**Precept - Parish Council Resists a Rise**

**Carol Fenwick**

Next year's precept has been set at £7,000, which is the same as this year. This was the decision of this week's Husthwaite Parish Council meeting.

In this Newsletter you can find a detailed print-out of the precept calculation for 2007/08. Some people can see why Husthwaite rates are comparatively high. Let me explain some of the reasons for this. I believe they are all things that help to make our village community a special one to live in. We are also setting finance aside for important projects in the future.

Let's start with those. We have allocated £1500 towards the sum we are building up in the hope of developing a recreation area on the land behind the school. Hambleton District Council, you will remember, have helped us purchase this land and we still have another three years in which to come forward with practical proposals for doing something with it.

We put also £500 aside each year for a cemetery extension. Eventually the plot on Ample Carr will be full, and we will need to be in a position to afford the purchase of more land.

The Village Hall Committee have been working hard on the renovation of the hall, and by putting aside £1,000 each year we are helping them have the financial backing they need as they negotiate with grant awarding bodies. Money in their bank account indicates that they are a going concern. The Village Hall is an important community building and worth every penny. Its nice to have the village looking well cared for, and the 1,400 contract we have with the grass cutters keeps the cemetery, the Green and Kendrew Green tidy.

You will know that this year the Government has capped Hambleton's Council Tax, forcing our local politicians to look for ways to make savings. One of their ideas has been to pass on to Parish Councils the cost of holding local elections. As April 2007 is the next time for these to take place, if the required number of people offer themselves we could see elections of both your Parish and your District Councillors, so we have allocated £600 for this eventuality.

Carol Fenwick chairs Husthwaite Parish Council

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**EVERYONE HAS A STORY TO TELL WHATS YOURS?**

Sandie Dunleavy at BBC Radio York is running a series of free workshops to help people to formulate their ideas and prepare them to record a two-minute story for the radio and website. The day long workshop is held at the BBC studios in York, or closer to home if that's more suitable. A group is usually 6-8 people, and Sandie will provide a sandwich lunch! A second day is booked after the first, for the actual recording sessions.

If anyone wants to know more, Sandie can be contacted either by phone on 01904 540324 or email sandie.dunleavy@bbc.co.uk

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**Easingwold Taxis**

07763 234080

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Deadline for your material in the next Newsletter: Sunday 21st January
Husthwaite Newsletter

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Next Edition: late January 2007

Deadline for your writing: Sunday 21st January

28th November - 2nd December  Easingwold Players present Annie - Galtres Centre 7.30 + Saturday matinee 2.00pm (sold out)
30th November  Christmas Fair Husthwaite School 1.30pm
Scottish Country Dancing Village Hall 7.30pm

2nd December Easingwold Singers Christmas Concert - E School Hall
9th December Christmas Cracker Village Hall 7.30 for 8.00pm (sold out)
Make a Christmas wreath Village Hall 10.00am
14th December  Gardening Club Christmas meeting Village Hall
15th December  Scottish Country Dancing Village Hall 7.30pm
17th December  Village Christmas Service Methodist Church 5.00pm
21st December  Carol Singing  Village Green 7.00pm

5th January Scottish Country Dancing Village Hall 7.30pm
Parish Council Elections 2007
20th January Burns Night Village Hall
Ursula Duncan

There may not be a Parish Council Election next May. If only the current seven Councillors come forward, they will be returned without a formal election. This has been the case for the last 3 elections. No election means a saving of several hundred pounds on the PC budget, a benefit for the public purse if not for democracy.
But given the huge response to the Parish Plan Questionnaire (84%), Husthwaite is a community with strong views and opinions. Since the Action Plan arising out of this questionnaire will be the responsibility of the Parish Council to implement, it may be that there are some residents who would be willing (given just a little encouragement) to consider being a Parish Councillor for the next 4 years. The White paper on Local Government gives Parish Councils good write-up, and they are likely to be given more responsibilities, especially Quality Parish Councils, in the years to come. Interested? Contact Carol Fenwick - Chair, 868479

Taylor Made
Husthwaites quality caterers
specialists in cold buffets
menus to suit all budgets

Debbie Taylor 01347 868576
Anne Marie 01347 868282
07986 925653

QUIZ
Roasted Pepper
7.30pm
Sunday 10th December
5 including tapas supper
contact Robin 01347 868007

Carol Singing

Wednesday 20th December
7.00-9.00pm
then
refreshments at the Roasted Pepper

Easingwold Singers Christmas Concert
at Easingwold School
7.30pm Saturday 2nd December
Fridays to 8th December 7.30-8.30pm
Fridays 12th January to 9th February 7.30-8.30pm
Catholic Church, Long Street, Easingwold
No partner needed. Learn some Spanish as you dance.
Support Colombias street children and victims of violence.
www.childrenoftheandes.org

A Welcome Ring for Your Door
Juliet Mc Dougall
St Nicholas PCC
invite you to a morning of creativity! Between 10 and 12am on Saturday 9th December there will be open house in Husthwaite Village Hall, when you can make a Christmas wreath for a door. Tuition and materials will be available free, but a donation towards coffee and biscuits will be welcomed.

Contact Warm Front
If you are over 60 or have a disability or a long-term illness or you have children under the age of 16 or are pregnant with a Mat 1 certificate contact the Warm Front team now to find out more. Don't delay today! For more information you can ring: Freephone 0800 316 2814 for information on Warm Front grants or speak to a Parish Councillor.

Surveyor Sets Out Challenges for Village Hall
Richard Wood

During my visit I became convinced that not only was the building viable but that it provided a particularly good opportunity for eco-renovation.
This is the main finding of the ecological architect, Edward Harland, in the report he has sent this week to Husthwaite Village Hall Committee. Using a grant provided by the Howardian Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty through the NYCCs Sustainable Development Fund, the Committee commissioned Mr Harland to survey the building.
As we worked on getting grants into position for our renovation plan, explains Chairman Angela Whenman, we realised that the whole emphasis of public funding has switched. Almost every grant provider we approach wants to know what our environmental aims are. They are interested in the impact of global warming and will mainly put money into green projects. Edward Harland was excited about the Village Hall because he said it was constructed of the main two ecologically friendly materials, brick and wood. Angela's words echo the architects report. Wood, Mr Harland says, is the ultimate ecological building material. The external brickwood of the Village Hall, although not aesthetically pleasing, is in good condition and provides a long lasting external wall. Shrubs and climbers planted to grow across the walls will soften the visual impact. The report says that the Halls internal wood structure is in excellent condition any future maintenance work on it will be easy to complete.
The architects report provides wonderful evidence for the Village Hall as the task of completing grant application forms gets under way. We have broken the task down into manageable size jobs, says Treasurer John Lawrance, overseeing the practical aspects of the Committees work. The surveyor has challenged us to undertake a big insulating job to the roof and the walls. This is going to mean taking off the tiles and lifting the roof line in order to create a cavity to be filled with ecologically friendly insulation. We will do the walls at the same time. Fortunately, there is a 9 inch deep cavity between the brick outer and the original wooden frame. This has made people nervous in the past. Now it is seen as a great opportunity. The cavity will be filled with insulation. The plans are in place, the estimates are almost all in. Its over to Richard now to complete the paperwork and secure the funding for us.
In the task the Committee has entrusted to me I have been given the support of Nicky Smith, our local Funding Officer at the Northallerton Voluntary Services Association. We can only do the job with other peoples money, and at last someone is showing us how to get into line with the priorities defined by the grant awarding organisations.
Reeling Towards Burns Night
Brian Watt
Our Scottish Country Dancing group is becoming a regular feature, with dance practices once a month, usually on a Friday.
Over the past few months, we have had anything from 16 to 35 turn out there is always room for more, and no previous experience is required. The more the merrier.
As well as our regular practices on 15th December and 5th January, we may also add a session on Thursday 30th Nov. Burns Night itself will be on Saturday 20th January tickets will be offered first to those who have been part of the monthly sessions! For more details contact Will Mowatt on 868196.

Gardening Club Makes the Most of Winter Days
Mike Wells
Octobers speaker, Chris Small arrived pulling a double horsebox, packed full of plants! Chris, a nurseryman from York, then spoke on Winter Plants and Baskets. He covered many ways of introducing colour to the garden from late autumn to early spring. Apart from the obvious winter flowering pansies, he enthused about heucheras, heucherellas, ajugas and heathers. He talked about topiary, suggesting some alternative plants from box, notably ilex crenata, other hollies, euonymus and a small leaved privet. Finally he reminded us not to forget spring bulbs which could be usefully tiered in containers.

A November evening is a good time for a lovely meal with convivial company, so sixteen members of the Gardening Club met at The Black Swan in Oldstead for our annual dinner. Everyone agreed we had an excellent meal and a good time was had by all!

A week later we were back in the Village Hall to hear the ever-popular Doug Stewart. After an amusing start involving transporting pensioners by tractor and trailer, then a photo of a palm-fringed beach at Immingham (yes he was kidding!), Doug launched into his topic of Perfect Plants for Problem Places. His first example was the north-facing wall, followed by dry shade, wet heavy soils, sandy soils, chalky soils, windy sites and awkward narrow spaces. In fact, as Doug pointed out, plants grow everywhere on the earth, even in the most inhospitable places, so why should British gardens be any different? Its just a matter of selecting the right ones and we were given a long list of suitable choices.

By the end of a very entertaining (and sometimes hilarious) evening, we went away with an attitude change. No longer do we have problem places, but opportunities for collecting a wider range of plants. To use a modern phrase: celebrate the diversity!
Our Christmas meeting in Husthwaite Village Hall will be on Thursday 14th December. The topic: Kew Through the Seasons.

Reminiscences of Husthwaite, 1950s to 1970s
Angela Ovenston
Reminiscences of Husthwaite, 1930s to 1950s

Husthwaite lad's at Coxwold shop. Can you name all these familiar faces?
Parish Plan Update
Peter Davison

The Parish Plan Steering Group has continued to press ahead drafting the Parish Plan, along with the accompanying Action Plan. Views expressed at the Consultation Launch, and the preferences indicated through the completed questionnaires have all been used to inform the First Draft, which is almost completed.

Other important developments include the following:

* a recent meeting of the Steering Group with Lisa Wilson (Community Link Officer, Hambleton District Council). This resulted in some well-informed and helpful guidance on how we should devise our Action Plan.
* receipt from the Planning and Environment Services of HDC of a superb coloured map of Husthwaite, which may form an impressive centrepiece for the Plan.
* commitments by John Ovenston (photographs) and Howard Brown (graphics) to work together in order to heighten the visual tone of the final document.

It is hoped to arrange final consultation on the draft, possibly in the week beginning 11th December 2006. Look out for further details being publicised.

Christmas Fair
Thursday, 30 November 2-5pm at the school

Sarah Aspinall

The Friends of Husthwaite School are joining forces with the School to make the annual Christmas Fair a bigger and better event. We have arranged a good variety of stalls selling toys, books, jewellery, scarves and bags, beauty products, plants, seasonal produce, cards and wrapping paper. There will be additional attractions: Santas Grotto, a secret present room for children shoppers only, tombola, punch pots, childrens games and plenty of refreshments. Entrance is free and we hope many people in the village will support this event.

We will launch our Grand Christmas Raffle. Thanks to some very generous donations from parents, we have great prizes including a Sony MP3 player, meal for 2 at the Forresters Arms, Kilburn, VIP tickets for the Yorkshire Wheel and a Christmas Hamper from the Village Pantry, Raskelf. Tickets are 50p each and will be on sale at the fair and at the Christmas concerts on 4th and 5th December. The draw will take place at school on 11th December. Money raised at the fair and by the raffle will be put towards a variety of school events and projects, in particular replacing the rather old and tatty indoor gym equipment which is the FOHS main objective in 2006/2007.

The FOHS would like to thank everyone in the village who has supported our fundraising this year. If you have any queries about the Christmas Fair or the work of FOHS generally, please call me on 868155.

Remembrance Sunday
David Shallow

To mark Remembrance weekend, a special service was held in St.Nicholas Church on Sunday, 12th November. We were joined by our Methodist friends, members of St.Marys Church, Carlton Husthwaite and representatives from the Parish Council.

The service was led by the Reverend Ian Kitchen, and the sermon was given by the Methodist Minister Ruth Duck. At the start, wreaths were taken up to the altar, and children were invited to bring poppies. We ended by singing the National Anthem.

At the War Memorial, where two children from the Parish Council, warden of St.Marys. Names of those who have recently lost their lives. We were given comfort as they mourn. The minutes silence, the inscription was read out :-

Forget us not O land for which we fell
May it go well with England, still go well
Keep her bright banners without blot or stain
Lest we should dream that we have died in vain

Photo: Gerald Crane
We all had to meet at the school at 7:45am(!!!!) Everyone was really tired but they weren’t grumpy because they were so excited. We had a 3-hour journey. Only one person was sick, fortunately it was when we were nearly there so there wasn’t the smell of sick everywhere.

We were told to get changed into outdoor clothes and boring stuff that you have to do before you can have lunch. We got told our groups and set out on our first activity. Our group ended up at the top of a cliff called the Struggle. And the name was really good because it was true. I didn’t dare stand up in case I fell, so I had to do it all sitting down and I got really muddy trousers! We all wrote our names in the sand and set off to the next bit of the activity. We climbed up some rocks until we got to a small cave and a boulder with a little hole under it. We all went through the cave and then some of us started to climb under the rock. I didn’t because it was so tiny I was scared I would get stuck.

We went out to do the nighttime. It was really scary and dark. When we got back everyone got into bed by 10:00pm. We had half an hours whispering time then we had to have silence at 10:30pm. The girls all started talking again until people fell asleep around 11:00pm.

On Day 2 we woke up around 6:00am and made a racket until one of the teachers came in and told us to be quiet. We went to have breakfast, made our pack-up, got all our equipment ready, put on our waterproofs and met up with our groups. We went to a place with sculptures. My favourite was a waterfall with a man and woman having a shower. We went under the waterfall and got really wet (it was like a shower) but we had on our waterproofs so it didn’t matter. We set off to the next activity, into a cave, fully armed with karate chops to hit the slateworms if they crawled up our leg. In the middle of the cave there was a little pool that was really deep. It had in some sort of creature that they called a cave eel. Most people didn’t believe it was real but I did because I saw it move its head.

Then came the best bit of the trip where we went gorge scrambling. The place we went was called the Gill and we had to climb up through the rocks and we ended up at a little pool. We were allowed to jump in and I went first. The water was quite cold and it went up your trouser legs and down your shirt and under your helmet so you were soaking everywhere. We had on lifejackets so we didn’t drown.

When the other groups came back the Centre we found that Mrs Gall had hurt her arm. She went to hospital and found it was broken and went home the next day. We had tea, got changed into our pyjamas, had supper and got into our beds. We were told to get changed into outdoor clothes and boring stuff that you have to do before you can have lunch. We got told our groups and set out on our first activity. Our group ended up at the top of a cliff called the Struggle. And the name was really good because it was true. I didn’t dare stand up in case I fell, so I had to do it all sitting down and I got really muddy trousers! We all wrote our names in the sand and set off to the next bit of the activity. We climbed up some rocks until we got to a small cave and a boulder with a little hole under it. We all went through the cave and then some of us started to climb under the rock. I didn’t because it was so tiny I was scared I would get stuck.

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