

April/May 2016

Not so green Hammerton?

Landowners offer up swathes of the locality for potential long-term development

by Gilly Leather

For those of you who are not already aware, Harrogate Borough Council put out a call for potential building sites that could be looked at for development up until 2035.

Almost all the land around our village was put forward which on the face of it looks a very scary scenario (see the shaded areas of the map on the back page and www.bit.ly/hglocalplan for full details). However, it must be remembered that these are only areas that landowners are happy for the council to look at when researching where best to place the new housing stock that government is demanding. It does not mean that the whole area is going to be built on.

At our open parish meeting on 15 March we were given a very succinct and informative talk by David Gluck who, as part of his job, helps parish councils develop neighbourhood plans. He explained that if a parish council decides to put forward a neighbourhood plan this empowers it to have a much greater influence on the way building expansion is carried out albeit within Harrogate Borough Council's core strategy. Such plans allow local people as well as the parish council to encapsulate local knowledge and specific suggestions to HBC as to how and where development could most appropriately take place. Neighbourhood plans can take up to three years to formulate, require

input from local people and, more often than not, involve discussions with nearby parishes so that common concerns can be co-ordinated. There is a considerable cost involved but grants are available to help offset these costs. The new parish council (see p2) will have to decide whether or not to embark on such a plan. If it does then there would have to be a majority agreement by the local electorate before it can be put forward to HBC.

We still do not know when the Redrow or Linden development plans will go forward to the planning committee so please make your feelings known on the HBC planning website if you haven't already done so.

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Plans for our cycle route continue apace thanks to Jonathan Purday. He told us at the annual meeting that the new owners of the wood upon which the path will encroach are very keen to become involved with the scheme which is very good news.

This will be our last correspondence before a new parish council is elected next month. There will be at least two new brooms to sweep the village forward for the next couple of years when the new council will face some big challenges. To be extremely politically incorrect it would be wonderful to think that someone *not* eligible for a bus pass would stand for election and, as I am standing down, that some of our female parishioners may be persuaded to make sure that the blokes don't get all their own way!

And finally, for the very last time from me, please pick up your dogs' poo. Before you leave it where it lands, spare a thought for Daniel from St Anne's who is about to start on another year of voluntary verge cutting on our behalf. We are extremely grateful to Daniel and he should not have to contend with our dog waste. You will be reported to the dog warden if you are seen not doing so.

Book club still going strong ...

by Peter Morrill

Green Hammerton's very own book club, GH Readers, has been established for over 10 years and meets 10 times a year in the meeting room at the village hall.

The format is very simple. We read a book a month and meet on the third Thursday for a couple of hours to discuss it over a cup of tea or coffee and biscuit. The discussions are very informal and everyone is free to contribute as much or as little as they like. Books are chosen by the group well in advance so you have plenty of time to read them. We have a subscription with Boroughbridge library so most of the books are provided free and distributed and collected within the village. There is a small charge to cover the hire of the room and the subscription.

We choose from as wide a range as possible. The books can be contemporary or classic, fiction or non-fiction. Our aim is discover entertaining and interesting books that promote discussion and expand the range of our reading.

We next meet on Thu 21 April at 8pm to discuss *Vile Bodies* by Evelyn Waugh. The book lightheartedly dissects the lives of the 'bright young people' of young London society between the wars. After that, on Thu 19 May, we will discuss *A Spot of Bother* by Mark Haddon who also penned *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*. George is looking forward to a quiet retirement when his tempestuous daughter decides to re-marry to a deeply inappropriate partner. The fallout

from this takes its toll on George's mental health and provides rich comic fodder for Haddon's pacy prose.

If you want to reserve a copy of this book or want any more information about the reading group please contact me via 331162 or petermorrill@gmail.com.

... as are two other village groups

by Chris Turner

Green Hammerton's **Theatre Visiting Group** has also been going for about 10 years. How time flies. We have been many times to Harrogate, York, Easingwold, Leeds, Bradford, Scarborough and even made it as far as London. We have been to all sorts of productions including comedies, ballet, opera, drama and musicals. We book the tickets, organise the transport and you just turn up. The arrangement is ideal if you want to see something but your partner doesn't or if you live alone. More information from me via 331 306 and c.turner2011@btinternet.com or Dicky Black on 330207.

Chatty Ramblers has been running – or rather walking – for over a year now. We meet roughly every four weeks for a short walk of 1½ to 2 hours mostly around the village although during the summer we will perhaps go further afield. Our next walks are planned for Thu 12 May, Thu 9 June and Thu 14 July. Everyone welcome. For more information contact me as above.

Big quiz night coming soon

*by Chris Turner of Green Hammerton
Recreational Charity*

We reprised our November production of *Between Mouthfuls* to another sell-out audience on Sat 19 March. Over the two performances we have raised £1,174. Unfortunately Barry Atkinson was taken into hospital a few days before the March show but David MacDonald stepped in as understudy and did us all proud. Thank you so much David for saving the day. Barry has since had his operation and is recovering slowly but surely.

If you are interested in bridge and would like to get a table together for Thu 21 April from 1.30pm in the village hall please let me know on 331306. All proceeds towards the setting up of the country fayre which in turn is fundraising for three worthy causes.

Another of our popular quiz nights will be held on Sat 23 April at 7.30pm in the village hall. Tickets at £8 which includes supper from me on 331306, Carole Rutter on 331669 or Sue Holden on 330440.



Mike and Tom are top farmers

from the Northern Echo

Congratulations to Mike and Tom Powley of Elm House Farm in Green Hammerton who were crowned 2016 Northern Farmers of the Year at the third annual Northern Farmer Awards staged at The Pavilions in Harrogate last month.



The father and son duo began working the farm, pictured below, with 12 Hereford cross dairy cows in 1987 and their dedication to succeed has seen their operation expand to earn recognition as leading beef farmers. The pair accepted the biggest award of the night after already securing the Beef Farmer of the Year accolade which they dedicated to everyone working at their farm.

ITV Border News's Kate Walby, who hosted the event, told guests that choosing this year's top beef farmer had been the toughest decision the Northern Farmer judging panel had ever made. She said: "The judges were impressed with Mike and Tom's focus and determination on getting the best performance from their stock. They are exceptional at what they do and put a lot back into their land to ensure it is the highest possible quality which ultimately leads to a high quality herd."

• Do you know anyone else in the village who is a star performer? If so contact the editor. See details on p7.



Youth focus for theatre company

by Claire Jeffrey of Badapple Theatre



Our spring tour of the First World War comedy drama, *The Thankful Village*, pictured above, is about to get underway with performances at over 30 different venues including some actual thankful villages as well as Whixley village hall on Sun 10 April at 7.30pm. Written by Kate Bramley with music and songs from Jez Lowe, the show originally toured in 2014 to great acclaim. Tickets and full tour details from badappletheatre.com or 339168.

Our youth theatre actors stage a mini-performance titled *A Play for the Queen* on St George's Day, Sat 23 April, at 7.30pm in the Village Club. The young actors will share some scenes they've been working hard at putting together as part of the Club's celebrations to mark the Queen's birthday. Entry is by donation with proceeds going to the youth theatre funds.

Meanwhile, our youth theatre sessions at the Club on Tuesdays continue to go from strength to strength. We will add an extra session for ages 11+ from Tues 26 April from 7.15pm to 8.30pm. The earlier session from 6pm to 7.15pm will be for the 7s to 10s. If you are a young person (or know one) who would be interested in joining either group please do get in touch as above.

In other news we are beginning a fund-raising campaign for a new (much needed) Badapple Theatre van to support the 130+ shows we put on per year across the country. See our website for details on how to help.

School news round-up

by Laura Wells-Law of Green Hammerton School

We recently took part in the North Yorkshire County Council **debating competition** for primary schools (see pic, below). This took the form of a regional heat for each of the seven council areas held at the Council chambers in Harrogate. Six members of our year six debating club debated a topic entitled 'do you think our climate is changing?' in front of a judging panel, children from opposing teams and spectators. Points were awarded for delivery/presentation, content, facts and questions/answers. Our pupils did an amazing job. They spoke clearly, confidently and had great knowledge of the subject being debated. The judges agree: we won and are now through to the county final at County Hall in Northallerton in June.



The **Young Leaders' Award** (YLA) is run by the Archbishop of York's Youth Trust, a charity which works with young people to encourage them to 'be the change, the change you want to see'. A citizenship programme run in schools to help children make a difference in their local community and develop leadership skills, the YLA consists of six lessons on a variety of topics such as inspirational leaders and global community which culminates in a community action project. We are really looking forward to running this award, with our year five pupils next term.

This Easter we held our first **Easter** hat parade. As always the children amazed us with their creativity and we had some wonderful entries into our competition. The judges had a very difficult decision choosing the winners. We also hosted our first grandparent's lunch with huge success. The kitchen cooked 160 meals for our hungry children and guests. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the day which ended with a special dance performance from all classes. The Easter tea party was also as popular as ever and our Easter service was linked with the symbol of peace.

Our school rose to the challenge to raise money for **Sport Relief**. Each child ran his/her Sport Relief mile equivalent to 14 laps of the school field. Everyone did brilliantly well and received an ice-lolly and balloon for finishing. Special thanks to Miss MacCormack and the Sports Council for their organisation.

Friends plans Queen's birthday bash

*by Rachael Holloway of
Friends of Green Hammerton School*

Although it has been a very short half of term we have managed to fit in many events. Class one provided lots of cakes and biscuits to sell at the bake sale in an attempt to win this years' Great Green Hammerton Bake Off.

We had a lovely story night to coincide with poetry week and a very well attended disco. The final event of the term was the Easter teas which, thanks to all the grandparents that attended, raised almost £100. We are just about to order and pay for a leavers' hood for each of the year six pupils and hope to raise enough funds before the end of the year to buy some new staging.

Next term will no doubt be just as busy. One event we would like to draw your attention to is a family social to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday. It will take the form of a community street party to be held on the sports field on Sun 12 June from noon. Arranged in joint venture with the Green Hammerton Recreational Charity, the free event is open to all families. Just bring a picnic (there will be a barbecue too), chairs and a party spirit. Children can join in with a decorated royal crown parade and fun races. There will also be a family rounder's match and television coverage of the events in London will be shown in the village hall. Look out for more information on village posters and letters via school.

News from the pews

by David MacDonald of St Thomas' church

Greetings to you all. I hope you had an enjoyable and peaceful Easter.

You will no doubt be aware that our dear friend Barry Atkinson, who does so much for the churches in this parish, has been in hospital recently and so was unable to take the Good Friday workshop this year as he has done for several years. However, he had thankfully started preparing for the event so, with the help of our loyal group of church mums we were able to go ahead although of course it wasn't quite the same without Barry there. The children made Easter gardens and crunchy Easter egg cakes (quite an achievement in a church without a kitchen!) after which there was an Easter egg hunt, hot cross buns and a story about the dogwood tree. It was lovely to see so many children there and I think it is evident from the pic overleaf that they enjoyed themselves.

Forthcoming events include the annual Christian Aid lunch on Wed 18 May which Helena Leather will be organising as usual and the charity golf day at Aldwark on Wed 29 June arranged by our hardworking fabric

committee. Please try and support these important events in the calendar if at all possible.



Looking further ahead the church will be playing its part at the country fayre in July by serving refreshments and with musical entertainment from our local choir, Collavoce. If you would like to help at all please let me or Helena Leather know. Finally, don't forget our café church on the first Sunday every month in Whixley village hall at 4pm. Everyone – young and not so young – will be warmly welcomed!

- The church hosts a **Christian Aid Week lunch** at Green Hammerton village hall on Wed 18 May from 11.30am to 1.30pm. This year the theme is 'the week we love every neighbour'. We will serve a choice of homemade soup with bread, cake and coffee or tea for £6. Stalls will include produce and homemade goodies, a tombola and raffle while the plant stall will have bedding plants, tomato plants, herbs and more. Offers of help and items suitable for the stalls would be

greatly appreciated but most of all we hope to see you on the day. More information from Helena Leather on 330694, Angela Taylor on 330330 and Enid Fisher on 331031.

- The St Thomas's Church fabric committee has decided to hold another **golf day fundraiser** at Aldwark Manor following a very successful and enjoyable event last year. The day will take place on Wed 29 June 2016 with tee times from 1pm. There will be coffee on arrival and a half-way house serving refreshments with soup and sandwiches afterwards. Prizes for best team, longest drive etc. Entry fee is £120 for a team of four or £30 per person (and £20 for Aldwark members). Individual golfers welcome. Contact Steve Ross via 07976 268012 or spross32@aol.com to book a tee time.

Youngsters are on the ball

by Annabelle Polito

Weekly football sessions for reception and year one and two children are flourishing thanks to Neil Wealthall and his iPlay Soccer School and more clement weather.

The sessions take place every Saturday from 10 to 11am during term time on Green Hammerton playing field and cost £4 a session. Neil is an experienced, fully-qualified football coach and, as such, his charges have just successfully passed their stage one certificate level (see pic, below). Well done those lads!

We are always looking for new recruits especially girls so do come down to join us to see what we do. Neil is hoping to add a new session for year three and four children plus a girls-only class if the demand is there. Contact him on 07870 919769.



WI misses the Black Death

*by Elsie Rymer of
Kirk & Green Hammerton WI, 331641*

Amanda Kennerley spoke movingly at our February meeting about life for her and her family before, during and after her husband Simon's heart transplant. Thanks to the generosity of an organ donor Simon and the whole family are able to live full and active lives. The talk really underlined for us the importance of the National Federation of Womens' Institutes' campaign to encourage people to talk about organ donation.



Last month was very lively. We held our annual dinner, dubbed our 'spring fling' as it was later than usual this year, at The Masons in Hopperton. At our March meeting Colleen Devanney (pictured on the left in pic above) came in character in Viking dress with a large basket full of props and was ably supported by her best friend, our own Christine Bonnett (right). She began her talk by explaining Viking customs and healing practices, intending to progress onto early medieval medicine. However, the discussion became so varied and entertaining that she only just managed to briefly mention the Black Death in medieval times before we ran out of time!

George Rowden will endeavour to develop our 'twitching' skills by talking about birds in our area at our next meeting on Tues 12 April at 7.30pm in Kirk Hammerton village hall. Claire Spooner of Quaintrelle Hats is the speaker at the following meeting on Tues 10 May at Green Hammerton village hall. Both sessions start at 7.30pm and there is a charge of £4 for visitors.

Shop talk: sorting office under threat

with Christopher Hay

We were notified in February that the Royal Mail is reviewing its services across the YO postcode area and, as such, the future of the Green Hammerton sorting office is under review. The proposal is to move the facility to York which would impact current Royal Mail staff, add significant extra road miles and means that all undelivered parcels would be returned to York. The viability of the shop would also be affected due to lost revenues from Royal Mail. There is a petition in the shop and we have collected over 300 signatures so far. If you have not added your name and signature please pop in and do so to help protect this potential loss of a local service.

The latest news on the café is that we are awaiting planning permission. We have had very positive feedback so far and you can also add yours on the Harrogate Council website. We remain, as ever, hopeful for a positive outcome. However, due to the possible changes to the sorting office, we are going to put our plans for the café on hold until we know what is happening.

As part of my drive to enhance product ranges and with locally sourced items where possible we now stock Ultimate English Fudge from Harrogate. This has to be the yummiest fudge I have tasted for years!

Finally, I would like to say a big thank you to our newspaper delivery team. In particular many thanks to Rob, Mathew, Rachel and Dan for helping at very short notice when we lost a paperboy just before going on leave.

Country fayre in the oven

by Gill Singleton

Plans for the village fayre are now advancing at a pace. Our website has gone live – see greenhammertoncountryfayre.co.uk – and, to launch a promotional campaign, 10,000 flyers are being printed and distributed early this month followed closely by the publication of a 20-page brochure with editorial in the local press.

We now have a great team of volunteers and supporters in place and most of our events are already sponsored by local businesses. We are well on track, weather permitting, to having a successful day but we still need a number of small marquees, a PA system, tombola and raffle prizes.

A team led by Liz Powley needs help with preparing and serving afternoon teas. Cakes, tea and scones with strawberries and cream will be available from a tent on the green and church. If you can bake, serve and/or do the washing up then contact Jane Bannan, who is

drawing up a rota to cover the eight-hour event via jane.bannan@btinternet.com. "Many cakes can be frozen so you can be well prepared in advance," said Jane.

Most importantly we also need help on the preceding day and the big day itself, Sun 10 July, for car parking, ticket sales and stalls as well as the following day to tidy up the fields and the green. If you can assist in any way please contact me via gill552@btinternet.com and 339275 or Chris Turner via c.turner2011@btinternet.com and 331306.

News in brief

- **Green Hammerton Cricket Club** starts its new season on Sat 16 April and is still in need of new players writes Neil Phillips (07795 387441). With the light nights finally on their way the club will be holding net sessions every Tuesday at the ground from 6.30pm. If you would like to join us you will be made very welcome. Also if you could support the club by sponsoring a match ball that would be very appreciated too.

- Congratulations to the sole entrant and therefore winner of last issue's **caption competition**. The winner was Jimmie Martin who's line was: "A big crowd were present for the start of the tortoise versus the hare race where Simon was planning to reach Mack 1." The prize was a bottle of wine.



- The Harrogate & Craven Schools Football Association holds a **quiz night** at Green Hammerton village hall on Fri 16 April at 7pm. Entry is £6 per team member including supper and £3 for under 16s. Tickets and more information from Andy Johnson on 01937 588622.

- A **free CPR course** organised by the Springbank Health Patient Group is available at the surgery on Tues 10 May from 6.30 to 8pm. Contact Arnold on 07702 121386 to book a place.

- **Ainsty Farm Shop** seeks weekend staff and people interested in working at outside catering functions this summer. The vacancies are more suitable for those aged 16 and over due to the law on working hours. Please call in to the shop and speak to Stuart, Lily or Katie for more information.

- Stuck for something to do with the kids during the Easter holiday? Don't forget the **table tennis table** at the playing field. Bertie and I love using it. Bats are available under the table and come to Naworth House and we'll lend you a ball. Ed.



- Pictured above, Gail and daughter Hannah Reilly from Green Hammerton joined the crowds at York station for the return of the **Flying Scotsman** in February. Gail is the granddaughter of former Flying Scotsman driver Percy Hammond. She told the York Evening Press: "Having a family link makes it even more special. Because it's so local as well, it's great to be here."

- Jenni Kirkwood starts a new season of '**Dru yoga** in the garden' sessions at Naworth House on Mon 9 May at 6.30pm. See jenniyoga.wordpress.com.

- Don't forget to update or add any information about your village group or activities on the **Green Hammerton website**. Contact Steve Ross on spross32@aol.com who can make the changes for you. The village community resilience plan is among recent updates to the site.

- Tockwith & District Agricultural Society holds a **car boot sale** at the Tockwith show field on the May Day bank holiday (2 May). Sellers (cars £7, vans £10) from 7am and buyers (free admission) from 8am.

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