

Every Time We Create a Space Somebody Fills It With Their Car

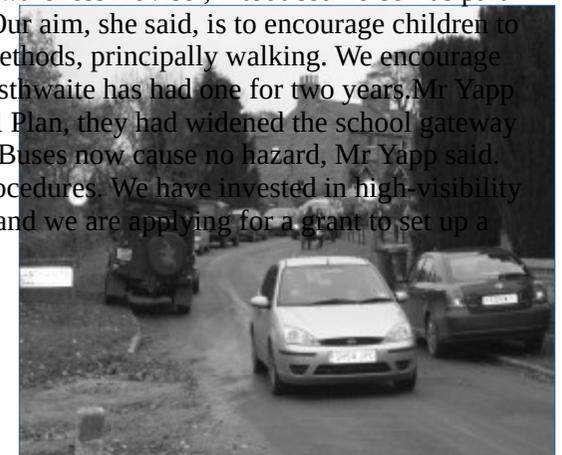
Jointly Funded by Husthwaite Parish Council
and the Village Hall Committee
Newsletter report by Richard Wood
January 2007

Fifty one of our children from the village school also attended. Its these cars which cause our congestion problems, headteacher Mr Ian Yapp told this weeks meeting of Husthwaite Parish Council. We were very concerned about safety round the gates, but everytime we create a space somebody drives into it.

Mr Yapp was one of three visitors the Parish Council invited to discuss traffic problems outside the village school. There was a good turn-out by members of the public, several of them close neighbours of the school.

Parish Council Chair, Carol Fenwick, welcoming the visitors, reminded the meeting that the draft Parish Plan contained 100 responses rating the school as excellent. She had asked for this special discussion in the light of more than 80 adverse comments on the matter of traffic in the proximity of the school.

Nicola Turner, a School Travel Awareness Adviser, introduced herself as part of the Healthy Schools Project. Our aim, she said, is to encourage children to travel to school by sustainable methods, principally walking. We encourage schools to have Travel Plans. Husthwaite has had one for two years. Mr Yapp explained that through the Travel Plan, they had widened the school gateway and created an extra bus pull-in. Buses now cause no hazard, Mr Yapp said. We have set up safe queueing procedures. We have invested in high-visibility bibs for pupils biking to school, and we are applying for a grant to set up a walking bus. (Go to Page 3)



Husthwaite school-run time



Christmas Cracker: scenes from the Village Halls Christmas entertainment evening. Above: sand dancers - Gill Pike, Sue Wise, Rose Lawrance, Anne Dowson. Below: the Airfix Choir - Stephen Barker, Mark Gambles, David Aspinall, Alun Nixon. Christmas crackers? They certainly were!

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Husthwaite Newsletter

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Next Edition: late March

Deadline for your writing: Sunday 18th March
For Your Diary 2007

20th January Burns Night Village Hall
28th January Removal of VH Christmas decorations - volunteers, please
8th February Gardening Club AGM Village Hall
17th February Coffee & Chat Methodist Church 10.30am -12.00 noon
10th March 60s/70s Disco Dance Village Hall 8.00pm
14th March Soup n Pud Methodist Church 12.00 noon and 1.00pm
16th March Bags2School collection
17th March Coffee & Chat Methodist Church 10.30 am -12.00 noon
17th March FOHS Wine Tasting Quiz Village Hall 8.00pm
31st March Parish Plan Distribution Meeting Village Hall (provisional)
24th June Treasure Hunt Village Hall 2.00pm
16th September Young Peoples Sponsored Walk
October Race Night Village Hall

Exciting Times to Live, Work and Write in Husthwaite

In the Town and Village section of a very recent *Darlington & Stockton Times*, Husthwaite's entry, written by our correspondent Roy Leverton, covered more column inches than any other village. It indicated that more was going on here than in Ripon, Boroughbridge, Easingwold or Thirsk. There is a lot to report in the village, and it's an exciting time to be involved with the *Husthwaite Newsletter*. The best editions of our *Newsletter* are the ones with contributions from large numbers of writers. YOU could be a *Newsletter* reporter. Look at the number of community organisations we work with every two months ... and there are more, ones with which you might be the very person to establish the link. The draft Parish Plan indicates that residents appreciate our village organisations and want to hear more from them. There couldn't be a better time for you to offer your services. Contact the Editor in good time for your work on the March edition.

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invites

YOU

to be a reporter

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WALKING ON THE MOON Vickki Nixon

On the 19th May this year I will be doing the Breast Cancer Moonwalk in London.

It is 26 miles, which for someone who only ever walks the dog round the village is going to be a challenge. First let me say if anyone sees me walking between

Husthwaite and Easingwold please dont stop and offer me a lift as I am likely to accept and this defeats the object. Secondly, Mrs Dowson has very kindly agreed

to let me leave a sponsor form in the shop, if anyone would like to generously put their money where my mouth is for this very worthwhile cause. Thank you.

An Evening for Buffs and Bluffs

Sarah Aspinall

Calling all wine drinkers!

Our main fund-raising event this term is a Call My Bluff style wine-tasting quiz to be held on Saturday 17th March in Husthwaite Village Hall starting at 7.30pm. Some of you may remember a similar event which we ran three years ago. Everyone had a great time and a number of people have asked us to do it again. So, now our esteemed panel of Brian Watt, David Aspinall and Colin Burn are all available again after Colins sojourn in Germany, we have bowed to popular demand!

The quiz will be in the same format as before. No great knowledge of wine is required the three panellists will tell you all you need to know and you just have to drink the wine and decide which one of them has correctly identified it. Warning they are all very convincing!

Tickets cost 10 each to include the 6 quality wines and some bread and cheese. Tables/teams will be 4 or more. Additional drinks will be available to purchase during the evening. Numbers are limited so please apply early by calling me on 868155.

Bags2School

We regularly arrange collections of second-hand clothes, bedlinen, curtains and soft toys by a company called Bags2School. They pay us according to the weight of the items collected and send them out to East Europe for re-sale or re-use. Our next collection is on Friday 16th March at 3.15pm. If you have some suitable items you would like to get rid of and help use raise some funds at the same time, please bring them to school in binbags on 16th March by 3.15pm.

Parish Council Meeting Hears of Blocked Drives and Verbal Abuse

People park their cars across our drives and are verbally abusive when asked to move. The teachers, even the Headteacher, have been abused. They leave younger children unattended in their cars. They block the pavements so that pedestrians have to step into the road. They open car doors and allow kids to jump out into the oncoming traffic.

This is a flavour of the comments made by Husthwaite Schools neighbours to this weeks meeting of the Parish Council.

Headteacher Ian Yapp described some of the work the school does to combat these difficulties. Through our newsletter we have pushed hard to persuade parents never to park in the bus pull-ins, opposite neighbours driveways or on the pavement. We hard-sell the advantages of walking to school. We stress to parents the convenience and the safety of NYCCs school bus service. We have devised excellent systems for getting pupils safely on and off buses, checking that they are all on the right bus, making sure their seat belts are fastened. We have suggested that parents might park further away and walk their children through the village. We have special Walk to School Weeks. Husthwaite Parish Councillor Peter Davison made a constructive suggestion. I have studied the situation as school starts and finishes, he said. In that space and with that number of cars the problem is not solvable. I propose that we create a proper road past the recycling bins into the field we have set aside as a recreation amenity. We would put a gate on that allowed only parents to drive onto a tarmac turning area, where they could drop their children off close to the back of the school. There is still plenty of room to develop the recreation facilities further up the field.

Graham Hind, a County Council Traffic Management and Development Engineer, welcomed the idea. However, I have to point out, he said, that neither national government nor the County Council is in favour of making funds available for the construction of car parks. Besides, Im afraid that people will still park on the road so long as that is the most convenient place. Asked what enforcement measures were available, Mr Hind said he could use double yellow lines or put up waiting restriction notices. These are of limited effectiveness, he explained, because drivers ignore both. The police have other priorities than traffic control and have little interest to enforcing these restrictions.

County Councillor Caroline Patmore emphasised that national and local government policy is to discourage the building of car parks. Their aim is to push people onto public transport, she said.

The problem was too complex for one meeting to sort out, and a working group of Parish Councillors and school staff was proposed.

Village Hall Committee Update

Front of Hall Targeted for Work in 2007

In our negotiations with our funding officer, Nicky Smith at the Northallerton Voluntary Services Association, we have agreed to start our ambitious development plan at the point which clearly troubles residents most. The outward appearance, and the eroded front amenity area, where people currently park their cars, give a bad impression of the Hall.

On the facing page you will find details of the Schedule of Work. This is the first of 10 detailed schedules, which cover such major developments in the Hall as the extension of the kitchen into the existing Ladies toilet area, the re-location of the Ladies toilet, along with the insulation of the roof and walls. In this first schedule, notice that we are including the construction of an extension on the eastern wall of the building. This will house the Ladies toilet and a large storage space. This schedule of work has been taken to a wide range of funding agencies, each of whom will chip in a contribution to the cost. The ideas have met with widespread approval and our funding officer has set May as the target for the collection of funds to be completed. The practical work should start later in the year.

We have agreed a double strategy for our other nine Schedules of Work. We are going to the Community Buildings Scheme, which is part of the Big Lottery, for a single large grant. This grant scheme works on a turn-round of no quicker than one year, and as Hushwaite has found in the past, there is a high risk of rejection. Hence the second strand of our funding plan, which is to accumulate smaller grants from a number of awarding bodies. We complete the applications in 2007 and target the work for 2008.

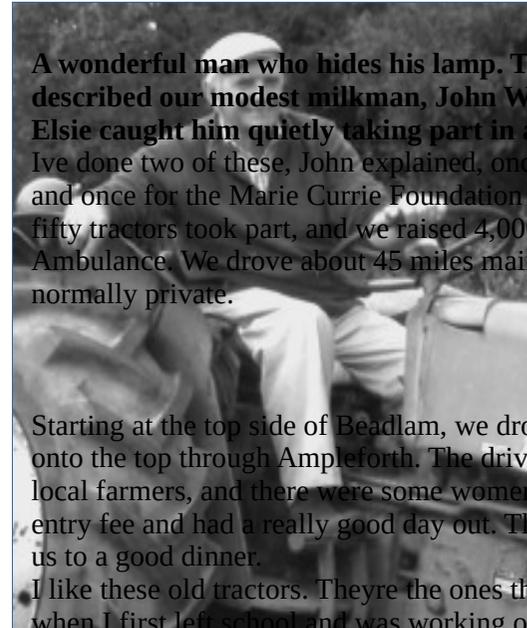
Christmas Cracker

The Village Halls Christmas Cracker included a wonderful array of local talent, particularly of the song and dance variety. The occasion made a contribution to the Halls renovation fund of 1480. This was twice the average takings for recent Christmas Fairs in the Hall.

Outreach Work

Interesting work has been done by Committee members in making contact with other Village Hall Committees in North Yorkshire. Angela Whenman and John Lawrance attended a meeting at the newly refurbished Borrowby Hall, where the Yorkshire Rural Community Council organised seminars on approaches to grant funding. Angela and Adrienne Newton travelled to the Village Hall at Hinderwell, near Loftus, where they were instructed in new health and safety regulations. The red tape is frightening, says Angela, and everyone who uses the Hall will come up against complicated new procedures. At first you might think you will

John Goes Tractoring for Charity



A wonderful man who hides his lamp. This was how Elsie Retchless described our modest milkman, John Williamson. In the photograph, Elsie caught him quietly taking part in a sponsored tractor run.

I've done two of these, John explained, once for the Air Ambulance Service and once for the Marie Currie Foundation and the Macmillan Nurses. About fifty tractors took part, and we raised 4,000 in sponsorship for the Air Ambulance. We drove about 45 miles mainly on forest roads which are normally private.

Starting at the top side of Beadlam, we drove out as far as Coxwold and back onto the top through Ampleforth. The drivers were people the same as myself, local farmers, and there were some women on the tractors, too. We paid a 10 entry fee and had a really good day out. The women from the charities treated us to a good dinner.

I like these old tractors. They're the ones that were brand new 50 years ago when I first left school and was working on the farms. I like to do my bit to help out these good causes.

Doing his bit - John Williamson
Photo: Elsie Retchless

The Beaufort Wind Scale (devised 1805)

This edition of the *Hushwaite Newsletter* went to the print shop on Thursday 18th January through a good wind.

The strong end of the Beaufort Wind Scale reads:

Force 7	Near Gale	32-38mph	
Force 8	Gale	39-46mph	Whole trees moving
Force 9	Strong Gale	47-54mph	Structural damage, slate blows off roofs
Force 10	Storm	55-53 mph	Seldom experienced on land, trees broken or uprooted, considerable structural damage
Force 11	Violent Storm	64-72 mph	
	Force 12	Hurricane	73+ mph

Gardening Club Scales Himalayan Heights

Mike Wells

The wind was howling, the radio telling us not to travel, but the brave members of Husthwaite and District Gardening Club who turned out for the January meeting found a warm Village Hall and an excellent talk on Nepal.

Mike Pearson grows alpine plants in his garden near Pickering. Not content with that, he also goes trekking in the foothills of the Himalayas at altitudes of up to 16,000 feet, where he can see the plants in their natural habitat. So when Mike showed us a slide of a miniature saxifrage or rhododendron thomsonii, it wasn't sitting in a plant pot with a plastic label, but clinging to a rocky ledge with snow-covered mountains in the background. His impressive photos and enthralling talk really made us all feel we'd been with him on his travels.

Imagine walking from Husthwaite to Coxwold, except you have to descend 1,000 feet on a narrow path, cross an angry river on a rope bridge and then climb another 1,000 feet; the nearest road is four days walking away. That is the only way many Nepalese children can get to school, assuming there is one in the next village. Seeing this has moved Mike to raise over 32,000 for a Canadian charity which builds schools in these remote parts and one has been built bearing his name. Just getting to the opening ceremony was several days trek. It makes battling up the Nookin on a windy evening look like a walk in the park!

The Annual General Meeting will be on Thursday 8th February in Husthwaite Village Hall. Please come along. The business will be kept as short as possible so we can enjoy a talk on the gardens of Nunnington and Rievaulx. Yes the Husthwaite and District Gardening Club take you to places far and near.

**Dear Gardeners
Before Christmas - pussy willow in
the Nookin.
5th January - dawn chorus over
Husthwaite.
16th January - snowdrops on
Gibbet Hill.**

**Any comments on these
observations?
Husthwaite Newsletter editorial
team**

avoid them by taking your event elsewhere, but you will soon realise that wherever you go the red tape will get you. We are consulting people with experience, for example in fire precautions. We will make it as easy for our hirers as we can.

2007 Please see Dates for Your Diary on Page 2 for an outline of our fund raising suggestions for the year. We welcome volunteers to take part in the organisation and running of any of these ... or to join the Committee at this exciting time!

Village Hall Renovation Plan

updated 16/1/2007

First Schedule of Work

1. Retaining wall to roadside of site
2. Retaining wall to northern boundary
3. Replace existing retaining wall to rear of kitchen and toilets
4. Relocate existing drainage to front of Hall to accommodate lowering car park level to allow slope to be lowered at northern vehicular access
5. Drainage - connection into roadside drain
6. New pedestrian access to Billiard Room front entrance
7. New pedestrian access to Main Hall front entrance
8. Install road kerbs to openings
9. Alter levels of parking area and prepare for tarmac surface.
10. Lay a satisfactory surfacing product to agreed specification and depth of both base course and wearing course.
11. Build storage facility to join onto existing rear extension.
12. Build raised flower beds between front pedestrian access steps

Draft Parish Plan Points to Husthwaite's Future From the Community for the Community

Newsletter report by Richard Wood

From people's feedback, we have completed a detailed audit of your comments. It's a strategic plan from the community for the community. This was how Peter Davison, Chairman of the Steering Group introduced the draft Parish Plan to last Saturday's consultation meeting in the Village Hall.

Fifty seven residents attended the meeting. It was the 3rd phase of the process leading towards the adoption of the Parish Plan. Last May the idea was launched at a meeting attended by 100 people. During the summer a questionnaire circulated to 165 homes in the parish was returned by 140. Thanking the whole community for its support, Peter said that interest has been widespread and the process has further enriched what was already a very strong community spirit.

Carol Fenwick, Chair of Husthwaite Parish Council, thanked Peter and all the members of the Steering Group for their hard work and for the impressive document they had produced. She announced that a special meeting of the Parish Council had been convened to consider the draft plan.

What Next?

Peter Davison explained that the draft plan now goes to Hambleton District Council for their consideration. The Yorkshire Rural Community Council (YRCC), who funded our Parish Plan with a grant of 2,250, will be scrutinising it. There is an opportunity for everyone in the community to study the plan and submit their observations to any of the Steering Group by 23rd January. Then we will be working on finalising the details. John Ovenston and Howard Brown are designing the complete document. We aim to make the presentation of the final document to the community on 31st March. We hope to have a party atmosphere that day in the Village Hall. It must be stressed at this stage that this is a provisional date because we still have considerable work to do.

Who responded to the Questionnaire?

Numbers of people living in each household					
Age	0-4	5-16	17-20	21-39	40-64
Males	18	32		13	23
Females	10	22		4	23
Total	28	54		17	46
	137	71			

These figures emphasise the popularity of Husthwaite as a place to enjoy one's middle-age and maturity! Contentment is the main feeling the questionnaire indicates about our attitudes. Huge 225 and 202 responses showed that we savour the surrounding countryside and the quality of village life. The younger people are less contented, and the questionnaire confirms that there is work to be done with them. They completed a separate sheet, and while they, too, are happy with the rural setting, they share the disappointment of their contemporaries in many parts of the country, that there is very little to do in Husthwaite. One comment summed up the frustration of teenagers: There is nowhere for us to meet. Wherever we go we are unwelcome and frequently we are branded anti-social or thought to be misbehaving when we are not. The adults had numerous suggestions to make for improving their life in the village. The Steering Group recorded, categorised them all and identified emerging priorities.



Margaret Duffield and Bunny Wentworth, two lifetimes of Husthwaite experience, listen to the discussion of their village's future

Community Life

- * seek a more visible and regular police presence
- * involve the Parish Council in this survey's findings
- * increase dialogue between the Parish Council and the village

Services and Facilities

Fourteen items are prioritised - such as:

- * investigate shared facilities between village and school
- * examine ways of improving parking at the school
- * improve road maintenance
- * publicise the Village Hall Committee's improvement plan

Housing

The questionnaire asked whether residents favoured more housing. Yes - 101 No - 125. Nineteen knew of people wanting to return to Husthwaite.

The priorities in this complex area are to:

- * clarify affordable housing
- * regulate any new developments

The environment, local businesses and sport and recreation are more headings featured in the draft Parish Plan.

The Steering Group has drawn its complex findings together into an Action Plan, details of which will become clear at the public meeting on 31st March. Judge Fox proposed a vote of thanks for Peter and the Steering Group. The meeting enthusiastically agreed.