included children being able to mix across the school, educational visits, collective worships being held in the hall again and parents invited back to our Friday Celebration Assemblies. Having Harvest Festival at St Nicholas Church once again was a definite highlight. At times we have had to revert back to the more stringent safety measures when necessary, however, the buzz in school is back and the whole school community is once again enjoying being together.

Our first curriculum enrichment week of the academic year focused on Healthy Schools. The week started with a brainstorming session of what being healthy means - having basic needs of food, shelter and love, making healthy choices, what informs our decisions and how to get a good balance. Further topics in the week covered healthy relationships, healthy minds, healthy diets and healthy lifestyles.

Class 1's topic, 'Land and Sea', (near, far, wherever you are) has included the children studying the seven continents and five oceans with a focus on the continent of Africa and its animals. Their role play area has been set up as the ship Titanic, where children have enjoyed going on imaginary journeys, writing tickets, making maps and plans. As part of the children's learning about Africa and the animals that live there, Class 1 have planned a trip to Flamingoland zoo to see African tigers, lions and even a baby hippopotamus! In the outdoor provision the children continue to enjoy cooking and following recipes with their friends in their 'Gruffalo Grill' mud kitchen and have even constructed their own London Bus for their role play!

Class 2's main topic this term is 'Rock through the ages' with children learning about the Stone Age through the Iron Age and the Roman Invasion. Children have enjoyed reading their class text 'How To Wash A Woolly Mammoth'. After they had read the book they had to write clear instructions how to wash a

woolly mammoth and then did just precisely that! They borrowed some soft toys from Class 1, painted them black and then proceeded to follow their washing instructions - not as easy as they thought! Another highlight when learning how to follow instructions was building a Stonehenge out of biscuits!



Stonehenge' made out of biscuits!

Forest School making Charcoal

Class 3 learned about Democracy as part of Parliament Week. Children found out about the roots of Democracy in Ancient Greece and then focused on the democratic process in the UK. They joined a zoom meeting with our local MP and village resident, Kevin Hollinrake who spoke to the children about his role and what his job entailed. Children enjoyed a Q&A session with lots of interesting questions and discussions about the life of an MP. Class 3 are also enjoying Forest Schools this half term and have made their own charcoal which they will use in their art work. Swimming lessons have also resumed for Class 3 this half term.

All children made a Christmas decoration which is now hanging on a tree at York Minster as part of the York Minster Christmas Tree Festival. (See photos overleaf). This is the first year of the festival and is linked to the Winter Village at York Minster. Our design represents the heritage of rural Husthwaite village using natural materials, promoting our school motto Sowing seeds, Bearing fruit and Harvesting potential. The decorations were made out of wooden discs as our commitment to being eco friendly and not

use plastics. Our school is one of only 40 organisations from the surrounding area who have decorated a tree. The festival opens on 18th November until 6th January and is free entry. If you get chance, do go along and see our tree - it is number 22!



Christmas is fast approaching and Class 1 are busy rehearsing their nativity - 'Wiggly Nativity'. The Hummingbirds Choir are practicing Christmas songs in preparation for singing at the Christmas Fair and in the last week of term, a travelling pantomime will perform to the children as a Christmas treat.

In January 2022 we are delighted to once again be able to participate in Young Voices at Sheffield Arena and will enjoy attending as a Federation. This is a fabulous opportunity for the children to participate in and experience an arena event.

If you would like to visit our school and see us in action, please don't hesitate to contact Mrs Dixon in the school office (01347 868371) to arrange an appointment.

Applications for children starting Reception Class in September 2022 are now open.

All applications need to be made online at:

<https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/school-admissions>

Draft Minutes of Husthwaite Parish Council Meeting Thursday 18th November in Husthwaite Village Hall

Present: C. Fenwick (Chair), J. Don (JD), E. Smith (ES), R. Alexander (RA).

Apologies: C. Colton (working in London), B. Smith (holiday).

Declarations of Interest: None.

Minutes of the previous meeting: The minutes of the last parish council meeting were approved and signed as a true record.

Matters Arising:

25 Year Environmental Plan: CF has spoken with primary school headteacher, Fiona Bennett, who has asked for support with their Queen's Green Canopy environmental project. Councillors considered the request and agreed to allocate funding for this initiative.

Village Green Finger Post: ES is still attempting to source a cast aluminium Village Hall finger post, in the same font as existing, that can be attached to the existing signpost on the village green.

Position of Clerk to Husthwaite Parish Council: There has been no interest shown to date; the post will be re-advertised in the next village newsletter.

HDC Making a Difference Grant: Pavescape Sports Surfaces have installed a drain to the north of the MUGA and thoroughly cleaned the court. Unfortunately, the inclement weather prevented them undertaking the painting of the court, but this will be completed as soon as the weather improves. HDC have asked for an update on the project and CF will inform them that the MAD grant claim will be submitted as soon as the work is complete.

Bier House Roof: Grant Roofing have now completed the work on the Bier House roof and the invoice has been paid. Now the remedial works are complete, the rental fee will be reinstated.

New Model Councillor Code of Conduct 2020: CF & JD will look at the new document to ascertain the changes before the next meeting.

Co-option of Parish Councillor: The Parish Council have received one expression of interest for the vacant Parish Councillor position.

Consequently, Julia Hampshire was³³ co-opted by majority vote and will

be requested to sign the declaration of acceptance of office and complete the registration of financial and personal interests before the next meeting.

CA16 20 Application – Newburgh Priory Estate, Coxwold: Coxwold Parish Council have spoken to Newburgh Priory and have decided to apply to have Coxwold Playing Fields registered as a village green. They are planning to submit an application with accompanying letters of support in the near future and the council agreed to send a letter verifying the recreational use of the area for inter-village activities.

Village Green Tree: The contractors have inspected the lime tree and have advised that we should monitor its general vigour and check for dying timbers in the spring. If it should continue to decline, they advise reducing the canopy to alleviate stress and the PC agreed to have the tree inspected again in May.

Matters that have arisen between meetings:

Briefings on the Transition to a Unitary Council: North Yorkshire County Council have invited councillors to attend this briefing on either Wednesday 1 December or Friday 3 December.

20's Plenty Campaign: The PC agreed to support this initiative in principal.

Village Christmas Tree: Husthwaite Village Hall and Husthwaite Village Trust are planning to erect another Christmas Tree on the Village Green. The Parish Council supported the idea and agreed to contribute towards the costs but asked that the village green seats be left in situ.

Planning Matters: The following planning applications have been received:

21/02145/FUL - Woodhouse Grange Farm, Raper Lane, Husthwaite - Construction of steel frame portal building for agricultural use - The Parish Council had NO OBSERVATIONS.

21/02382/CAT - Tenter Close, Gibbet Hill, Husthwaite - Works to fell trees and works to trees within a conservation area - The Parish Council had NO OBSERVATIONS.

21/02604/FUL - Kilburn House, Low Street, Husthwaite - Removal of projecting bay and construction of single storey flat roofed rear extension with rooflight, internal alterations and new external door - The Parish Council had NO OBSERVATIONS.

The following planning applications have been decided by Planning Committee:

21/01017/MRC - Former Garage, Low Street, Husthwaite - Variation of

Application 18/02661/MRC

21/01960/FUL - OS Field 8464, Highthorne Lane, Husthwaite -

Construction of 5no. dwellings and associated infrastructure works

Woolpots Solar Farm: Lightrock Power are conducting a pre-planning application consultation on this site and have asked for comments from villagers. The Parish Council supports solar farms in principal and has no objection to them being erected in our area but would like to see consideration given on the effect they may have on existing village businesses.

Finance Report: This will be available in detail on the PC website.

Reports from Council Representatives:

Highways: Ditching and drainage works have recently been undertaken in Highthorne Lane. Soon after, heavy rain caused an excess of water from the fields to run across the road instead of into the drain and this has been reported to NYCC.

Recreation Area: Playscheme have agreed to submit a quote for the work required in the Recreation Area.

Street Lighting: Street light number 8 in Low Street has been reported as NOT working.

Village Hall: The Village Hall Committee have confirmed that they wish to purchase a new step stool to assist with regular maintenance checks and the PC agreed to fund this item. A decision on the replacement of the old wooden ladders is pending.

YLCA: The last meeting was held in Northallerton on Wednesday 20th October but unfortunately, no councillors were able to attend.

Reports from County & District Councillors: Jill Mortimer has now resigned from her position as District Councillor for the Raskelf & White Horse Ward. An election will take place on Thursday 25th November to select her replacement as well as a new Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner for North Yorkshire. As County Councillor Caroline Patmore was not in attendance, no report was received.

Date & Time of next Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 18th January 2022 in the Village Hall at ³⁵7:30pm.



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Thanks to everyone who has supported, encouraged, inspired and guided us so kindly and so generously, The Dragonfly Schools Foundation will celebrate its fifth birthday in November of this year. Despite the many additional challenges created by the pandemic, we remain unbowed, unbroken and as passionate and committed to providing education and brighter futures for our children as we were when we first saw the task which stood before us and stepped out upon our journey.

Now, five years on, we celebrate maintaining our three partnership schools' readiness to reopen, as they are now doing; we celebrate the achievements of our Animal Care trainees at an award-winning hospital in Ajmer; we celebrate helping provide fortnightly food, fresh water, soap and masks for all of our pupils' families throughout the pandemic; we celebrate our children's wellbeing and passion for learning; we celebrate our teachers' kindness and commitment to their pupils; we celebrate our charity's survival through such difficult days and, against all odds, we celebrate the successful development of a new project, moving us a step closer to having the education of all of our pupils recognised by the Rajasthan State Education Board, and their examination achievements celebrated with the award of nationally recognised qualifications – a huge leap forward. We have travelled a long way, somehow always finding safe passage whenever there are rocks and stones in the road, so now we celebrate the steps which we have taken so far and look forward with confidence to the next five years of our journey.

Ian and Sue Bretherton

www.thedragonflyschoolsfoundation.com



Birthday photos sent by Ian and Sue of the schoolchildren and trainees helped by the Dragonfly Schools Foundation, a charity the people of Husthwaite have helped in the past. Despite Ian's recent illness, and the pandemic, he and Sue are hoping to return to Pushkar in the New Year, and are feeling positive about the future.



With the kind support of Husthwaite Village Hall Committee

Friends of Husthwaite School presents 'Grown Up's'

BINGO Night

At Husthwaite Village Hall

Thursday 16th December 2021

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This fun event welcomes the whole community and will be a chance to meet parents/carers and supporters of the school past and present.

All proceeds will go towards subsidising educational visits and funding an end of year day trip for all the children in school.

Everyone Welcome!!