

Village View

The newsletter for residents of Green Hammerton

Christmas 2014 edition



John's story

John Clapham is one four people from Green Hammerton who died in the Great War. They are commemorated within a stained glass window in St Thomas' Church. Katharine Calvert (née Mack) tells his story based on her family's ongoing research.

John Thomas Edmund Clapham, my great, great uncle, was born in Green Hammerton in July 1899 to John and Mary Clapham. They were licensees of the Bay Horse and John Senior also ran a cycle works in the cottages opposite the pub. John Junior had three siblings, two of whom died in childhood. His older sister, Alice (my mother's grandmother), was born in 1892. John Senior died in 1905 but Mary continued to run the pub as a family business until her death seven years later. Alice then took over with husband Sam Mison (a touring farmhand from Norfolk) and other family members.

In 1917 at the age of 18 John Clapham was recruited by the army in York, joining the Prince of Wales's Own regiment. He became Private Clapham 53570 of the 21st battalion of the West Yorkshire regiment and, like many others, trained at Brocton Camp in Staffordshire.

Alice records in her notebook that he came home on sick leave during December 1917 and also returned the following February. The last entry we have so far of John coming home was recorded in March 1918 after which he departed for France. Our research also shows he spent time in Flanders.

Just days before Armistice Day, on the 29 Oct 1918 at the tender age of 19 John died of wounds received in action in France. He is buried in the small Bermerain Communal Cemetery in northern France. Tragically, Alice died just 17 days later of pneumonia and influenza. Who knows what effect John's death had on her as her notes clearly show a fondness of him. John was posthumously awarded the Victory and British War Medals as well as a citation and bronze plaque from King George.

▪ This account was first presented at the reminiscence and remembrance evening directed by Ivan Andrew which included other accounts by villagers of their relatives' experience of the Great War. Also see the back page for a press cutting announcing John's and Alice's deaths. Alice is buried in St Thomas' churchyard in an unmarked grave beside her mother.



Village could help boost government cycling targets

by Jon Purday

Last issue I proposed that a great legacy of the Tour de France would be a safe cycle route from Green Hammerton to Thorpe Underwood. By upgrading one of the three existing rights of way we could join the quiet back road to Aldwark Bridge and meet National Cycle Route 65 to York, the Moors and the Way of the Roses. There's been a positive response from families in the village with many offers of help, expertise and support coming in. The idea was also given enthusiastic backing at the recent parish council meeting.

I'm now talking to people who are in a position to help us at North Yorkshire County Council, Harrogate Borough Council and Sustrans, creators of the national cycle network. It turns out that our approach is very timely. In October the Department for Transport (DfT) published its draft cycling delivery plan which quotes the Prime Minister saying he wants to "kickstart a cycling revolution to remove the barriers for a new generation of cyclists". The plan's ambition is to double the amount of cycling in the UK. In November the department held a consultation in York which I attended along with 50 people from local councils, cycling charities and lobby groups. The consultation's leader, DfT's Naomi Green, talked us through the government's plans. She mentioned health benefits, the economic value of an innovative cycling industry and related tourism, the environmental benefits, and, underlying it all, she said: "Cycling safety is critical to everything we do".

The finalised cycling delivery plan will be published by the DfT towards the end of this year and then our local councils will be invited to put forward proposals that suit their particular areas. I came away optimistic that our idea of a safe cycle route fitted in with what's wanted. It will give children the chance to develop cycling confidence in safety, give families in Green and Kirk Hammerton a safe way into a network of great cycling routes and mean that pupils and teachers from Queen Ethelburga's who live in the village can cycle to school in no danger from rush-hour traffic. A route will be a lasting benefit to our community.

Now we know there's solid support for cycling from

every level of government and the potential to fund schemes that fit their aims I'm going to find out what interest there is from the local landowners whose land is crossed by the three rights of way. The step beyond that is to develop a feasibility study and a costing. I'm building a mailing list of everyone who has voiced their support for the idea of the Hammerton safe cycle route. Soon it would be a good idea for us to get together and work out how to make the route happen. If you want to keep up to date with plans and haven't emailed your interest then please get in touch via jonathan.purday@gmail.com.

Win Sunday lunch at the Alice Hawthorn



Chris Nottingham was snapped by Steve Ross at the family event at the Village Club in June. Can you think of a witty caption? Email your entry (one per household) to the editor, paulkirkwood@talktalk.net. Closing date: Sun 14 Dec.

The first correct entry out of the hat wins two Sunday lunch main courses worth £12.95 each at The Alice Hawthorn in Nun Monkton. The pub is open Tues 6-11pm, Wed-Sat 11.30-2.30pm and 6-11pm and Sundays 11.30-6pm. It has recently had a rave review in the Yorkshire Post. See bit.ly/1zGVbp and alicehawthornatnunmonkton.com.



Below: The recently repaired bridge at Little Ouseburn, one of several villages that could be linked with Green Hammerton by a cycle path.





Music hall night struck a chord

by David MacDonald

Didn't we have a wonderful evening when over 80 people plus performers squeezed into the back room of the village club for what has to be one of the big entertainment highlights in the village year?

It would have been virtually impossible to shoe-horn any more people into the room such was the response from the public. Malcolm and Rita Horner came up with the idea of having an old time music hall which was then skillfully transformed into full blown production by that well known theatrical maestro, Barry Atkinson.

Somehow he managed to persuade several residents of Whixley and Green Hammerton to participate in what was an excellent evening of songs from the halcyon days of music hall including a nice mixture of the comic and serious. The theme for the second half of the evening was more reflective of the time of remembrance and the centenary of the outbreak of the Great War. Harry Hickey gave a very moving portrayal of wartime life as a young soldier, interspersed with more songs from the company. The formal part of the programme was brought to a close with a very poignant performance of *Keep the Home Fires Burning*.

None of this would have been possible of course without the priceless support of our pianist for the evening, Anna Phelps, who dedicated a great deal of

time learning the songs, practising with the singers and then playing for the whole evening. She was a real a tour de force! Naturally there was ample opportunity for audience participation particularly at the end when Barry and Father Christopher (pictured below) led a sing-off of two popular Great War songs, *It's a Long Way to Tipperary* and *Pack up your Troubles*. In the best music hall tradition we all ended up singing both songs at the same time!

Everyone enjoyed a delicious meal at the interval with excellent meat pies (courtesy of Malcolm and Colin) and mushy peas followed by a variety of very naughty but tasty desserts supplied as ever by the ladies of the community. Special thanks also go to Mandy and Martin at the club for providing the venue and to everyone who helped on the night.



The event raised nearly £900 towards the work of churches in our parish. It may not have been the City Varieties but it was just as much fun!

■ Main pic, from left: Jill Norman, Chris Davey, Helen Walsh, Barry Atkinson, Pauline Lumb, Richard Cox, Julie MacDermott, Father Chris Parkin, David MacDonald, Harry Hickey, Clare Beckett, George Rowden, Jess Woodward and Anna Phelps. Pics courtesy of Steve Ross. More pics on p7.

Grass cutting, cycle path and shop all high on the agenda

by Gilly Leather of Green Hammerton parish council

Thank you to all those who returned our survey about our future grass cutting regime. Some 112 responses were received which is many fewer than half the households in the village. Those replies will now form the basis of discussions at the next parish council meeting. Full survey results will be made available as soon as possible but I can say that a clear majority strongly agreed or agreed with all of the questions. We are very grateful to all those who have volunteered to help.

An exciting topic being discussed is the establishment and funding of a cycle path between here and Thorp Underwood, an initiative which is being spearheaded by Jon Purday. See his full update on p2.

A major concern at the moment is the prospect of having no village shop. The council is gleaning information about different ways forward and any ideas would be very well received.

If you have any concerns that you would like to bring to our attention do pop a note into the mail box on the back of the parish notice board so that we can add your questions to the following agenda.

News from the pews

by David MacDonald of St Thomas' church

Since the last report we have bid a sad farewell to our friend, the Revd Jim Foster, who died aged 84 at his home in Marton-cum-Grafton at the end of September. Those of you who knew Jim will remember with fondness the services which he conducted at St Thomas' from time to time and the inspirational quality of his preaching, reflecting his diverse character and experience. Before his ordination Jim spent many years in education, culminating in his position as head of St Aidan's in Harrogate. His was without doubt a life well lived in the service of others.

The sponsored walk was very well supported. We managed to raise over £100 for our church which is a good result indeed although slightly shaded by John and Helen Barton of Marton who netted £700 between them!

It has been a very busy couple of months for social events, including a very successful quiz night. Huge thanks to David and Sally for a great evening, everyone who helped to make it possible and, of course, all who supported it. Green Hammerton village hall was crammed as was the Whixley hall for that other big autumn event, the harvest supper and auction (which seems to sell out earlier every year), and the village club for the music hall night (see story, p3).

Which brings us to the fast approaching Christmastide and another busy few weeks in more ways than one. By now you should all have received a greetings card from the church with details of all the additional services in our benefice during Christmas and Lent.

Needless to say the work of our church here relies on the valued support (practical as well as financial) of many people who give their time unstintingly, including Helen Walsh and her team of cleaners and flower arrangers; Liz Hines and her Sunday's Cool team, Eleanor, Rachael, Katie and Julia, who help with parish praise; Martin Leather, tireless chair of the fabric committee; and its hard working members; Paul and Julie Whelan; and last but certainly not least, our vergers, Helena Leather, whose ever present support is invaluable. To everyone involved in the life of our Church, our sincere thanks and to all members of our community and their families, warmest wishes for a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

School news round-up

by Laura Wells-Law and Matt Burman of Green Hammerton School

▪ Former **Olympic gymnast Craig Heap**, below, was star guest at a meeting of our school sports councillors. The purpose of his visit was to inspire the children and to assist them with leadership training.



▪ Class two pupils are busy learning songs for this year's **nativity** entitled Prickly Hay which tells the story of Sam, the stable boy, and his friend, Shrew. Parts have been allocated and lines are being learnt for our hoe-down style performances on the afternoon of Wed 10 Dec and evening of Thu 11 Dec. Please contact the school if you would like to join us.

▪ Class three pupils have been working hard on their **multiplying and times tables skills**. As part of this work they were set a challenge of working in small teams to design, make and evaluate a new board game which would help other children practise and improve their multiplication skills. When their board games were finished the children had the chance to trial each other's games and gave feedback.

▪ Our **open morning** was very successful with families old and new coming to look around our Ofsted graded 'outstanding' school. Thank you to everyone who helped or came to visit. If you missed the date and wish to look around and talk to the headteacher contact the school office via 330314 or admin@greenhammerton.n-yorks.sch.uk.

Friends chip in with top tops

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

This is one of the busiest times of year for us with our main event, the Christmas fair, nearly upon us. If you are free on Sun 7 Dec please join us in the school hall between 2 and 4pm. We will have refreshments and lots of stalls, including tombola, jarbola, crafts and, of course, Santa's grotto. Free entry.

Other recent events have been the school disco starring the ever enthusiastic Jason from Shuffles Entertainment. We also have Secret Santa and the Christmas party to look forward to.

We are pleased to have been able to provide school with 30 sports tops with the Green Hammerton logo for KS2 pupils to wear at external sporting events. We used the money raised from last year's bag packing fundraiser. Two year four pupils are pictured below modelling the kit at a recent cross country race.



Popular Christmas concert comes to village hall

by Claire Jeffrey of Badapple Theatre

Jez Lowe and The Bad Pennies will perform their Christmas show, *Cauld Feet Again Pet*, at Green Hammerton village hall on Sun 21 Dec at 7.30pm.

Durham-based songwriter Jez has put together a unique take on Christmas in the north supported by his multi-talented band The Bad Pennies which includes fiddle, Northumbrian pipes, keyboards, guitar, bass, vocals and special guest, Geordie folk balladeer and actor, Benny Graham. The show is part folk concert, part music hall revue with songs, humour and music done the way only Geordies know how but with plenty of appeal for audiences further south as testified by sell-out shows and return performances from Surrey to Northumberland.

Tickets from Bad Apple via 339168 or badappletheatre.com.



▪ **STOP PRESS:** There's another chance to see *The Mice who Ate Christmas*. It is being staged at Kirk Hammerton village hall on Sun 30 Nov. Ticket information as above.

Putting the fun into fundraising

by Chris Turner

We received very good feedback from the children for our ghost stories for Halloween. Very many thanks to the Kirkwood and Holloway families, Luke Reilly, Amelia Renny and David MacDonald for preparing and acting out the stories as well as Sandra Harland, Ivan and Margaret Andrew, Brian Halling, Liz and Ellie Hines and Ian Bailes for helping with the decorating and clearing up afterwards. We made around £150 which is not bad when we want to just provide a fun evening for everyone rather than raise loads of money.

However, our next event is a full fun(d!) raiser: the Call My Bluff wine tasting on Fri 5 Dec. Tickets cost £8.50 which includes all taster wines and nibbles and are available from Carole Rutter on 331669, Sue Holden on 330440 and me on 331306.

Looking forward to the New Year do please support our quiz night scheduled for Sat 7 Feb. It's never too early to book your tickets from one of the committee members mentioned above.

Meanwhile, may we wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and give special thanks to all of you who have attended our events again this year. Because of your fantastic support we have been able to order 100 comfy chairs, news that we expect will be greeted by many happy faces!



Down Memory Lane



Here's a picture from a Christmas fayre held in the old Reading Room by St Anne's home in 1991. Behind the table are, from left: Sandra Bilborough, Pat (who used to be in charge at St Anne's) and Mrs Rios (who still lives down New Lane). To the right of the table are two of Pat's friends.

WI is all about cakes and birthdays

by Elsie Rymer of Kirk & Green Hammerton WI

We were joined in October by Lynn Hill who established the Clandestine Cake Club in the Leeds area. She told us how club members arrange to meet at a secret location bringing with them a cutting cake for sharing over tea and coffee while socialising. Lynn explained that cutting cakes are key since they encourage interaction during serving in a way that individual cakes don't.

The food theme continued for four members who attended the pesticide residues in food presentation in York the next day. They gained an insight into the tightrope farmers need to tread to ensure healthy crops without harming consumers as well as the legislation and security checks in place to ensure public safety.

Our AGM constituted the November meeting. Next year will be particularly exciting as it marks the centenary of the National Federation of WIs and our

own 85th birthday. Many events are in the pipeline at national, federation and local level. Sadly, our president, Susan Bowe, has had to stand down having completed her three-year term of office. We now welcome Ann Johnson as her successor along with some new committee members with fresh ideas. The meeting was not all business though since our treasurer devised a fiendish quiz and Liz Powley entertained us with verse.

Ladies in Pigs will tell us about their role in promoting British pork and demonstrate three recipes for us to taste at our next meeting at Kirk Hammerton village hall on Tues 9 Dec at 7.30pm. Visitors are welcome for a fee of £2.50. We will also host the Marston Moor group of WIs carol service at St John's Church in Kirk Hammerton on Thu 11 Dec at 2pm.

For more information please contact either Ann Johnson via 01904 738541 or anneandwilliam@tiscali.co.uk or me via 331641 or sunny.bank@talktalk.net.

Sky high total for ambulance

by Chris Nottingham of the Village Club

A huge sum has been raised for the Yorkshire Air Ambulance by a charity event organised by club chairman Paul Evans. A jumble sale, raffle and ambulance pop-up store generated sums of over £130, £300 and £200 respectively. In the evening local band Citizen Smith played a concert to a very good audience during which there was a 'nearest pound to the bottle' competition featuring a bottle of bubbly donated by Bookers wholesalers. Total proceeds from the day are still to be announced. Paul is taking advantage of a charity match-funding scheme operated by his employer, Barclays bank, which will see the donation doubled.



Thanks to Dougie Mack and Phil Jackson for the loan of equipment and their efforts towards the barbecue and to everyone who contributed to a successful day.

An extremely busy weekend for the club was completed by the music hall event (see story, p3). Opening hours over the Christmas holiday were being finalised as Village View went to press. For details please see our website, villageclubgreenhammerton.co.uk.

Ben steps up to the plate

by Neil Phillips of Green Hammerton cricket club

With the 2014 season now over we re-build for 2015. The first team has a new captain in local man Ben Harden, pictured, while Paul Harker is the new second team skipper.



We start nets in January on Tuesday evenings from 8-9pm at Tadcaster cricket school. Please keep an eye on local notice boards and village website for the date of first net. Sessions will continue until April when coaching begins at our ground with qualified coaches. Players are of all ages are welcome. For more information please call me on 07795 387441.

Co-ordinators briefed by police chiefs

by Bill Smith, Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator

Insp Ed Noble and Supt Mike Walker of North Yorkshire police recently gave a presentation to Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators about the future police operational model. The main points included:

- The North Yorkshire police manpower requirement is 1,392 officers plus 183 communications officers. Front line officer numbers will be ringfenced at the expense of management posts to achieve budget cuts.
- There is a new strategy for investigating routine crimes by telephone investigation by experienced officers. This is claimed to be much more effective than sending constables out to investigate and enables many more incidents to be dealt with faster.
- As most crime in our county is committed by criminals from outside it there will be a large investment in additional automatic number plate recognition equipment to help detect incomers' movements and interception.

At village level the simple message at this time of year is be vigilant. Protect your property by having some of your house lights on timers making it look like you are at home. Most attempted break-ins are opportunistic so why publicise you are not at home? Plug-in timers are very inexpensive so there is no excuse.

News in brief

- **Kirk Hammerton Singers** present A Christmas Festival on Fri 19 Dec at 7.30pm at St John's Church, Kirk Hammerton. Tickets £5 (children free) from Nigel Robertshaw on 331081, Les & Janice Hornby on 330154 or on the door.

- The last date for collection of **garden waste** for recycling is Tues 9 Dec. The service is then suspended until March.

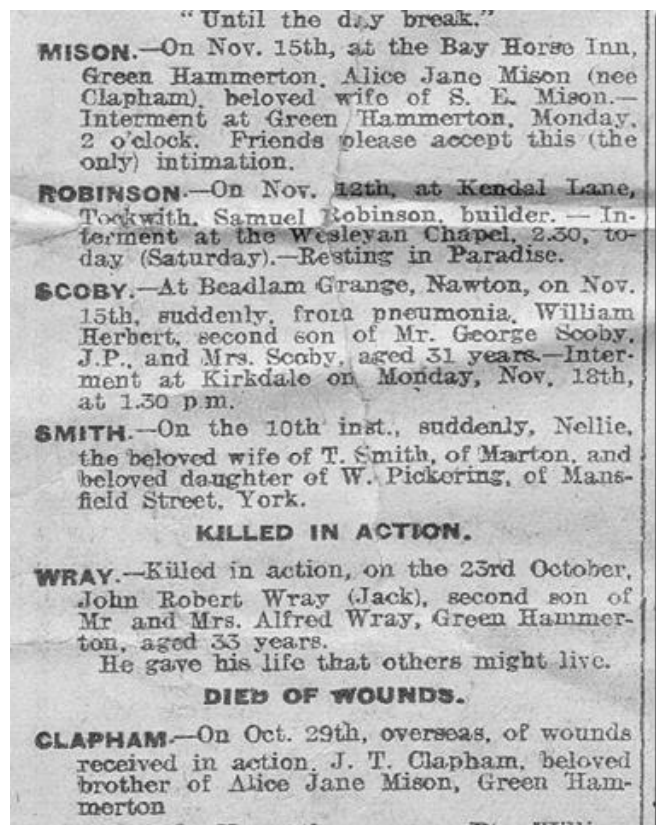
- Next **oil syndicate** order date is Mon 5 Jan. "Oil prices remain low and the price we got on the last order, 45½p per litre ex-VAT, was the lowest I've seen it since for five years," said Jane Bannan.

Photo extra: music hall night



Harry Hickey, ex-Hammertonian and grandson of Ian & Dicky Black, played the part of a young soldier. Rita & Malcolm Horner had the original idea for the old time music hall. Full story on p3.





See first and last two entries plus front page lead.

A word from our co-sponsors



▪ Ian & Dicky Black wish all their friends in the village a very happy Christmas.

▪ Brian & Lindsay Cuncell wish everyone a very happy Christmas.

... and seasons greetings too from the editor to all readers and correspondents.

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All news to paulkirkwood@talktalk.net.

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Parting shot

by the editor

The white horse of Kilburn at Sutton Bank (also coincidentally pictured on p6) was repainted last June and now stands out all the more clearly from our village as you may have noticed. We're 15 miles away as the crow flies. This view was taken off New Lane in late September.



(this graphic is all I could think of to fill this little bit of unwanted space – Ed).