

Village View

The newsletter for residents of Green Hammerton

Aug/Sept 2017



Get the message

*by Chris Chelton, chair of
Keep Green Hammerton Green (KGHG)*

It has been a hectic three months since the Keep Green Hammerton Green campaign got underway to try to stop the potential development of 3,000 new houses that may be built around our village but it's amazing what a bit of motivation and organisation can achieve in such a short space of time.

Much of the effort our small group has made to bring the threat to our village into the spotlight has come to fruition over the past couple of weeks. We were once

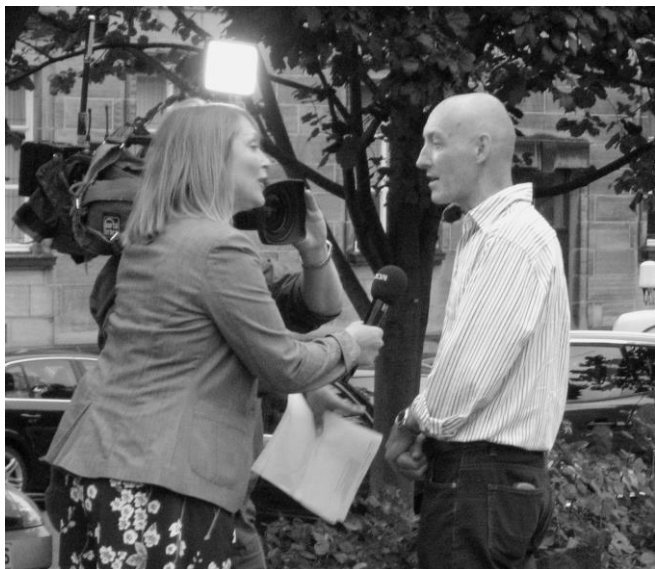
again able to attract some great coverage of our protest outside Harrogate Borough Council's offices on 19 July, pictured above. It was reassuring to see so many people from here and other villages actively supporting the campaign; nearly 100 people joined in the protest.

The answer we received from the cabinet member for planning to the question that we had asked was weak and hesitantly delivered but that didn't matter. The point was to let the councillors see and hear our anger and to get the Green Hammerton issue on the agenda, both of which we all succeeded in doing.

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I'm not sure that the inebriated street drinker who wanted to join us saying he "didn't want 3,000 houses at Green Hammerton" helped our cause but, who knows, every voice counts!



A huge thank you to everyone who attended. BBC TV's Look North filmed us chanting and conducted a live interview with me (see above) for the teatime news. The story was featured on their late night programme. The Yorkshire Post, Stray FM and Harrogate Advertiser also turned up to interview us while BBC local radio and the York Press also covered the story.

The consultation event in the village hall on 25 July gave you all a chance to listen to Harrogate planners' arguments for choosing our village. What a huge turnout there was with some very angry and upset villagers. Like me you probably heard nothing new or convincing. The fact that they had decided to share their consultation with CEG, the potential developers of the 3,000 houses, spoke of this being more than a mere recommendation in their eyes. CEG should not have been there and their presence was ill-judged, inappropriate and insensitive to the feelings of most residents.

However, the proposed development is not a done deal. There is a long way to go, with the draft Local Plan to be released next January, the Examination in Public set for mid-2018 and the final Local Plan determined in early 2019. We have a long road ahead with ample time for Harrogate planners and the full council to realise their mistake. Time, however, is very limited for expressing your own concerns across to the council during the six-week consultation period which ends on 25 Aug.

This is the only opportunity you will have to raise your objection. You should by now have your letter pack and instructions which have been delivered to every household. Please get every member of your family to write a letter or register online, objecting to a new town the size of Tadcaster at Green Hammerton and supporting the Flaxby option as soon as you can.

The Keep Green Hammerton Action Group has provided you with all the information you need. It is now over to every one of you to play your part and to make sure that as many letters of objection are raised as possible. Your personalised letters or online comments carry the greatest weight but alternatively please do send the pro-forma letter as it will still count. The petition is also still open for signatures in the post office, Bay Horse and Village Club so again, please pop in and sign one if you haven't already done so.

Surgeries will be held in the village over the next two weeks so look out for details via e-mail and on Facebook. If you don't have either and want a note of what is happening delivering to your home call us on 07712 815699 and we'll keep you posted – literally.

These potential new 3,000 houses affect us all so please help in our campaign to overturn the council's recommendation. We need assistance with distributing leaflets, going on protests, sending letters, putting signs in your window and car, having a placard in your garden, etc. We need a united effort. Opposition against this new development is overwhelming so let each of us do our bit to protest against it. Please e-mail sgc@20-20group.com if you can help, in any capacity.

Have you liked our Facebook page, Keep Green Hammerton Green? Please do so to keep abreast of what's happening. We'd also like your e-mail details and mobile phone number so we can keep you up to date with key developments. Email me at chris-chelton@hotmail.co.uk.



Your council needs YOU!

by Ian Bailes

Would you like to be a councillor and help make the parish of Green Hammerton a better place to live? Due to resignations there are currently two vacancies on our parish council. We can now fill them by co-option, a process whereby the council considers applications from interested persons and can then select someone to fill the seat. Non-political, the council meets about eight times a year and look after certain elements within the village.

As you are all aware over the next year decisions that are going to affect the village for the future are going to be made. Everyone living in Green Hammerton needs to pull together so I'm appealing to all residents to play their part in the community. If you need any information about being a councillor or just want more information about the role please contact me via 330477 or i.bailes@btinternet.com.



Quiz go-ers rise to challenges

by the editor

The music quiz organised and hosted by Dave Walker in the village hall on 17 June was all about meeting challenges. The event raised £960 for Keep Green Hammerton Green whose challenge is familiar to all while the 66 contestants grappled with questions spanning music from the 50s to the present day and including classical. But perhaps showing greatest strength in adversity were Jon and Tina Clarke of The Bay Horse. They were down to provide a supper but there was a power cut at the pub shortly before meal time. Thankfully, and to their enormous credit, they managed to complete the chilli con carne in the village hall kitchen.

The evening got underway with a sing-a-long to YMCA which set the lively, party mood for the quiz itself. Winners were The Pop Pickers. Pictured above by Jane Bannan they were (from left): Jan Samson, Helen Walsh, Stephen and Sam Cameron, Annamaria Hodgkinson, Paul Kirkwood, Rod Aungier and Brian Samson. They were half a point behind leaders Universally Challenged going into the last round but, following the final 20 questions and a strong earlier picture round, The Pop Pickers finished with 108 points to their rivals' 102 points. In third place was Six Dead Beats in a Bar with 90½ points.

Thanks to Dave Walker, scorers Ian and Moira Bailes, barmen Alf Wood and Alan Smith and Jane Bannan who assisted with the catering. KGHG's leader Chris Chelton spoke briefly at the close of the event.

Get planning issue off the rails

by Ivan Andrew

of Green Hammerton Parish Council

The parish council will respond to Harrogate Borough Council's development proposal for our village. The whole area is a good greenfield site that ought to be preserved for farming not building. There are many more sites unsuitable for quality farming that could be used for development. The proposal will virtually conjoin Kirk and Green Hammerton which completely contravenes the national planning policy framework. We also question the council's contention that residents of the new town will use the railway. Most people will find that using their own cars is more efficient and, regardless of that, the number of trains per hour will forever be limited by the Kirk Hammerton level crossing. It is very important that you make your views known by contacting HBC. The Keep Green Hammerton Green group is providing tremendous guidance in this respect.

HBC presented its building plans last month. We wanted to discuss the proposed development with council representatives. Instead we were provided with a small display showing the Hammertons as the preferred site and a more detailed display outlining what the proposed developers, CEG, had in mind for the site at this early stage. They sought support for their ideas while the priority for most of those attending was to challenge HBC about their choice of the Hammertons as the preferred site. This so-called consultation was not what was expected and was unacceptable.

continued overleaf

SAVE THE DATE! A race night in aid of KGHG and organised by Jayne Knights and friends will be held on Sat 25 Nov in the village hall. Full details in the next issue.

Residents living close to the Linden Homes development behind the school have been informed that groundwork is beginning immediately for about 17 weeks followed by building of the houses. Contractor Copsey Groundworks has already informed us that they will need to carry out some work on Barnard Lane and that the site will receive regular deliveries by large vehicles. HBC did stipulate stringent rules for site development which should be followed by the construction firm. Any questions regarding groundworks should be sent to copseygroundworks@hotmail.co.uk. After they have finished any issues can be raised with the site manager or Linden Homes on 01937 547200.

The parish council has appointed two members to a group which is monitoring the proposed development of a sugar beet factory alongside the new incinerator at Allerton Park. There is great concern about increased heavy traffic as well as any detrimental effect on the environment. Please take any opportunity which may come available to let your views be known. This area does appear to be a focus for development at the moment.

The parish council wishes to pass on its thanks and best wishes to Carol Wallis on her retirement as headteacher of the village primary school (see p5). Our best wishes also go to the new headteacher and his/her team.

At our next meeting in September we will discuss the possibility of setting up a stakeholder liaison group for the discussion of relevant issues with interested people. If you are interested please email deecopley@hotmail.com for further information or view the village website.

We are in contact with the firm responsible for grass cutting around the village. We are concerned that it has not been done according to the agreement and that the area outside the school grounds is in a very untidy state that can soak children, parents and any passers-by in wet weather. We are also aware that shrubbery and hedges are obstructing village footpaths. Please take action if your property is involved.

Councillor Claire Greenwood is taking over responsibility for organising litter pickers around the village. Please let Claire know if you are still willing to be involved or if you are prepared to join the group. She can be contacted on clairegreenwood@googlemail.com.

Murder mystery raises £1,500 for KGHG

by Susan Goss-Clements



The Gambling Den, a superb murder-mystery play performed by Green Hammerton's very talented thespians, raised £1,500 for Keep Green Hammerton Green. Well done to Sue Ewing who adapted her play to reflect the development issue causing much hissing and booing from the audience. It was a fabulous production with excellent performances and a wonderful supper, all enjoyed in the company of friends and neighbours. The cast were all outstanding in their various roles and kept the audience guessing and laughing until the end.

Pictured below, from left: Chris Turner, Jenny Hymas, David Macdonald, Peter Morrill, Helen Walsh, Stuart Hymas, Martin Knights and Claire Jeffrey. Pictured above: Sue Ewing with the three of the cast.

▪ Fancy trying your hand at acting or helping backstage? Come along to the audition for **the GHRC Players' next production**, *Pride at Southanger Abbey*, on Tues 5 Sept at 8pm. If you are interested but cannot make that date get in touch with Chris Turner on 331306. Performance dates are Fri 10 and Sat 11 Nov.



Schools out forever for Mrs Wallis

by the editor



Carol Wallis has retired after 17 years as headteacher at Green Hammerton primary school. She was the centre of attention at the end of term dance fiesta attended by two professional instructors from the Encuentro Latino dance school, 181 children and adults, the deputy mayoress of Harrogate, Cllr Christine Willoughby and consort. (The mayoral couple are pictured above with Carol and pupils).

Annabelle Polito of Friends of Green Hammerton School, said: "A delicious hog roast was enjoyed by all courtesy of Ainsty Farm Shop and everyone had a wonderful time trying their hand at line dancing and salsa especially Mrs Wallis!"

In her farewell letter to parents Carol said: "I have had an amazing time at Green Hammerton School. The pupils and staff have been a delight and a pleasure to work with and I consider myself so lucky to have had the privilege of being part of such a great team, a wonderful school and lovely village. The community has been amazing and always supported the school and on a personal note, always made me feel very welcome. I will really miss everyone: pupils, staff, families and villagers.

"The dance and barbecue was a very special event this year. I could see just how many 'ex' families and pupils had given up their time to come back to school for my last event. It made my evening very special."

Tables featured in two funny moments from her career recalled Carol. Once a child was crying because he couldn't "do his tables". When asked why he replied because there were not enough tables in the classroom. Another time Carol was suffering with migraine. She recalled: "I locked my door and made a bed on the floor underneath my desk so that I could just lie down for an hour. Unfortunately my feet were still sticking

out behind the desk and I hadn't realised! I was woken by two children at my door with a scream of 'Oh, no! Mrs Wallis is dead!' At this point I jumped up so they could see I had clearly risen from the dead when I promptly banged my head on the underneath of the desk and nearly knocked myself out. I then made a poor attempt to run through the school before everyone had heard of my sad demise."

Appeal outcome scans well

by Arnold Warneken,
Chairman of Springbank Health Patient Group

The scanner appeal has raised £24,000, far exceeding the target of £15,000. This is a great result after what seems to have been a bit of a marathon with a lot of research, investigation, negotiation and a steep learning curve for Dr O'Donoghue. At last a scanner has been chosen and is on the way to being purchased.

The larger budget has enabled the practice to choose a scanner that can be used for a much broader range of diagnostics than was originally anticipated. We can also now support the ongoing costs of maintenance, insurance and consumables for a while. While we are no longer actively fundraising the account will remain open and the occasional donation to support the ongoing costs would be very welcome. Members of the Patient Group would like to express their very sincere thanks to all those who helped us to reach this point.

Dr Richard Tatham said: "A huge thank you to everyone who has contributed so generously to the fundraising for an ultrasound scanner. Having such hi-tech equipment is a real rarity in GP practices. It has the potential to be a tremendous asset for the community and has promise to truly enhance what we offer at Springbank given that we are over 10 miles away from the nearest hospitals. There are many times when we ask people to attend hospital when a quick scan in the surgery would be much more convenient. Unfortunately, there is no NHS funding for this kind of service. It is a testament to the commitment of the patient group and the community we serve that we are able to complete such an ambitious project."

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Village thespians in Theatre Royal show

by the editor

Green Hammertonians Loretta Smith, Otilie Hill-Smith (pictured below) and Evie Jeffrey trod the boards of the Theatre Royal in York in *Everything is Possible* which told the story of the Suffragettes in the city. Involving over 350 local people and a cast of about 150, the play ran during the last week of June with rehearsals three times a week for a couple of months.

Loretta, who trained at the East 15 Acting School in Essex, was one of the principle actors, cast as the redoubtable Leonora Cohen, a prominent Suffragette from Leeds. Loretta's daughter, Otilie, 17, took on the role of Amelia while Evie, 13, played Alice.



Loretta said: "Otilie and I did the Mystery Plays at the Minster last summer then people started saying 'what's next?'. I hadn't intended doing another community show as I couldn't really afford to but then I found out that Pilot Theatre was doing a play about the Suffragettes. Being a feminist I felt that it had my name on it. I was also excited about the prospect of acting in the Theatre Royal. I'd actually performed there before in the Mystery Plays in the early 90s. Although the public areas have been much improved in the recent refurbishment the back stages areas are pretty much as I'd remembered them!"

The highly rated play used an unusual blend of live action and archive film projections. Loretta said: "We had no idea until the week-long technical run how much sparkle they were going to add to it. I was very nervous for the first two or three nights but after that I settled into it."

Buoyed by the performances, Loretta is now seeking professional acting opportunities and, in the meantime, is likely to audition for a part in the autumn production by the illustrious GHRC Players. "Emmerdale here I come, if they'll still have me!" said Loretta, who is also developing her business supplying vintage ceramics for special occasions.

Otilie will play the female lead in the *School of Rock* musical at St Aidan's School next term and is considering applying for stage school.

Evie Jeffrey, pictured right, said: I really enjoyed being involved in the show and meeting up again with friends and making new ones. I had heard of the Suffragettes before but didn't realise everything they had to go through to gain the vote for women and it's made me determined to use my vote in the future."



News from the pews

by David MacDonald of St Thomas' Church

As previously reported we now have a new vicar, Rev Sarah Feaster, pictured right, whose induction and installation took place at a splendid service in Great Ouseburn on 19 July in the presence of Nick Baines, Lord Bishop of Leeds, and Bev Mason, Archdeacon of Richmond & Craven along with many others including Sarah's husband Graham and two of their three sons. We warmly welcome Sarah and her family and look forward very much to getting to know them and working with her in the coming weeks, a feeling that I know is very much reciprocated by Sarah.



The next event on the agenda is the annual car boot sale which as usual will be held on Bank Holiday Mon 28 Aug from 9am to 1pm. Further details will be circulated soon but in the meanwhile start digging out those unwanted items which, you never know, may find another forever home

Nobody does it better

The editor reviews Sound of Cinema III by Collavoce at the Chapel of St Thomas, Green Hammerton, on 16 June.

Collavoce's latest concert was a quality production from the singing right down to the nibbles and professional programme design.

Choral director Catherine Field-Leather has drilled the singers into a very tight and focused unit, directing them with the seeming ease of someone at the controls of a hi-fi. Volume adjustments are precise and the pause button works well as she brings the singers to a halt for a moment then, with a flick of a wrist, prompts an ooh or ahh to finish off the piece or resume. If there was a dooby-do or pa-doo-wah (and there were lots of them) out of place I certainly didn't spot it. Catherine's

inimitable conducting and quirky quips all add to the entertainment. All this and she plays the piano at the same time!

The harmonies were fantastic throughout and I liked the mix of performances too. As well as numbers by the 27-strong choir there were several duets and solo pieces. Sarah Dent exuded ease and joy in duets Sisters and True Love while Julie MacDermott impressed singing in French (*La vie en Rose*). Church reader George Rowden revealed hidden talents in his performance of I've got Rhythm, waltzing with two of his fellow choristers in the instrumental break. Also adding a theatrical touch to the show was David MacDonald, getting into character in I Remember it Well and as plaintive Mr Cellophane (from *Chicago*). The other Green Hammertonian in the line-up was Helen Walsh.

Perhaps the pick of the solo performances was Gerri Keane singing What are you doing for the Rest of your Life? As with many of the other more reflective numbers, the silence between the notes spoke as much as the notes themselves. My highlight of the show was the "cocktail" of James Bond film themes in tribute to the late Sir Roger Moore. Nobody does it better? Well, no other amateur choir in our region, you can be sure of that. The concert raised £710 for St Thomas's.

Round up

• **Chatty Ramblers** continue to enjoy walks on the second Thursday of each month. Last month 10 walkers and five dogs enjoyed a very pleasant wander at Fountains Abbey followed by a some refreshment in the café. Pictured below, from left: Trish Howard, Chris Wallbank, Jayne Knights, Toni Ramsay, Chris Turner, Lindsay Cuncell, Andrea Barnes, Gill Blacker and Stella Craven.



• 1st Hammerton with Whixley **Brownies** will be 50 years old in October. They would love to trace their history for the current girls. If you were a leader, young leader or unit helper or know anyone who was they would love to hear from you. Please contact Sally on 339389 or email Mandy via 1sthammertonbrownies@gmail.com.

• Sky TV has recently been installed at **the Bay Horse** in the bar area reports Tina Clarke. Jon has been updating his Asian menu and new curries are now available on our specials boards. A psychic night is planned on Mon 21 Aug. See the pub's Facebook page for details. Advanced booking advised. Jon and Tina currently seek part-time staff in all areas. Bar and waiting staff need to be aged 18 or over, kitchen work is available for aged 16+ and housekeeping staff are also required. Contact Jon on 330338.

• **Karate classes** in Green Hammerton village hall are going from strength to strength, reports Di Tee. They are proving very popular with the local children as a way to stay fit while having fun as well as gaining confidence and learn self-defence techniques. These keen students are not resting on their laurels over the summer but continuing to attend classes during the holiday to achieve their next belt in September. Pictured from left are (back row) William and Alexander Holloway and Jake Perkins-Hill and (front row) Luca Poran and Henry Hale. Classes resume on Tues 4 Sept from 5 to 6.45pm. Beginners over five years welcome. More info from enquiries @martialartsforlife.co.uk or 568067



• Some of the region's **top young footballers** demonstrated their skills at the playing field in July. Sixty under 13 players from 10 secondary schools across the Harrogate & Craven district competed in two trials for next season after which the final squad was announced. "Due to the high numbers and need to maximise playing time for all the boys we had to use both the 11-a-side and 9-a-side pitches," said Norman Abusin of the Harrogate & Craven Schools FA.

• **Tockwith Show** takes place on Sun 6 Aug on the show field at Cattal Moor Lane, Tockwith, YO26 7QH. Tickets at £10 per person are available on the gate or buy online in advance for a 20% saving at tockwithshow.org.uk. Under 16s free.

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All news to paulkirkwood@talktalk.net.

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Family bike ride: castles in the air

by the editor

The Village Club was called The Cycle Hotel in Edwardian times when cycling was the latest craze. Cyclists took the train to Kirk Hammerton and onto Green Hammerton for rides in the country.

This 12½-mile route is a sort of back to front take on that principle. In short you take the train from Kirk Hammerton to Knaresborough and cycle home. The route weaves through a little known rural backwater along flat, quiet roads and farm lanes and passes two pubs and a new café. It's well suited to cyclists of all abilities from about 11 years and can be accomplished on all types of bike even though it includes a couple of short, rough stretches. Do the ride in a dry spell to avoid mud. It took me and my son Bertie, pictured below, and I two hours including rests.

And what are the castles in the air? One is Allerton Castle, which you get a good view of, perched on its knoll, as you depart Castle Farm and the other is the Allerton Waste Recovery plant which you also can't fail to miss. Perhaps the least said about that the better.



Directions:

Alighting at Knaresborough station don't mount your bike as you will want to push up the very steep hill and then stay on foot as you walk along the pavement of a one-way (the wrong way) street. At the corner of the marketplace turn right and, at the crossroads, keep ahead down a narrow lane that leads to the car parks. Now you can get pedalling. Turn left at the end of the Chapel Lane and over at the lights. Where the road bears left keep ahead down Charlton Manor Rd and, at the Sure Start childrens' centre, bear right onto Manor Rd. Turn left at mini-roundabout, proceed down hill, and at the end of the road turn left onto Chain Lane. After a parade of shops turn right at a mini-roundabout and out into the country.

Pass the Forest School, rugby club and Hall Farm. At a sign for Hopewell House Farm (visible ahead, with the large pediment) turn right. At Mill Farm pass to the right of two stone horses heads. The track takes you through the farm and the surface changes from gravel to grass. Pass through a fieldgate and keep ahead with hedge on the right and trees to your left. At Castle Farm pass through two

flimsy gates one after another to reach a farm track. Keep ahead on it as it bears right in front of grey barn then immediately left onto the farm's drive. At the road turn left to and through Coneythorpe. After the village, at the national speed limit sign, fork right and follow this very quiet lane as it loops up to the A1. At the end turn left to explore Arkendale or right to press on. Cross over the A1 then turn right onto the A168 (much quieter and safer than you'd think).



At Rabbit Hill, pictured above, fork left to pass through two width restrictions and onto a disused, gravel road. Pass through another width restriction. Ignore the first bridleway on the left and take the second bridleway a few yards further on which winds through a wood. At a large oak tree take the middle of the three tracks. At a T-junction of tracks turn right signed 'Ox Close 1 mile'.

Sadly this concrete estate road soon ceases to be a public right of way and the alternative bridleway is bumpy though still cycleable. At the top of a rise and as the road bears right turn left along a tractor track (no sign) keeping the hedge on your right. After 0.4 miles you reach a T-junction with a gravel track and sign for a permissive bridleway and footpath. Turn right then, after 100 yards and at a similar sign, turn left across a field on another tractor track for the same distance. Pass through a gap beside two fingerposts which leads onto a smooth track towards and past a new farmhouse (Ox Close). Continue past High Farm to reach a proper road. At the end of it turn right to Whixley and home.

Eating:

The Tiger,
Coneythorpe.
The Blue Bell,
Arkendale.
Spellow's Café,
Rabbit Hill. (Open
Mon 10am-3pm;
Tues-Sat 10-4pm,
closed Sun and bank
hols).

Train fare:

£5.40 for adults,
£2.70 for children.
Load your bikes via the doors with the bike sign.

Map: www.bit.ly/kb-to-gh. You can download it to your phone.

More local rides at greatbritishbikerides.net.

