Twelve Husthwaite Families Could Have Affordable Housing

Fiona Coleman, the Rural Housing Enabler, was the main speaker and she outlined the results of the recent housing needs survey in the Parish. This anonymous survey had shown that there is a need for about twelve affordable units to accommodate emerging families and others who have strong associations (family or work) with the parish. Fiona also gave us brief details of how any scheme would be funded and the rules of occupancy for any properties built. Some of those present questioned the validity of the survey as there had been only a 29% response but Fiona was sure that it proved a need despite the figures needing some further investigation.

There were many questions from the floor and it soon became clear that affordable housing will be a delicate subject. Some discussion centred on where such properties might be built. There are two sites that have been offered for use a plot adjacent to West Terrace (opposite the school) and another to the rear of the Roasted Pepper. Fiona was at pains to make clear that neither have been accepted for use, they have merely been offered by the owners. The Parish Council has suggested two other sites that might be suitable but in one case the owner does not wish the land used for that purpose and the other owner has not responded.

If a scheme does go ahead any building would be done under normal planning rules regarding highway access, appearance, materials etc. and Fiona had brought pictures of other existing schemes as examples of the sort of properties built. Fiona stressed that further surveys of need and discussions with the community would be necessary before any decision is reached. If and when any more detail surfaces on the subject of affordable housing there will be further open meetings.

Barrie Ward is the Clerk of Husthwaite Parish Council
Work to start soon on the Recreation Area

Barrie Ward

I'm sure everybody must know by now that the Parish Council has obtained a lease on land for the creation of a recreation area for the village. This land lies at the back of the school and the cemetery and is about 2 acres in size.

On a sunny Saturday afternoon in early July some 25 residents met in the school hall (by kind permission of the headteacher, Mr Yapp) to discuss what facilities should be made available on this land. The suggestions were many and varied and covered everything from a pond and wild area to car parking and an astroturf area. The school would be keen to see an all weather play area as their own playing field was frequently waterlogged.

After the discussions most present availed themselves of the opportunity to walk down to the field and have a look for themselves at the area. It was clear that the first job would be site clearance, levelling as necessary and drainage. However before even that can commence there will need to be a plan of the facilities to be provided. From this we can frighten ourselves to death by working out what it will all cost! Then the hard work of raising the necessary monies can begin. Grants will be available from a number of sources but the village will be expected to put some of its own money into the scheme. Time is not on our side. The lease on the field is for five years from last September and if we have not put it to use by then it will go back to Hambleton District Council. Use it or lose it.
Husthwaite Village Hall Committee

Auction of Promises

Saturday 17th September

What are we bid for this exciting evening for all the generations?
Some of the promises received so far:
a day at York Races
a vegetable casserole for 4
a guided walk in the Hovingham area with a pub meal for two
an introduction to emailing and the internet
5 hay bales
riding the skies with Baxby Airsports Club
soup of the day
singing lessons, spanish lessons
tidying the sock drawer

What can YOU promise? Come on, no squirming out of it - everybody has something to offer, especially when its for a good cause.

All the proceeds of the Auction evening will go towards the development of an attractive new new communal area and car park for the Village Hall.

On the Village Hall Committee we are so keen on this idea that we will be calling at your house to collect your promise after 7.00pm on the evening of Tuesday 26th July

It will help you and us if you will make a note of your promise on the yellow sheet inside this Newsletter.

Thanks to those of you who have already made a promise.

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Deadline for the next Newsletter: Sunday 18th September

70s Disco
Husthwaite Village Hall
Saturday 12th November
Tickets 7.50
from Angela or the village shop
Parish Council Co-opts Peter Davison
Richard Wood

At its July meeting, Husthwaite Parish Council filled a vacancy by co-opting one of two strong applicants. They chose Peter Davison over John Petty by a majority vote. Peter has recently retired from a distinguished career in the education service. He has extensive experience as a strategic planner. He and his wife Linda have lived in Husthwaite for thirty years and have worked particularly hard in the Methodist Church. Rural traditionalists will know Peter as the leader of the choir which tours the village to sing Christmas carols.

Treasure Hunters Find Husthwaite's Hidden Charms

Stephen Barker

The Third Annual Treasure Hunt enjoyed, just as the previous two had done, perfect summer weather.
Quite honestly, whatever the weather, we without doubt live in one of England's greenest corners, and the course June was, as usual, designed to take walkers along tracks little tramped even by those who live in and around Husthwaite all their lives.
This year the walk started at the Village Hall, and the sixty-one walkers headed up the lane to Flower o' May, down the fields towards Acaster, then easterly to Thornton Hill, looping back with a bar-b-cue on East View Green.
We thank everyone - walkers and helpers. You all contributed to a great village occasion enjoyed by all.
This year's trophy winners for getting most points in solving the clues were Carol Colbourne and John Ovenston.

Open Gardens
Pippa Bailey

A good idea in theory, but in practice we do need a few offers from people (about 6 minimum) to have their garden open, please! If you're worried about dates, I feel one of the first two weekends in June would be best, and if you think you might be away we could always find someone to garden sit so that there's always someone there. A big thank you to those who have offered their help on the day already. I hope to hear from you - 868629.

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HISTORY CORNER

The Turbulent Days of Husthwaite's Robert Moncaster
1762 - 1823
Fred Pickstone

Robert inherited The Hobbits from his father Thomas in 1801. His eldest child was Robert, the village schoolmaster who died in 1854. Robert, the elder, was a carpenter, presumably the same Robert who was paid for making a desk, chair and shelves in 1810 for a village school that had opened in 1809. Records show that a Robert Moncaster was one of a twelve man Manor Court Jury for Husthwaite that was sworn in on 15th May, 1817 - was he father or son?

When Robert died he left a will dated 5th August, 1823. His widow Mary and son attended a Manor Court on 14th April, 1824, at which they were admitted tenants of The Hobbits, left by Robert, deceased, on payment of a fine of 3 shillings and 4 pence. Robert had been a copyholder, that is one who held his land by right of title entered in the Manor Court Rolls. A copy of this document was given to the tenant - hence the term copyholder. When transferring copyhold property, the tenant was required to surrender it to The Lord of the Manor, from whom the new tenant received it on the payment of a fee. After Mary died in 1834 son Robert inherited the property.

Robert, the elder, lived in turbulent times. When he was 14 years old the American colonies gained their independence, when he was 27, the Bastille was stormed in Paris, and he was in his fifties when the Napoleonic Wars ended in 1815. Pitt the Younger was Prime Minister in 1793 when Robert married Mary Blackburn and the Duke of York was leading 6,500 British soldiers in a coalition of 30,000 attempting to take Dunkirk from the French. Son Robert was born in 1796, the year Napoleon tried to invade rebellious Ireland. Daughter Ann was born in 1798, the year of the Battle of the Nile, and Mary in 1802, when the Treaty of Amiens brought a brief peace. Youngest child Ann arrived in 1806, soon after the Battle of Trafalgar on 21st October, news of which didn't reach Pitt until the early hours of 7th November. When did Husthwaite hear of this victory?
To pay for the war Pitt trebled some taxes and then, in 1798, he introduced Income Tax. Two old pence in the pound was charged on annual incomes over 60 and 10% on incomes over 200. How many people in Husthwaite, with its preponderance of agricultural labourers, were affected?

To round off the closing years of Robert's life there was unrest amongst the people of the growing industrial cities, but had he heard, during this eventful period in our history, that his king suffered bouts of madness?

Fred Pickstone is a member of Husthwaite Local History Society

St Nicholas Church

Art with Coffee and Biscuits
Angela and John Ovenston

Our coffee morning and art exhibition at the Croft was blessed with a beautiful sunny day. On display were paintings by local amateur and professional artists. Afterwards there was coffee and home-made biscuits in the garden. We were delighted to sell fourteen paintings. With the addition of generous donations, over 830 was raised for the Church Fabric Fund. Many people remarked on the amazing diversity of talent in the village. Thanks to them and to everyone for their outstanding helpfulness in supporting this occasion for the benefit of our oldest building, the village's historic landmark.

Shop Early for Christmas!

Juliet McDougall

In mid-October Alan and I will be holding Merry Christmas Bazaar. As you enjoy coffee and home-made biscuits there will be a chance to buy early Christmas gifts and seasonal goodies. Proceeds to St Nicholas Church improvements.
Saturday 17th October 10.30am-12.30pm at the Old Stores, Low Street.

Christian Aid Week

A Big Thank You to everyone who gave so generously during Christian Aid Week this year. Husthwaite raised 838.50, which was a slight increase on last year.

Christian Aid is the church's development agency and aims to help people in the developing world who are already helping themselves but need support to keep going.
Well done, everyone.

The Link

* monthly news of the many social and fund-raising events and church activities in Husthwaite and the surrounding villages
As residents of Husthwaite, you have an ideal position to see the White Horse of Kilburn in all its moods. You are no doubt enjoying its new coat of paint.

We in the Kilburn White Horse Association have taken on the task of ensuring that the figure is maintained for the future. The Association is made up of folk who are interested in helping the figure survive. The constitution of the Association states that All persons who have at anytime contributed to the fund, or otherwise assisted in the preservation of the White Horse shall be deemed members of the Association. A committee of 3 Officers and up to 17 members are elected every year at the annual meeting. The meeting is usually held in the 2nd week of May.

When Thomas Taylor and John Hodgson hatched the idea of putting a figure on the hillside back in 1857 I doubt if they realised the full extent of the task they had bequeathed to future generations. Fred Banks of Oldstead Grange, who has been a keen worker and backbone of the Association for many years, has also researched the history of the Horse. In his booklet he mentions that when the Horse was first cut a fund was set up which possibly totalled 4 8s - 0p. The cost of the major renovation in the mid 1960s cost 850 and the recent renovation is expected to cost in excess of 4000!

The Horse was cut not on a chalk hillside like several of the other White Horses but on a rather crumbly brown limestone. Hence the need for artificial whitening! In the early days a coat of lime was applied to make the Horse white and clean. It took up to 6 tons of lime to give the Horse a temporary coat. As it was so thin the effects of rain and snow soon turned it grey again. The weathering also caused a great deal of erosion. Thus the big 1964 renovation included the application of 300 tonnes of chalk chippings. This not only turned the Horse white but also helped, for the first time, to stabilise the surface. However growth of algae on the chalk turns the surface grey especially in wet weather and it took several days of hot sun to kill of the algae and lichen and turn the horses colour back.

In 1992 the first paint application was attempted. This was tried as result of concerns that too much of the chalk chippings had been slowly rolled down the hillside by wind, rain and snow, despite the use of horizontal rails to stem the flow. This was partially successful but the chipping were only coated on one side and as more movement occurred the grey side of the stones appeared. In 1999 it was decided to use paint again. This time a fungicidal wash was applied to restrict the growth of Algae before the application of paint. This was much more successful but as the stones rolled the Horse began to look grey again. The decision was taken to repeat the exercise this year and doesnt it look grand! As much of the rolled chalk chippings are still white underneath from the previous painting it is hoped that this application will enable the Horse to look white for even longer.

Still you cannot please everyone. The Association often gets helpful advice. There was a letter printed recently in the Dalesman moaning that something should be done to restore the Horse. I myself was strongly admonished after

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