

Village View

The newsletter for residents of Green Hammerton

Autumn 2014

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Show boys walk the walk ...

by Steve Ross

Sam Blacker and I have completed Wainwright's 192-mile Coast to Coast walk to raise money for the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution and Yorkshire Air Ambulance. We started the walk on Aug 7 at St Bees on the west coast of Cumbria on what was to be one of the few very sunny days. A spectacular coastline eventually led us to our first glimpses of the Lake District. We finished our first day in good spirits at the community pub in Ennerdale.

Unfortunately things started to go down hill (weatherwise) halfway through the second day and we then endured a further four wet days traversing the Lake District. On the seventh day we crossed a very noisy M6 and waved goodbye to the Lakes to proceed towards and across the Yorkshire Dales. More spectacular scenery, some more wet weather and a few emerging blisters etc made the next few days enjoyable but still challenging. Crossing the peat bogs above Kirby Stephen is not one of our better memories!

After the Dales there was a long slog across the Vale of Mowbray followed by four days in the North York Moors where first glimpses of the North Sea once again helped to raise our spirits. But it was not until the final 19-mile day that the close-up views of Whitby actually made the thought of finishing the walk a realistic prospect.



Following the last few miles along the towering cliffs south of Whitby we finally and wearily descended into Robin Hoods Bay, a fortnight and wearily setting off. We dipped our boots and feet into the sea having done so at the start of the trek and, also according to tradition, threw pebbles collected from the sea on one side of England into the sea on the other. A champagne celebration was in order!

We would like to thank all of our friends and supporters for the many messages of encouragement and to all those who have generously donated to the two charities. We hope to have raised well over £2,000 per charity once all of the money has been collected. Further pictures and words can be found at the news section of the Tockwith Show website, tockwithshow.org.uk.

... and Jane's bike ride raises over £500

by the editor

Village hairdresser Jane Harden has raised £521 for St Michael's Hospice in Harrogate from a sponsored bike ride. "I'd like to thank all my sponsors for helping raise the money which is going to a great cause," she told Village View.

The 12-mile route from Ripley took Jane and her friend two hours to complete. "It was all uphill and awful although the weather was warm and not too hot for cycling. I didn't have any aches and pains but did feel a bit stiff a few days later." And would she do it again? "Up that hill? No!"



■ The Kirkwood family wishes to thank everyone that bought their plums. The sale raised a total of £53.64 shared between Oxfam and St Thomas' Church.

Grass management consultation

by Gilly Leather of Green Hammerton parish council

From next April North Yorkshire County Council will no longer be providing grass cutting services to our village except for sight lines at road junctions. Consequently, we will have to provide and pay for grass cutting in the future. The parish council has been divided about how we should manage our grassed areas but after much debate we have agreed upon a number of statements. We would now greatly value your views on each so that we can form a plan. Our objective is to please the majority of people while fulfilling our statutory duty to conserve wildlife diversity.

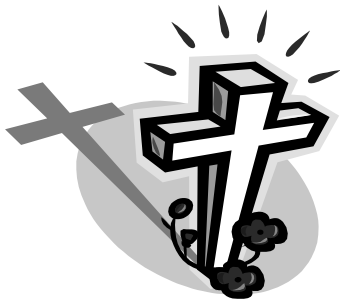
Very soon you will be receiving through your letterbox a short questionnaire which provides you with a chance to have your say. The views of all residents, including younger people, are highly valued. If your family requires further copies they are available at the post office or from our clerk, Paul Whelan at Ashby House which is the third house on the left down Bernard Lane. Alternatively, you can fill in an online version on the village website. The deadline for returned questionnaires is Fri 31 Oct.

Green Hammerton remembers

by Ivan Andrew

The parish council invites you to three events in remembrance of the Great War. Firstly, there will be a showing of the archive film, *Filmed and not Forgotten* arranged by Alistair Taylor for Fri 7 Nov at 7.30pm.

Produced by the Yorkshire Film Archive, the film aims to preserve, curate and most importantly give access to a collection of original film material of Yorkshire life during the war. Archive researchers have sought to identify individual soldiers and civilians with the aim of bringing alive their personal stories. A trailer is available at www.bit.ly/1yjtqgc. An evening of information, nostalgia and sadness will follow in the same venue on Sat 8 Nov at 7.30pm. No charge for either of these events but donations welcome to the Royal British Legion.



Finally, there will be a family service of remembrance at St Thomas' church on Sun 9 Nov at 10.30am.

News from the pews

by David MacDonald of St Thomas' church

By the time you read this I will hopefully have recovered from the benefice sponsored walk which took place on Sept 21. It started in Great Ouseburn and followed a circular route taking in all the churches in the benefice. The distance was 12½ miles which I realise is small potatoes for many of you more experienced walkers but was quite a stretch for yours truly!

The business of raising money for church funds is ongoing as many of you will appreciate. A busy year in this respect continues with the harvest supper and auction at Whixley village hall on Fri 3 Oct plus La Bella Quiz and old time music hall (see p7 for details).

Local food banks continue to look for our help and most store cupboards would benefit from a stock review in aid of the less fortunate. Remember there is a collection box at the back of St Thomas's for donations of non-perishable food and household supplies. The church is open every day during daylight hours.

Finally if anyone would like to give us any practical help in the running or maintenance of St Thomas's or is interested in joining the Whixley bell ringing team (no previous experience required) please call me on 330836.

■ A car boot sale organised by St Thomas's on the green on August bank holiday Monday raised £628 for the church's fabric fund.

"The first buyer turned up at 6.10am even though we didn't open to sellers until 7!" Mike Powley told Village View. Martin Leather added: "It was a great success even though the weather was not as kind as last year."

On behalf of the committee I'd like to thank everyone who helped with the event, the stall holders and Tancred Farm Shop for providing refreshments and their generous donation."



See new facilities at open morning

*by Laura Wells-Law and Josie Grainger
of Green Hammerton School*

We are holding an **open morning** on Sat 8 Nov from 10am-noon. There will be an opportunity to talk to the headteacher, governors, pupils and parents as well as take a guided tour of the school including our new early years classroom (see below) and outdoor area. You can also find out about the Hive, our before and after school club. Refreshments will be provided by our very active Friends of Green Hammerton School. If you are unable to attend you are welcome to arrange another time to view the school. Contact the school office via 330314 or admin@greenhammerton.n-yorks.sch.uk.

The old class three has now been transformed into the **new early years foundation stage area** which includes a secure fence, revamped shelter and new toilets. The classroom has had a makeover and now boasts new sand and water trays and role play resources. Soft pour tarmac has been laid behind the classroom to provide an all-weather surface.

Year six children took part in a **cycling proficiency programme** delivered by North Yorkshire County Council. They studied hard to learn their Highway Code and then progressed onto levels one and two which are the practical part of the training. All pupils passed with flying colours.

Our new starters, some pictured below, have settled in very well. For a pic of last year's class 4 see back page.



Friends furnish field

*by Rachael Holloway of
Friends of Green Hammerton School (FOGHS)*

We began the new academic year with our AGM and were pleased to welcome some new parents onto the committee. Last year was a very successful year with a total of £4,540 raised. This was used to fund the 140th anniversary circus day, furnish the outdoor area at the bottom of the field and provide outdoor furniture (see pic below). We will also be buying some new school sports tops for away fixtures.



Looking ahead to events for this term, we will have a welcome coffee, cake and chat in the hall on Fri 3 Oct at 2.30pm and then turn our attention to more seasonal occasions with Secret Santa and the Christmas Fair on Sun 7 Dec. More details next issue.

Mmmm: social events sound tasty!

*by Chris Turner of the Green Hammerton
Recreational Charity*

Tickets are still available for the **curry night** on Sat 4 Oct from 8pm at the village hall. For £15 you will get the chance to taste five delicious curries from various parts of the Asian sub-continent. No-one will go home hungry! For tickets or more information call Sue Holden on 330440, Carole Rutter on 331669 or me on 331306.

Ghost stories will be performed around the village on Sun 2 Nov from 5.30pm with the trail starting in the village hall. Tickets need to be ordered in advance from any of the numbers given above. Cost is £2.50 per child which includes the stories, a hot dog and a drink. Burgers, hot dogs, mulled wine, beer etc all on sale on the night.



A new **wine tasting** event on Fri 5 Dec takes the form of the classic Call my Bluff TV gameshow so that even people who know very little about wine can join in and enjoy themselves. Participants will be presented with seven or eight unidentified wines to taste. They then have to say which of three descriptions matches what they've tasted. Wines sampled can be ordered in time for Christmas. It would probably be a good idea not to plan on driving home! Further wine will be available to buy on the night. Tickets cost £8.50 per person which will include all the wine samples and nibbles.

Live music on club agenda

by Chris Nottingham of the Village Club

The height of summer saw the club host a charity barbecue celebrating the 70th birthdays of long-term members Dougie and Sandra Mack and successful return of the Coast to Coast walkers (see p2).

Autumn events include a band night on Sat 18 Oct featuring Pinx Tinker, a punky pop and rock covers party band from York, who will perform a selection of covers from Stereophonics, the Clash, Foo Fighters, Sex Pistols, REM, Free, Kinks, Radiohead and David Bowie.

We will hold a table top sale (a car boot without the car!) on Sat 26 Oct from noon. At £5 per table this offers a great opportunity to sell unwanted or craft items and find a bargain. We have a country and western night featuring Ken Barran on Sat 31 Oct and the club sees the return of the very popular Citizen Smith, a five-piece covers band from Yorkshire, on Sat 15 Nov. Their music combines an eclectic mix of today's modern day pop, with some classic rock, punk and indie.



Ladies that lunch

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

We visited Raby Castle in Co Durham in August on a trip organised by our vice-chairman. After a lovely lunch in the tea rooms we visited the castle and wandered around at our own pace enjoying the beautiful rooms, film show and talented pianist.

In September we learned about Bowen therapy, a complementary therapy developed in Australia which is useful for a variety of complaints. Two intrepid members volunteered as guinea pigs so speaker Kim Kinsella could demonstrate therapy for neck and shoulder problems.

Also in September we hosted the Marston Moor group of WIs' annual quiz. Eight teams from the five institutes in the group battled not only against each other but also with the varied questions set by Mrs Mays. Our team finished a creditable third.

We will hear about the Clandestine Cake Club from its founder Lynn Hill and the competition will be a cutting cake on our return to Kirk Hammerton village hall on Tues 14 Oct at 7.30pm. Visitors are welcome to join us for £2.50 per meeting. We will hold our AGM in Kirk Hammerton village hall on Tues 11 Nov.

Down Memory Lane special: the Green Hammerton bypass

September 15 marked the 25th anniversary of the opening of the Green Hammerton bypass from the A59. Peter Nixon recalls the big day and the rationale behind the road.

A relief road for the traffic had long been debated for Green Hammerton and a survey was undertaken in about 1936 by the then governing West Riding County Council.

Green Hammerton lies at the junction of three roads. Over the years the A59 key route linking the A1 with York has increased in importance relative to the Roman Boroughbridge Road (B6265) although the latter had priority within the village. The A59 carried nearly 8,000 vehicles per day in 1981 most of which passed through the village. (Below is an extract of an Ordnance Survey map showing the road layout in 1960).



The parish council led by James Leather monitored the mood of people as traffic steadily got heavier. Huge abnormal loads were routed through the village as they were often too high to get under some of the older bridges on the A1. Many villagers were against the construction of a bypass as it was thought that businesses would be badly affected, and Green Hammerton would become a ghost town! There was also concern that agricultural land would be absorbed by new roads.

Others residents, notably those living close to the narrow Boroughbridge Road, took the contrary view. An action group was formed in 1980 (see pic, below) and it expressed its views to North Yorkshire County Council and MP Robert Banks among others. The council responded with six route options on which villagers were invited to vote, 59 households responding.

The routes could be divided into two categories: a short route roughly where the A59 is now, with or without a link to the Boroughbridge Road at the north end of the village, and a long route roughly parallel to the existing A59 but much further south cutting across Kirk Hammerton Lane near to St John's care home. Voting was about even between the options and six households voted against a bypass all together.

The shorter option was eventually chosen but with no stoppage near Harlands at the north end of the Boroughbridge Road. A factor against the route was that residents of Kirk Hammerton and Parker Lanes would effectively be cut off from the rest of the village. A footbridge over the A59 was considered but later surveys indicated that this was not justified.

There was a gap next to (east of) the present surgery, which had long been earmarked for a bypass. However, it proved too narrow to accommodate the width necessary for fast moving present day traffic as generated by computer models. Villagers were shocked when an adjusted alignment necessitated the demolition of the house belonging to Mr & Mrs Geoffrey Saul.

Although the bypass was eventually scheduled for 1983/84 there was further slippage and then great jubilation when the big day arrived. The pic on the front covers shows Colonel Herbrand Dawson, chairman of the county council, cutting the ribbon and Robert Banks MP on the far right. Completion of the bypass was a spur for the construction of houses on Stoneleigh Gate and St Thomas's Way and also created a six-acre plot to the east of the surgery for the playing field.



Letter to the editor: Let's connect village to cycle network

from Jon Purday, North End, The Green

The last issue of Village View was a great reminder of the Tour de France and your recommended bike ride was a good continuation of the theme. I've cycled the suggested route a couple of times this summer, taking my bike on the train to York. It's a wonderful route but spoiled by the final couple of miles back into Green Hammerton along the B6265, the Boroughbridge road. That road can be lethal and I wouldn't recommend it for any family with a youngster that has the odd wobble. The traffic can be big, heavy and very fast and the road can be too bendy for a driver to see what's ahead and too narrow to pass a cyclist comfortably if another car's coming. So here's a suggestion that would give us a great Tour de France legacy and put this village on the cycling map and make the re-naming of the Cycle Hotel just the right move!

Would it be possible to upgrade one of the paths from Green Hammerton to Thorpe Underwood into a cycle path? That would link us safely to National Cycle Route 65, the excellent link to Benningborough and into York and beyond. There are three potential routes from the end of the green. All are established public footpaths and one is a designated bridleway for part of the route. One goes to Thorpe Green Lane and two go to Moss Hill Lane both of which are quiet back roads leading directly to Aldwark Bridge (pic below) and route 65.



I see dozens of children and families cycling down the green and quickly coming back because they can't go far. But a safe cycle route through to Thorpe Underwood would give families in the village a really useful amenity. In addition, linking directly to the National Cycle Network would give an added boost to the places in the village offering holiday accommodation.

I'm sure the idea of marking our Tour de France year with a safe cycle route would be a very substantial benefit to the village. I'd be interested to know if others share my view, and also whether it's an idea that the parish council could take forward? If so, please get in touch with me via jonathan.purday@gmail.com.

■ Letters are welcome on all topics. Send to the editor at the address on the back page.

Nature's gems on your doorstep

Words and pics by Roger Mattock

For those of you who enjoy observing nature or just fancy a nice walk why not visit Yorkshire Wildlife Trust's nature reserve at Staveley? To find it go into Minskip from Boroughbridge and take the right hand turn to Staveley. Just past the 30mph signs and before entering the village you will find a car park on the right. It holds about 20 cars and gets busy on a Sunday.

Entry is free and you don't need to be a YWT member. As you enter the Reserve from the car park you pass through a wildflower meadow with pond which attracts numerous species of dragonflies during the summer. I counted seven different species on one visit. Butterflies are also abundant.

Passing through three more gates the path leads round to a wooded area. Here you will find woodland birds including tree creeper, woodpecker, willow warbler and possibly tawny owl (chick, pictured right). As you leave the wood the path splits in two directions. If you take the left-hand path follow it until it splits again and turn left again to eventually reach a large hide overlooking the west lagoon. Its large hide is accessible by wheelchair.



Here, during spring and autumn, you will find a variety of waders and geese and, in summer, many species of duck. Some of these birds are resident all the year round; there is always something to see. You may even be lucky enough to see a rare visitor such as a glossy ibis, a bird usually found in southern Africa which I spotted in August.

If you take the path straight on from the woods the first hide you see is for keyholders only but if you carry on round you will find a second public hide overlooking the east lagoon, reed beds and birdfeeders. Here you will find reed bunting, reed warbler, sedge warbler and tree sparrow as well as many garden birds on the feeders. You may see a flash of blue as a kingfisher flies through especially from September onwards. In the winter keep an eye out for the water wail under the feeders. This reclusive bird is a member of the same family as the coot. In June to July in the flower meadow approaching the hide there is a small colony of rare bee orchids. Leaving the hide and carrying on you find a series of ponds with more dragonflies and newts.

The best moments of the year so far for me have been watching a family of hobby (a small bird of prey) hunting dragonflies and small birds on a regular basis



all summer. This is one of many birds of prey I've seen over the reserve including an obliging sparrow hawk (pictured left). A visit at dusk will almost certainly mean you will see one of the resident barn owls hunting. They have successfully bred on the site

this year. Two pairs of common terns have again also bred on rafts on the east lagoon this year. A highlight of any visit is a view of one or more of the otter family that are on the site. I have seen one at least half a dozen times this year on both lagoons.

I am currently compiling an illustrated talk about wildlife throughout the year on the reserve and would be available to show it to any local group that may be interested.

■ Do you have a favourite local spot to visit that other Hammertonians may not know about? If so, contact the editor at the address on the back page.

Message from Bad Apple Theatre

by Kate Bramley

Thanks to all of you who came out for the première of the new Daily Bread show in Green Hammerton village hall. As some of you know we had a few setbacks on the road to opening a brand new play and a very tricky first night for the solo performer. Apologies that we weren't quite up to full speed but a genuine thanks for all of you who have voiced support and encouragement.

Looking ahead to the winter season we have a new Jez Lowe music show, Cauld Feet Again, coming through on Sun 21 Dec. It's a jovial winter warmer to get you in the mood for the Christmas celebrations. We'll also see a return of the theatre show, The Mice Who Ate Christmas, to Kirk Hammerton village hall at some point. More details to come.

Thanks three times over

Dougie & Sandra Mack wish to thank everyone who sent cards and best wishes for their 70th birthdays in August. Dougie wishes to thank everyone who contributed towards and supported the barbecue which raised £600 for the Yorkshire Air Ambulance and Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution (see walk story, p2).

Finally, Dougie, Sandra and Katherine would like to thank everyone who sent cards and made phone calls during Simon's sudden and serious illness in August. The support we received from villagers and friends was wonderful and we're pleased to say Simon is on the mend.

News round-up

■ An Italian flavoured '**La bella quiz**' hosted by Sally & David Walker will take place at Green Hammerton village hall on Sat 18 Oct with a 7 for 7.30pm start. Tickets cost £10 (which includes great Italian food and wine) and are available from Helen Walsh on 331066 and Barry Atkinson on 331419. Proceeds to the continued work of the parish of Whixley with Green Hammerton.

■ A musical entertainment entitled **From Music Hall to Mons** will take place on Fri 14 Nov at the Village Club, Green Hammerton, starting at 7pm for 7.30pm. Fancy dress optional. Tickets are priced at £12.50 to include a classic Victorian-style two-course meal and are available from Mon 13 Oct from Rita & Malcolm Horner on 331428. No child tickets. Proceeds towards the maintenance of our two parish churches.

■ **Dru yoga classes** are being held in the village hall every Thursday from 6.30-7.45pm. Cost is £4. No need to book. Just turn up with a mat and blanket if possible. Dru yoga can help reduce back pain, headaches, anxiety, stress and depression as well as improve energy levels, mental clarity, happiness and general emotional well-being. Contact Jenni Kirkwood via jennikirkwood@talktalk.net or 331396.

■ Alistair Taylor is again seeking volunteers to help at **Helenfield** with bramble bashing, thinning and other tasks during the winter maintenance period. Preliminary dates (subject to weather) for working parties are Sat 19 Oct, Tues 4 Nov and Sun 7 Dec with more dates to be announced for Jan and Feb. Said Alistair: "Work days normally run from 9.30am to 3pm but please turn up at your convenience. Whether you can stay for just an hour or all day we will be pleased to see you. Also please wear robust boots and stout working gloves." To register interest or for further information contact Alistair via 330330 or alistairgreenhammerton@gmail.com.

■ Chris Turner is considering setting up a group called **Chatty Ramblings**. "My kind of walking involves lots of chatter, not too many hills or miles, a packed lunch and lots of stops to admire views," she said. "I don't know enough routes so I wondered if anyone would be interested in finding new ones with me. Nothing too structured. Please give me a ring on 331306 or email me on c.turner2011@btinternet.com if you are interested in principle in forming a little group of like-minded people."

■ Neil Phillips wishes to thank all who helped, attended or donated to **Green Hammerton Cricket Club's** horse race night which raised £485 for club funds. "It came at the end of one of the hardest seasons for the club for a long time," he said. "We are all looking forward to a mild winter and will re-group before nets start in January." Events coming up are the AGM on Wed 22 Oct at 8pm in the Village Club and presentation evening on Sat 15 Nov at 7.30pm at the

Anchor Inn, Whixley. Please call Neil on 07795 387441 for more information.

▪ Steve Ross is compiling a **Christmas events calendar** for the village website. If you would like to publicise your Christmas or New Year event, opening hours, holidays or whatever then please let Steve know soon as he plans to send something out early to mid-November. Contact spross32@aol.com or 07976 268012. Meanwhile, a slideshow set to music produced by Bob Clements to promote Green Hammerton in the Village of the Year competition in 2006 was due to be added to the website as Village View went to press.



▪ Congratulations to Helen Perkins who won the **competition** in the last issue to name the countries associated with the flags displayed in the village for the Tour de France (pic, above). Her prize was a case of Bicycale courtesy of the Rudgate Brewery of Tockwith. The runner-up (and, disappointingly, only other entrant) was Chris Holloway. The flags were, left to right, South Africa, Netherlands, Mexico, Sweden, Zimbabwe, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Brazil and the Republic of Ireland. Apologies to Julie Temple was unintentionally missed off the list of people who decorated the village for the Tour as reported in the last issue.

▪ Some villagers share their **Christmas greetings** in Village View by way of an issue sponsorship @ £15. If you'd like to do likewise then contact the editor.

▪ Next order dates for the **oil syndicate** are Oct 29 and Nov 28. Contact janebannan@btinternet.com.

A word from our sponsor

This issue of Village View is sponsored by Ackerley Park Kennels, a new boarding kennel facility in Nun Monkton. Underfloor heating in large, airy kennels, three walks per day plus a large, well-fenced play area. Selection of quality dog food treats. Day care also available. More info at ackerleyparkkennels.co.uk and from 01423 331239.



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All stories and pics to:
paulkirkwood@talktalk.net.

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Postscript: making the cut

by the editor

I tragically didn't have room in the last issue for this fab pic of class four pupils from Green Hammerton School at their residential week at a PGL site in Lancashire in June. But I have space now (just!) and like pics that naturally span two columns to round off the back page so here, rather belatedly, it is. How many of the bairns do you recognise?

