

Village View

The newsletter for residents of Green Hammerton

Aug/Sept 2013

Your shop needs you

*by Ian Bailes, chair of
Green Hammerton Parish Council*

Recent years have been challenging for most businesses with local shops perhaps struggling more than most as the supermarkets strengthen their hand by moving into online shopping and convenience.

Unfortunately we hear about the closure of rural shops and post offices too frequently with our neighbours at Kirk Hammerton and

nearby Helperby being just two examples. While our shop and post office has managed to survive through the downturn this year has become more challenging with sales dropping by 10 per cent and Camelot now threatening to remove the lottery which will have a big impact on the shop as well as the local community. Camelot has set a target of doubling lottery sales by mid-September to avoid the lottery being removed.

turn to p2

Walking tall

See p2



***FREE
INSIDE!***

**Two-page
colour pull-
out feat-
uring photo
galleries
from the
sports day
and promise
auction.
Pin it on
your kitchen
noticeboard
or the back
of the loo
door.**

We've all heard the well worn phrase "use it or lose it" but unfortunately this is the reality not only for the lottery but also for the post office and shop as a whole. One will not survive without the other. So what could you do?

- If you play the lottery please try and use the shop. The price is the same and every pound helps. Why not start a village syndicate?

- Use the shop and post office when you can. Gill and Mike know that the range is currently limited but if there is something you would like regularly they will try and stock it. We know you can't do your weekly shop in the village but just a few pounds each week really does make a big difference and you'd be surprised that many prices are cheaper than other local stores.

- Let us know what you would like from the post office and shop. E-mail clerk@greenhammertonpc.org.uk or speak to me in confidence and we will provide feedback to Gill and Mike.

Below: The shop in 1912.



I think you will agree that Green Hammerton will be a poorer place without the post office and shop. Even if you don't currently use it the loss of the facility does affect people's view of the attractiveness of the village as a place to live. Please help support us in maintaining the post office and shop both by supporting it whenever you can and letting us have your feedback.

Simon's birthday mountain treat for charity

by Simon J Mack

How do you celebrate your 40th birthday? Why not do the Yorkshire Three Peaks challenge on the big day? It's amazing what a passing comment in The Bay Horse over a pint or two and a number of practice walks can lead to ...

What I call a perfect 40th birthday is, indeed, going walking in a beautiful part of God's own county with a number of amazing friends and family and also raising a few quid for a worthy charity while you're at it.

It's 23 years this year since I needed open heart surgery so raising money for the British Heart Foundation seemed the logical thing to do. I wanted to show thanks and appreciation from myself, my family and friends to a dedicated band of surgeons, nurses, carers, researchers, manufacturers, etc by giving something back for ultimately saving and prolonging my life and to show them what a great job they have done for me and are continually doing for other people.

We completed the 24½-mile walk in 11 hours 20 minutes in great conditions. There was some sun up Pen-y-ghent, not too much rain up Whernside and it was overcast with a cool breeze for Ingleborough – with a couple of stops long the way to re-fuel. To date we have raised over £1,500 but we would be grateful for more donations!

With great pride and admiration I would like to publicly thank my fellow walkers, Alison

& Steve Ross and Sam Blacker, for their dedication on the lead up to the walk and during an amazing day. Thanks also to Andrea Barnes, our pace-setter on the practise walks, for her support. I would also like to pay tribute to our support crew on the day of Gill Blacker, Sue Holden, Barbara & Mike Taylor and Betty, the dog. They were a welcome sight to see and the cheese scones were amazing. Lastly, thank you to everyone who has generously donated and asked about the walk. I cannot stop smiling when the Three Peaks is mentioned. What a grand day out.

Holes need filling

by Gilly Leather, new correspondent for Green Hammerton Parish Council

I start my report with plea for two **volunteers**. Unfortunately, Lyndon Nicholson has found that with heavy work commitments and a new family he is unable to give the time he would like to the Council and felt it better he should resign. We are sorry to lose him particularly as during the short time he was with us he gave us our wonderful village website. It seemed that it was fashioned out of thin air in a matter of days which belied the huge amount of work he must have done to accomplish this valuable village communication tool which we can all enjoy.



Lyndon, we can't thank you enough.

His departure, however, leaves us with two gaping holes. We need to co-opt a replacement onto the parish council and acquire a **computer buff to manage the website**. If you think you could offer your services in either or indeed both these roles please contact our clerk Paul Whelan on 331030. We are an eclectic bunch with differing views ensuring that our meetings are never dull.

As you are aware perhaps the most pressing matter the council is dealing with at the moment is the **local development plan** with particular emphasis on the proposed building of 63 houses in our village. A response to the proposals had to be returned to Harrogate Council by the end of June. The documents involved were extremely complex and I, certainly, almost lost the will to live after the first few pages. Chris Chelton, however, devoted an entire weekend to battling through the most incomprehensible district council speak and produced a coherent and very comprehensive report in the correct format that encompassed all the concerns that had been raised during our previous meetings. In précis our main concerns are with access to the proposed site and the dangers that lie therein with increased traffic volume not just from our site but others along the A59; making sure that the infrastructure such as sewerage, drainage etc is adequately updated before building commences; that the style of housing enhances rather than detracts from the character of the village and that our school and surgery are able to cope with the population increase.

The **incinerator** saga rumbles on with yet more documents fashioned by the anti-plain English brigade and this time it fell to Paul Whelan to decipher and respond on our behalf. As the majority of the village opposes its construction the parish council does all it can to support the campaign to abolish the plan.

Pot holes get bigger and the highways criteria for repairing them seems to decrease accordingly but still we persist with great help

from our district councillor Chris Lewis in harrying the council in the hope that we will at last get to the top of their to do list.

To accommodate the less mobile, and flexible of us, we are hoping to exchange some of the more challenging stiles on our footpaths for **gates**. NYCC has agreed to supply some gates and we have a volunteer to fit them as soon as he is able. Also, Alistair Taylor intends to arrange for proper disabled access into Helenfield which I am sure will be widely appreciated.

To cut or not to cut some of our **verges**. That is the question. A question, I think, it is fair to say, that divides both the parish council and the village. After a disastrous attempt to engage our community in a wild flower conservation initiative we will regroup, having received more information from NYCC about its cutting policy and reviewed our legal obligation to always consider conservation in all our decisions. Hopefully before next spring we will achieve a compromise which will be acceptable to both sides. Whatever, the intention is to start in a very small way.

The rather more exciting topic we are addressing is the coming of the **Tour de France** to within inches of the village. We intend to invite representatives from all village groups to attend a meeting to decide whether we want to merely celebrate as a village or make a financial killing to boost our communal coffers. Paul Whelan attended a meeting on the subject and returned with lots of ideas and precautions to guide us. Watch this space.

I would like to thank all those who heeded my request in the last issue to stop **parking on pavements**. Boroughbridge Road is now exemplary, however the parish council would remind those who persist with the practice that as well as being dangerous for pedestrians, particularly as we have so many residents at both ends of the age spectrum, it is, in fact, illegal.

Den of iniquity in Green Hammerton

Another murder will happen in our village on Sat 21 Sept.

Who is the victim? And who is the murderer? There's only one way to find out. Tickets for our latest murder mystery will cost £12.50 and



include a two-course supper. (No spicy food involved this time; the spice will be in the entertainment!) Wine/beer and soft drinks will also be available. This event will book up early given the reaction to the one we staged last year so we recommend you book now. Tickets will be issued on a strictly first come, first served basis and numbers are limited because we need 'stage area'. Tickets from Carole Rutter on 331669 and Sue Holden on 330440. We suggest you leave all sharp knives at home otherwise Detective Inspector Andy Tover might have questions for you!

News from the pews (or news of the pews, even)

by David MacDonald, 330836

Those of you who have been into St Thomas' Church recently will have seen that there is a lot of extra space at the far end (officially known as the chancel) where the front choir stalls from each side have been removed. In case you haven't noticed they are now sitting for the time being at the front of the church. The removals have enabled the stonemason to replace the altar step which had become very worn but which is now looking very smart indeed. The space which has been created has given us something to think about and we are seriously considering leaving things as they are, creating room for other activities such as concerts, recitals etc. More of that anon. In the children's area at the back of the church, one of the pews has been turned round to create a more flexible seating arrangement.

The Whixley flower festival was a huge

success with visitors coming from far and wide to admire the superb flower display in the church and the private gardens around the village. The event raised over £8,000 for the church and congratulations go to Barry Atkinson and his team of helpers for such a splendid result, and thanks to everyone who supported it.

On the subject of fundraising (something never far from our thoughts!) plans are afoot for the grand car boot and table top sale to be held on the green on Mon 26 Aug which is the bank holiday. The price per car/table will be £8 (£10 for vans) with arrivals at 8am. The event will open to the public from 9am to 1pm. Refreshments will be available to help sellers and buyers keep their strength up. All proceeds will go to the church fabric fund and will enable us, among other things, to purchase new kneelers for the altar step and carpet for the children's area. So please tell all your friends – carbooters and sellers alike – to come along for a fun day out. For further information please ring 330694.

At the beginning of July we had our patronal festival on St Thomas's Day (of doubting Thomas fame). Have you ever wondered why churches are often called after a particular saint and who chooses the name? So have I. In the case of our church nobody knows for sure, although, interestingly, Ivan Andrew has a pretty plausible idea based on his encyclopaedic knowledge of our local history, involving no less a famous historical figure than Florence Nightingale. This could be the seed of an idea for an evening's entertainment in our newly enlarged chancel! Watch this space.

Promises, promises

*by Chris Nottingham of the
Green Hammerton Recreational Charity*

Our bi-annual **promise auction** took place on Sat 15 June, this year returning to the village green. The 53 lots included ginger biscuits by Liz Powley, homemade ice cream by Gail Reilly, homemade fudge by Sandra Harland, a watercolour of the green by Chris Chelton, a

walking stick and three-night break in Sandsend from Ian & Dicky Black and an evening of babysitting by Annabelle Polito.

A very breezy evening saw weather conditions repeatedly teetering on the brink of a downpour. Miraculously, auctioneer Russ Piper (pictured below) – direct from York Races – finished the sale before the inevitable happened. The heavens opened and many a gazebo was hurriedly dismantled in torrential rain, some having been blown away earlier in the afternoon. Despite the cool temperature, gusty breeze and torrential downpour of a finale the event made just over £2,000 which, while slightly down on previous years, signalled a successful and enjoyable event for all attendees.



Regrettably, the **sports day** was the poorest attended yet, weather probably playing a part. But everyone who came that had kids joined in, there was a good atmosphere, we had plenty of cake and more than enough tombola items given to go around. The event raised just over £180 which we halved with the church.



The fancy dress competition (pictured above) was keenly contested. First prize in the younger age group went to Jack Parnaby as Buzz Lightyear. Runner-up was Harriet Hymas as a cowgirl and third place was Mia O'Connor as a princess. Meanwhile, first prize in the older group went to Abigail Hymas in her outfit designed for "summer whatever the weather". Runner-up was Ethan Knights as a caterpillar and third place was Ben O'Connor as Bradley Wiggins, complete with sideburns! The judge was Fields in Trust photographer Les.

Still on a sporting theme, the village hall has taken delivery of a donated, **outdoor table tennis** table. Bring along your bats and ping-pong balls to enjoy this facility.



Our **AGM** on June 6 concluded a review of events that had taken place in the preceding

12 months, reviewed the charity's accounts and heard from the chairman in a review speech.

Our July committee meeting followed on from the AGM in confirming the the **re-election of officers** the with exception of secretary. Our committee is looking to fill this role as soon as possible and is interested in hearing for candidates and anyone interested in joining in any capacity. Please contact Brian Halling (chairman) on 331485.

Our next event is the **murder mystery evening** on Sat 21 Sept (see ad on p4). This is a highly popular event with previous events in Green Hammerton and Whixley so we suggest booking early to avoid disappointment. Tickets cost £12.50 which includes a two-course meal. Our **Hallowe'en ghost stories** night takes place at the end of Oct and then fundraising events for this year are rounded off with a **quiz** on Sat 23 Nov. For all tickets contact Chris Turner (331306) or Sue Holden (330440).

- The Fields in Trust photographer has produced a CD of photos from sports day. To view please contact Chris Turner on 331306.

Yee-hah! Get on down and hoe down

by Chris Nottingham of the village club

The height of summer has seen a number of positive developments. Firstly, following the automotive remodelling last year, the front wall has been rebuilt. Thanks go to Shaun Walsh for his efforts in reinstating this boundary. In addition the car park surface was cleared and levelled.

At the end of May the club held a successful charity barbecue and concert by the rock band 9-Bar. This raised over £90 for St Martin's Hospice as well as being an enjoyable evening for all.

Musical variety has been introduced in recent months with Country & Western evenings every four weeks. Dave Lee Harper started things off at the end of June with a great evening and Graham Metcalf will continue these nights on Fri 26 July at 8.30pm. Contrary to rumours these evenings are most definitely continuing every fourth Friday night for the foreseeable future. The big quiz continues every alternate Friday evening with the next on Fri 2 Aug at 9pm.

The next major event will be the solid silver 60s and 70s disco night on the Sat 24 Aug. No, it isn't a night exclusively for sexagenarians and septuagenarians! The event is for all ages and will transport you back through sights and sounds to two golden decades with music and optional fancy dress costumes. There will be a fundraising barbecue to accompany the music and feed the largest appetite.

So, if you fancy a change of scene come along to the village club and become a member. In addition to highly competitive drink prices, use of the club's function room is free to members engaged in non-profit related activities and is ideal for family parties.

Bake-off champs crowned

*by Rachael Holloway of
Friends of Green Hammerton School*



The summer term has been a busy time for FOGHS with us providing refreshments for a number of school events such as the sports day and mad hatter's tea party. We also had our last school disco of the year and crowned class one as the Great Green Hammerton bake-off winners. The bake-off has proved to be a really successful event, raising £385 in total, with class one raising the winning total of £118.

We ended the term with the annual barbecue (pictured above) and, although the weather wasn't glorious, we were glad of a dry evening for friends and families of the school to sit and enjoy some good food and even better company. Many thanks to Sue Holden and Dougie Mack for doing the barbecue. FOGHS would like to thank all our supporters over the last year and wish everyone a great summer.



Shining performances

by Neil Phillips, 07795 387441

What a difference a year makes! Saturday cricket is been played every week in sweltering heat. Both teams are having a good season the first team are mid-table and the second team have won two matches already when they normally only win one game a season so well done to them.

Still ongoing is our sponsor a brick in the score box available at £20 per brick when you can have a message of your choice on a plaque on your brick. Please call down on a Saturday and support your village cricket team.

We are still looking for new players. It would be nice to have more local people playing for the village team. Please if you are thinking of playing please comforward and give me a call on 07795 387441.

Prize winner booked

by Peter Morrill

There will no meeting in August. In September we will discuss *May We Be Forgiven* by A M Holmes. The winner of the women's fiction prize for 2013, the novel is a black comedy about a dysfunctional American family. Meetings are held at 8pm on the second Thursday of each month (except December) in the village hall. The next meeting is Thu 12 Sept. For further details see the village website or contact Peter Morrill via 331162 or petermorrill@gmail.com.

Playgroup hours extended

by Nikki Maw

Ouseburn playgroup is extending its hours and from September is able to offer full days (9am-3pm) as well as half days and an optional lunch club during term time. If you're looking for a fun, safe, caring and stimulating place for your 2-5 year old then

please contact us via ouseburnplaygroup@hotmail.co.uk or 339559 during session times.

Kirk & Green Hammerton WI

There will be no meeting in August. Both the September and October meetings are at Kirk Hammerton Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.

Barry Cundill will talk about Charles Dickens' secrets on Tues 10 Sept. The competition is 'my favourite Dickens novel and why' in no more than 10 words. The music of Andrew Lloyd Webber will be introduced to us by Ken Humphries on Tues 8 Oct. The monthly competition is an object to remind us of one of his shows. Please contact Margaret Andrew on 331158 for further information.

Oil's well

by Jane Bannan

The syndicate in Green Hammerton goes from strength to strength. Last time we ordered some 26,500 litres of the 60,500 litre order placed in total by the syndicate. Terry Pearson continues to get excellent prices. It's silly not to join but you do need email. Please contact me via janebannan@btinternet.com or 339442.

Village View

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