

Village View

The newsletter for residents of Green Hammerton

Whitsuntide 2014 edition

Grass cuts

by Chris Chelton of
Green Hammerton Parish Council

Spring is in the air and it is that time of year when sunnier weather brings on the gentle hum of lawnmowers at work and gardens burst into colour. So it is not surprising that most recent protracted discussion within the parish council concerned our grassed areas and how to manage them, particularly in advance of this year's Open Gardens.



Our individual views are polarised between regularly cutting all areas or adopting a more relaxed regime that allows areas of grass to remain uncut for much of the year. The latter is said to introduce a natural corridor for wildlife into the village, as is being trialled on the corner of York and Harrogate Road where wild flower seeds have been sown. One of the wettest and windiest Monday evenings of the year saw parish councillors trying to shelter under their brollies, agreeing those areas in the village that do need to be regularly cut. These include the A59 corner, where many will stand to watch the Grand Depart cycle past, and areas around the churchyard and school. An equally wet-through Richard from Garden Grooming was on hand to take instruction on carrying out this cutting and strimming including preparation of the beds adjacent to the old Reading Room where poppy seeds will be planted to commemorate the centenary of the Great War.

By coincidence only two days later our clerk received a letter from North Yorkshire County Council giving notice that, as part of next year's cost cutting of services, all cutting of verges and grassed areas will cease with the exception of those having a road safety implication. Guess that means we will be managing all these areas and more on a permanent basis from 2015 so we either look at the budget to contract the work or put out a call to volunteers

"Your village needs you"... oh, and your lawn mower.

Watch out for new signage on the Harrogate Road entrance to the village, near to the village hall. NYCC Highways have refused to move the old 30 mph signs nearer the B6568 junction to include this part of the road so we have paid for our own that warns motorists to: "Slow down. Our children play here". Similar signage is being considered to address concerns about speeding in Meadowvale.

As always your views on all issues are very welcome, so let our clerk or any of the council know or come to one of our meetings and have your say.

'A FAMILY NIGHT OUT IN THE EVENING SUN'

Sat 14 June from 7pm till midnight

***at Stirke's Barn (next to Main Furniture),
Green Hammerton***

**Adults £10, under 11s £5
and under 5s free
or at door (no food) adults £7.50
and under 11s £3.50**

**Full price includes hot roast pork sandwich
and apple pie (half sandwich for under 11s)**

Band, disco, children's activities and tombola

**Licensed bar selling real ales, lager,
cider and wine
plus children's drinks, sweets, etc**

**In aid of St Thomas's Church fabric fund
and GHRC**

**For tickets call Sam Blacker 07889 200401,
Martin Leather 330694 or
David McDonald 330836.**

School on song

by Laura Wells-Law of Green Hammerton School

Our KS2 choir recently took part in a **choir festival** hosted by Queen Ethelburga's School in its King's Theatre. Songs sung with other choirs included a Mary Poppins medley, You Raise Me Up and This Little Light of Mine. We also had the opportunity to perform a song on our own. A huge thank you to Mr MacDonald for supporting this and for coming into school each week to work with the our singers.

Next time you visit **Springbank Surgery** look out for our wonderful artwork. Children from throughout school have contributed towards some bright, vibrant, creative work that is on show for patients to view and enjoy.

As announced in the last issue of Village View provision is being extended to include **pre-school** children from Sept 1. Plans are well underway to develop a new foundation stage unit for 3-5 year olds. Prospective parents are welcome to contact the school office to arrange a visit and meet the headteacher. Application forms are available from the office and on the school website, green-hammerton.ik.org.

To the wonderful **Year 6** pupils that are leaving Green Hammerton Primary School this year. Alex, Ben, Caolan, Finlay, Harvey, Jake, Amelia, Astrid, Ellie, Katie, Kathleen and Mena, you have all been an absolute pleasure to know and work alongside. You are a very talented, enthusiastic and inspirational group of young people who have a very bright and exciting future ahead of you.

Friends prepare for birthday

*by Rachael Holloway of
Friends of Green Hammerton School*

We continue to work hard to raise funds, most recently from a bag pack at M&S in Wetherby which raised an impressive £373.39! Many thanks to the families that gave up their time on a sunny bank holiday Saturday to help pack bags. The money raised from this will be used to buy sports kits for away fixtures. Our Easter teas and class bake sales also helped boost the coffers.

We are pleased to announce that we are funding the installation of some beautiful oak 'storyteller' furniture in a new outdoor curriculum area at the bottom of the field. The area will commemorate the founding of the school in 1874. A grand unveiling is scheduled for Fri 27 June when we will also celebrate the school's 140th birthday with a visit from Circus Sensible. The children will be treated to circus workshops throughout the day followed by a show after school.

The following Friday (July 4) also promises to be lots of fun as we are involved in the family fun night at the village club. Our end of year barbecue will take place on Sat 19 July.

Three bad apples coming soon

by Kate Bramley of Bad Apple Theatre

Here's a final reminder of the events coming up at Green Hammerton village hall.

Tues 10 June, 7.30pm: **The Thankful Village**. We still have a few seats left for this new comedy-drama about the women of the Great War which is, as I write, half way through a national, 50-date tour. The audience response has been super thus far so don't miss it! Tickets at £9.50 and £5 for under16s.



Thu 3 July, 7.30pm: **A Midsummer Night's Cycling Dream**. Enjoy a night of classic comedy with our scratch Shakespeare summer pageant featuring six Badapple professional actors we know and love supported by a team of community performers from murder mystery fame and beyond! Anything could happen with this script-in-hand Tour de France-inspired adaptation of the Shakespeare classic. Supported by GHRC and Harrogate Borough Council. Tickets: £8 and £5 for under 16s.

Sat 5 July, 7.30pm: **Jez Lowe's Fest noz Français**. Wine and song, good humour and dancing with award-winning songwriter Jez Lowe performing tunes and songs from the Celtic, Breton, Northumbrian and modern folk traditions. Forms part of the Yorkshire 2014, the first ever arts and cultural festival to precede the Tour de France. Supported by GHRC and Harrogate Borough Council. Tickets at £10 and £5 for under 16s.

To book ring 339168 or visit badappletheatre.com

Help sought for Open Gardens

*by Chris Turner of the Green Hammerton
Recreational Charity, 331306*

We had an amazing cookery demonstration earlier this month. The Great British Menu contestant, Stephanie Moon, showed us how to prepare lamb in various ways and also rhubarb. We literally had a feast, every mouthful was delicious and all for £12.50! I am sure everyone that came felt they had more than value for money.

In order to prepare for Open Gardens, we need to undertake a little tidy up around the village on Sun 1 June. It should not take long and if you have a couple of hours from around 10am we would be happy to see you outside the old Reading Room. Please bring a brush.

We have arranged for NYCC to cut the grass verges a couple of weeks before Open Gardens and Harrogate Borough Council has agreed to sweep the roads on the preceeding Friday. If you normally park your car on the road during the day then, if at all possible, could you remember to park it elsewhere to give the sweeper the best chance of making our village look its best for visitors?

We are still looking for help with the various jobs on the day, Sun 15 June from 11am to 5pm. Please call me as above. Liz Powley (330246) also needs plants and seedlings for the plant stall. All proceeds will be split 50/50 with St Thomas's Church.

Please note that sports day has been postponed.

- We are having problems with golf balls! The playing field is not the place to practise golf for many safety reasons and we would appreciate it if you could either speak to anyone you see playing or contact a committee member so we can deal with it.

Wake up and smell the coffee

by Annabelle & Tom Polito

There's a tempting new reason to drop into the monthly village book exchange and coffee morning after the introduction of so-called 'proper' coffee for any café aficionados out there. We have invested in two cafetieres to offer an alternative to the usual Nescafé fare or tea in response to one regular turning up with his own brew. It turns out he wanted a slightly more genuine coffee experience; he can now leave his Thermos flask at home!

The book exchange and coffee morning will be in full Tour de France mode on Sat 5 July from 10am to noon. All the action from the first day of the race will be streamed live in the village hall. Come and enjoy the spectacle with a croissant and the best

coffee in town while Sir Bradley burns up Buttertubs Pass. See you there! Berets optional.

Don't forget, coffee mornings (ordinarily held on the second Saturday of the month) are open to all organisations, charities and village groups to run as a fundraiser. Ring us on 331993 to book your slot.

News from the pews

by Helena Leather

Barry Atkinson stood down as church warden after 20 years faithful service at the annual meeting of the Whixley with Green Hammerton parochial church council held in March. David MacDonald has been elected in his place. These changes will be marked at a service on Ascension Day (May 29) at Whixley at 7.30pm followed by a faith supper. All are very welcome to attend.

The Good Friday workshop was a popular event as usual with the children creating an Easter garden and other art work as well as enjoying an Easter egg hunt. The springtime concert in April organised by Dicky Black was a great success. The young soloists sang beautifully as did the choir and a delicious meal was enjoyed by all. The funds raised for the church are much appreciated.

On the day the Tour de France comes past Green Hammerton we are planning to provide tea, coffee, croissants, cakes etc to take away or enjoy at church from about 8am. Offers of help and items to sell etc would be very welcome.

Finally, our Christian Aid lunch was a very sociable and enjoyable occasion as usual. The takings currently stand at £530 but we anticipate this will increase somewhat when further donations are included. Thanks very much to all the helpers and everyone who attended and gave generously.

Make that Horatio-ooh Nelson!

by Elsie Rymer of Kirk & Green Hammerton WI

At our April meeting we were expecting Ivan Andrew for a serious history lesson about Lady Emma Hamilton and Lord Horatio Nelson but instead Alexander Davison arrived in full period costume. Mr Davison is a great friend of Horatio Nelson but not so great a friend as to keep his secrets. He proved quite amenable to dishing all the dirt not only on Emma and Horatio but also Emma's husband!

Four members represented our WI at the annual federation council meeting in Scarborough. After a morning business meeting we had a most interesting talk from Jane Robinson about her recent book: 'A force to be reckoned with: a history

of the Women's Institute'. This publication is very timely as the WI will celebrate its centenary next year.

We hosted the group rally at Green Hammerton village hall (below). This is an annual event where our five local WIs get together for supper and entertainment. Our speaker was Rachel Wilkes of Ducks and Daffodils who told us about the Flowers from the Farm Network, a support group for growers of British flowers. She showed us how to make hand-tied bouquets, posies and corsages which were raffled at the end of the evening.



At our May meeting Larissa Collins spoke about belly dancing, demonstrated some of the key styles and then invited six brave ladies to have a go! We fielded two teams for the federation quiz. The 'A' team scored a very respectable 73% at Easingwold while the 'B' team scored 69% at North Duffield.

Cluny Chapmen will give a talk entitled 'Sheep to Shawl' at Kirk Hammerton village hall on Tues 10 June at 7.30pm. In July we will be partying again at our "summer meeting" (WI code for a faith supper and natter!) at our president's home. Visitors are welcome to join us at a cost of £2.50 per evening. Contact either Susan Bowe on 330651 or me on 331641.

News in brief

- The **cricket** season is well underway and both Green Hammerton teams have already chalked up a win. New players are always welcome particularly as the holiday period approaches. The club was recently forced to play a cup game with only eight players. To join call Neil Phillips on 07795 387441. A horse racing night with a difference is being held at the village club on Fri 11 July at 8pm.

- The **Tockwith & District Agricultural Society** wishes to thank everyone from Green Hammerton who supported its first 'food, flower and fun day' at the showfield. It was a great success and hopefully will be repeated next year. The archery lessons proved to be very popular as did the gardeners' question time, the various cookery demonstrations and children's activities tent.

- There has been an increase in **shed and out-building burglaries** in the villages around Boroughbridge since the beginning of April, reports Bill Smith, our Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator (331461). Great Ouseburn, Marton-cum-Grafton and Upper Dunsforth have been most affected. Its likely that the offenders are travelling across fields to get into rear gardens and then using an implement to force open locked doors. Please check that your out-buildings are as secure as they can be.

- Please remember that the **village website** has a comprehensive events calendar and email system. If you wish to promote any event, activity, club or local business contact Steve Ross via spross32@aol.com.

- **Superfast North Yorkshire** is two-thirds of the way through its programme. Residents of Green Hammerton are on track to get their superfast fibre by the summer. Further update next issue.

- No winners in **last issue's competition** to identify the pop song titles hidden within the headlines. The answers were: "Hurry up, Harry" by Sham 69, "Ooh, la, la, la, Let's go Dancing" by Kool & The Gang and "Shake your Groove Thing" by Peaches & Herb. (Ah, that was my era – Ed.)

A word from our sponsor

The Friends of Green Hammerton School would like to take this opportunity to thank the families and friends of the school for all their support in recent years. The school continues to be an important part of the village and is proud to be celebrating its 140th birthday this year. Thanks to the dedication and hard work of its headteacher, staff and a fantastic group of friends and families, it continues to go from strength to strength and provide an excellent start for so many children.



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