

# Village View

The newsletter for residents of Green Hammerton

June/July 2018

## ☀ Inside your colour, ☀ 12-page summer special:

Scarecrows galore –  
p4 and back page



Get to know your  
damselflies – p11



All dressed up and somewhere to go  
– p3 and centrespread

What's up down  
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## North riding

*by the editor*

Ten or so 40-something cyclists from the Green Hammerton Cycling Club are training to pedal to Whitby and back on June 23 in aid of charity. Dubbed 'the Whitby 150', the 150-mile return trip with 12,000 feet of ascent and ending with a celebratory drink at the Bay Horse will raise money for Breast Cancer Now, the Alzheimer's Society and the Green Hammerton junior football club.

The unofficial club was formed four years ago by because of the distances involved for local cyclists joining clubs in Harrogate and York.

Member Tom Polito told Village View: "We meet on Sundays at 7am all year round and do two or three long rides per year such as the Tour de Yorkshire Sportive. Mostly we try to get in a ride of 40-80 miles to places like Ampleforth and Fountains Abbey before getting back for children's sporting commitments. A café stop is an essential part of any route! Most of us have a turbo-trainer or static bike to keep fit during the winter months."

New members are welcome. Contact Tom on 331993. Donate to the Whitby 150 via [justgiving.com/crowdfunding/whitby150](http://justgiving.com/crowdfunding/whitby150).

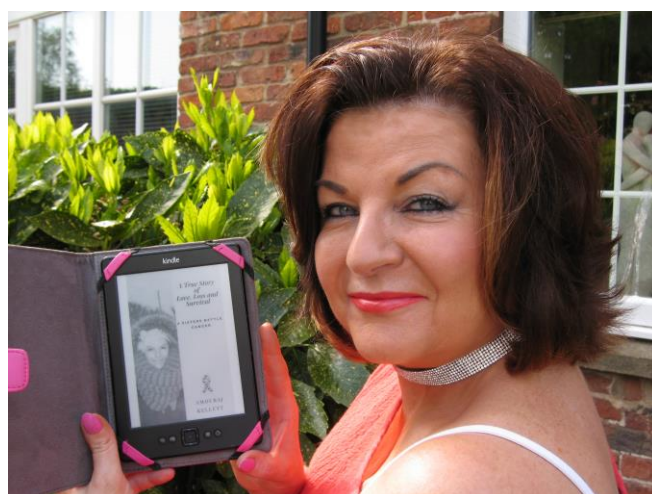
Pictured, from left, are: Tom Henry, Kevin Smith, Tom Polito, Rob O'Connor (all from Green Hammerton) and Mark 'Bryn' Jones. Other cycle club members are Justyn Ashford, Jim Wardle, Giles Cuncell and Nick Coad.

▪ Tom's wife, Annabelle is in training for the one-mile Great North Swim in Lake Windermere in Cumbria on June 9. Full story next issue.

## First-time author keen to share story

*Jane Kellett, who moved to Cowley Mews from York three years ago, has published a book about her experience of cancer. She tells Village View about her inspiration.*

Just over six years ago within three months of each other, my two sisters and I were diagnosed with cancer. One sister and I had breast cancer and my other sister kidney cancer. Having lost one sister previously and my parents to the disease, it would be fair to say this was a challenging time of my life. My sister with kidney cancer did not survive.



I am now six years in remission and for five years it was like being on death row. A year ago after feeling completely beat I knew it was time to start living. In order for me to do that, I had to make some massive changes. I decided by writing a series of books I could share my techniques and help others. Before doing this I had to start by asking why? This is one of the reasons I published my first book, *A True Story of Love, Loss and Survival: four sisters battle cancer*. It was a means of release, enabling me to let go of past experiences that were holding me back.

The thoughts surrounding this period of my life were locked in my memory, somewhere in a box in the depth of my recall bursting to get out and be set free. My book allowed this to happen. It enabled me to breathe again. I will never forget but I will not let the past define my happiness today. I am extremely lucky to be given the gift of life and I intend to make the most of it. Should my blog or books help just one person then my efforts have been worthwhile.

My book gives an account of my choices and experiences, my upbringing and the loss of my sister aged only 34, the more recent loss of my second sister and how I managed to pick myself up to embrace the gift of life and appreciate the simple things. My experience has given me the confidence to embrace change. It has built within me an inner resilience and a hunger for life experiences.

• Jane's book is available on Kindle from Amazon priced at £2.97. Search using her nom de plume, Amouraj Kellett. She also blogs under the title *Mission Self-Reset* at [amouraj.co.uk](http://amouraj.co.uk).

## Villagers have a ball

by the editor

Tables were full with 83 diners at the Royal Wedding ball at the village hall on May 19. Guests were welcomed by Harry and Meghan who had hotfooted up from Windsor Castle after the ceremony. ('To the tower!' for anyone that suggested they were Rob and Julia O'Connor in disguise).

Preceded by cocktails and canapés, dinner consisted roast pork followed by raspberry cheesecake after which there was dancing to the sounds of live band Citizen Smith. The ball was the first event to be organised by the new-look Green Hammerton Recreational Charity social committee. Proceeds were shared between the charity's running trim trail, Keep Green Hammerton Green and Badapple Youth Theatre.

"Thanks to the Ainsty Farm Shop for the fabulous meal and Chris Turner for giving up her evening to run the bar for us," said lead organiser Jenny Hymas aka Her Royal Hymas. "We've got a family barbecue in the pipeline but haven't properly discussed it yet as we're still recovering from the ball!"

• See picture special on centrespread.

## Quiz is answer to fundraising

by the editor



Dave & Sally's Quiz Night at the village hall on May 27 was another sell-out and raised nearly £1,000 for St Thomas's Church and Church of the Ascension, Whixley. The winners were the Singapore Slingers with 89 points, repeating their success at the quiz three years ago. Joint runner-up were the Lost Gardeners and the Ruttells with 86 points. Eight other teams took part including the wonderfully named Three Broads and One Brain.

Here are three sample questions for those unable to make it:

1. Which tennis player, despite being ranked in the world top four in 1988, 1989 and 1990, refused to play at Wimbledon due to the tournament's strict players' dress code of predominantly white?
2. Which North Yorkshire landmark measuring 97 m long and 67m high was covered up during the Second World War in order to prevent it being a navigational aid to enemy bombers?
3. Where within a five-mile radius of Green Hammerton is there a church called St Helen's?

Answers on p10.

Thanks to quizmaster Dave Walker and scorer Sally Walker as well as main organiser Helen Walsh. The excellent Asian street food (worth the admission in itself in my view) was cooked by Liz Powley ("the force majeure", said Dave), Sue Holden, Enid Fisher, Caroline Hartley, Rachael Holloway, Pauline Lumb and Chris Turner with Margaret Andrew and Tina Clarke helping serve. David and Judy MacDonald organised the raffle, Michael Walsh served behind the bar and Liz and Sheena Powley set up the tables.

The winning team is pictured (from left) front row Simon Renny, Rachel Holloway, Abi Hindmarch, Caroline Hartley and, back row, Chris Holloway, Rob O'Connor, Julia O'Connor, Simon Hartley and Eleanor Renny.

## New councillors appointed ... and more urgently needed

Two new councillors, Rod Aungier and Chris Jackson, were elected unopposed to Green Hammerton parish council following the local elections last month. They join chairman Ian Bailes and John Lambert. More councillors are urgently needed. If you're interested please contact Ian via [i.bailes@btinternet.com](mailto:i.bailes@btinternet.com). In the meantime, let's have some introductions, chaps ...

### *Rod Aungier*

I am a recently widowed man who moved from Kirk to Green Hammerton two years ago. I have three children of my own, three step-children and one cat. I have always enjoyed village life having been a bell ringer for 30 years and playing rugby for local teams until old age made me wiser. I am originally from Bedfordshire.



My work and primary interest centres around people and healthcare and I specialise in childhood trauma. I would have to be described as a willing novice in terms of being a new parish councillor but I do bring an understanding of diversity and interpersonal communication to the table. I am confident of my own integrity and ability to act in the public interest. I believe a key skill is my ability to support and promote in an objective and impartial manner.

My late wife served Green Hammerton as a lollipop lady years ago and she was an inspiration to me in many ways. I hope to honour her memory by serving the diverse interests of Green Hammerton as keenly and honestly as she lived her life alongside my own motivation to contribute to the community I belong to.

Hobbies include bell ringing, volleyball, football (watching) and walking (I love those walking meet-up

groups). I do enjoy the local quizzes (especially when I'm on the winning team!) and like travelling to Continuing Professional Development workshops and pretending to learn stuff while having a good time.

### *Chris Jackson*

Originally from Darlington, my wife Annie moved to Green Hammerton seven years ago. We very much enjoy living here and plan to stay. We have two children in their early 20s who were educated locally. I qualified in medicine at Guys Hospital, London, in 1979 and have recently retired after 30 years service in senior medical officer posts in the Royal Army Medical Corps with several regiments including the Yorkshire.

I have many years of experience in sitting on a variety of committees and working groups where managing change, optimising resources and applying diplomacy are often required. I have also had some budget responsibility. I do not relish the thought of meetings but understand the need to exchange ideas, gain feedback, assess priorities and form some sort of strategic plan.

I enjoy walking, golf and fishing and have a strong desire to preserve our wonderful countryside. I am keen to contribute to village life and think I have some skills and experience that may be useful on the parish council. I consider myself as very approachable and am always happy to help if I can. I totally understand that I am here to represent a balanced view of all of us who live in this special village.

• Chris is pictured at the Royal Wedding ball on the front page, seventh left.

## Scarecrow festival draws the crowds

*by Annabelle Polito of Friends of Green Hammerton School*

For one day in May the population of Green Hammerton and Whixley increased markedly with an influx of straw figures and lots of people to look at them! The inaugural Green Hammerton and Whixley scarecrow festival, organised by FOGHS drew the crowds from far and wide to come and see the varied creations that residents had made on the theme of 'a day at the movies'. From Mary Poppins to Donald Trump the scarecrows entertained and amused us in equal measure. The day concluded at Whixley village hall with a well-attended family hoedown and prize giving. Congratulations to the Armstrong family from Whixley whose Peter Rabbit won best scarecrow. Runner-ups were the Lee family with Moana and third place went to the Blanchard family for their Charlie and the Chocolate Factory creation. The event raised £1,846 towards new school iPads.

Much hard work went into ensuring the whole day ran smoothly and thanks must go to all who donated their time to make it happen. We must mention Paul Hines who volunteered his time to create the trail map for us, Morrisons who donated some of the hoedown food, the



fabulous local band Decadence and our excellent compère on the night, David Greenwood.

- See picture special, back page.

## Farewell to a familiar face

*by the editor*



Daniel Robinson of St Anne's has left the village for pastures new, quite literally. After six years at the shared house on The Crescent he is returning to the Botton Community and farm near Danby in the North York Moors which is home to about 90 adults with learning difficulties.

"I will miss the social club, mowing the verges and following the building and farming activities around Green Hammerton," Daniel told Village View. "I've also enjoyed helping out with events like the car boot sale where I did the parking. I'm looking forward to doing the same kind of thing at Botton starting with its open day on July 1. Gardening and farming jobs will keep me busy which is how I like to be. I'll also be able to use farm machinery." The village is closer to his parents too.

Daniel's departure leaves just three residents at the St Anne's home, Yadviga, Billy and Robert, with two vacancies to fill. They, the staff and residents from two other St Anne's homes in Boroughbridge gave Daniel a big send-off at his farewell garden party on May 26.

From left: Daniel Milloy (crouching), Daniel Robinson, Louise Farmer, Wayne Owen, Billy Craven and Yadviga Baranski with Robert Kell (seated).

- If you could take over Daniel's verge cutting duties on York Road please get in touch with the parish council.

## Cool cows make Mike a media man

*by the editor*

Mental health at work is a high profile issue and plays a key part in the contentment and success of Mike Powley's cows as well as his growing media profile.

Mike's latest exposure came in the Channel 5 series *Springtime on the Farm* on April 13. The week-long series was made by the same production company as *The Yorkshire Vet* and was co-presented by Adam Henson of *Countryfile* fame in the style of BBC1's *Springwatch*. The show was broadcast live from Cannon Hall Farm in Barnsley but included a short film of a calving at Mike and father Tom Powley's Elm House Farm at the bottom of the green in Green Hammerton.

Mike takes up the story: "Our vet is Rae Beans and Partners of Boroughbridge. Julian Norton, who starred in the *Yorkshire Vet*, has recently switched to the practice. The TV producers were looking for locations to record trailers for the *Springtime* series and approached Julian. He knows us and our unusually quiet cattle that would be ideal for the role so he recommended us. While Julian was here one of our cows was to due to calve so the TV crew decided to capture it on film then returned later to film the calf's first steps."

Mike is shown at work with calving ropes and then, after a successful delivery (see film still, front page), tapping the calf on the head and prodding straw up her nose to stimulate the first gasps of air. The cow needed help as she was a little bit too laid back or what Mike described in the film as a "TTP cow" which means "too posh to push". "Funnily enough the camera operator in the pen was 8½ months pregnant!" he recalled.

Mike's beef suckler herd is unusually co-operative. "Our breeding is based on south Devon cattle which are ridiculously chilled out, friendly and inquisitive. We also never herd the cattle with dogs or quad bikes which means we can get close up to them easily. The calves takes their cues from the cows. It's a learned behaviour. The benefit of calmer cows is that we can work with them safely and more easily. Like employees if cattle aren't nervous or stressed they seem to do better. We have a selection of calls we use with them. The first time I call they stop and listen. The second time they usually call back at me and the third time they come back up the field to me. They also respond to 'come on' and 'go away'."

In the past Mike has hosted many farm walks for his supply chain which includes buyers from Asda and parent company Walmart as well as the ABP abattoir at Murton in York. He has previously appeared on *Countryfile* and *Farming Sunday* on a satellite channel as well as various promotional and educational videos.



# Village View does 'Hello!' at the Royal Wedding Ball







Pics by Julea Cook. Report p3.



*Still to come ...*  
 Mary and Malcolm  
 remembered – p8  
 Bell ringers wanted – p9  
 Down Memory Lane – p10

## Obituary: Mary Nixon

Born 24.5.34. Died: 26.4.18

*by Peter Nixon*



Mary was born in Mumbles, south Wales. She later moved with her family to nearby Swansea and then to Leeds where she joined the electricity board as a cookery demonstrator in front of packed audiences. Few people observed me on the back row waving my arms indicating that she should save the choicest portions for our dinner!

We were married at St Chad's Church in Headingley and had our first child, Jacqueline. I got a job as a geologist in Uganda thus relieving Mary of paying my university fees. By the next leave two years later we arrived home in the UK with two more baby girls, Sally and Katherine. Penny arrived during our next tour in Uganda.

Mary entered fully into social life including tennis and swimming and organising cooking in the Entebbe Club on the shores of Lake Victoria. She was also a star attraction in the old time music halls in the city. If time permitted she would also accompany me on safaris into the bush, siting boreholes for water mostly for local schools and missions.

When Idi Amin became president of Uganda it was necessary to bar our windows and take precautions against shooting and civil unrest. Thus, after nine years in the country, we moved to the Lesotho in southern Africa where I had studied the geology prior to meeting

Mary. She and the girls loved the country and riding the mountain ponies. After another six years I was posted to Papua New Guinea. Mary constantly accompanied me on shorter research trips to India, Sri Lanka, Australia, Brazil, Solomon Islands and other countries.

Green Hammerton continued to be our home. Mary helped organise regular sponsored church walks and taught at her Sunday club in St Thomas's church and, in the 1980s, organised the nativity plays.

## Malcolm remembered with a quiz

*by Roger Mattock*

Villager and fellow quiz team member Malcolm Horner sadly passed away on March 15. He had been a quiz contestant at the Bay Horse for many years, first coming over from Whixley and then from his home in Green Hammerton. A customer of the Village Club too, Malcolm was a proud Bradfordian with a passion for rugby league and the Bradford Bulls, of course.

I arranged a memorial quiz at the Club on April 28 which was attended by over 40 people including his widow Rita and other family members. We raised £370 from the entry fee and raffle, a sum that was split between Marie Curie and St Michael's Hospice in Harrogate at the family's wishes. They would like to thank everyone for supporting the event.



• Roger is pictured with Rita (right) and her daughter Fran.

## News from the pews

*by David MacDonald*

Restoration work continues as ever on our Grade II-listed Chapel of Ease with completion of the re-pointing of the beautiful stained glass east window above the altar. Before the scaffolding was removed the hard working fabric committee took the opportunity of cleaning the glass inside and out which was not a job for Windowlens and a leather but a painstaking exercise with cotton wool and distilled water! Many thanks to Martin Leather and his team. (See colour pic, p11).



During the process of moving the altar to accommodate the scaffolding unfortunately it came apart. However, one of our residents, Peter Barker, who has a joinery business in Nun Monkton very kindly came to our rescue and repaired it for us, returning it as good as new and without charge. Thank you, Peter, for your generous assistance

Sincere thanks also to Angie Taylor and all her loyal helpers for arranging and running another very successful Christian Aid lunch in May which raised a very impressive £583.

We're currently seeking bell ringers to train up at Whixley church with a view to participating in a national event to mark the centenary of the end of the First World War. Scheduled for Sun 11 Nov and titled 'Battle's over – a nation's tribute', the event, will feature the lighting of a thousand beacons across the UK in the evening co-ordinated with ringing at the same number of church and civic towers at 7.05pm to commemorate the 1,400 ringers who died in the war and, belatedly, replace them.



Contrary to popular belief, bell ringing in the English style does not require enormous strength and anybody over the age of 11 can usually manage. If you would like to learn more about this fascinating and addictive hobby and take part in the event then please call me on 330836.

- For report and picture of the quiz night see p3.

## School report

*by Jenny Langley, headteacher of  
Green Hammerton Primary School*

We held a **family picnic** at lunchtime in warm weather on May 23. Mrs Cook and Mrs Tennant did a brilliant job of providing lovely lunch bags. Some families chose to bring their own picnic.

We have recently started offering a **Morning Mile breakfast club** on Wednesdays and Fridays. It has been lovely to see so many children (and staff!) running and walking the mile and we have already given out a lot of one, five and 10-mile certificates! Regular exercise has a positive impact on health and wellbeing and has proven benefits for improving academic achievement.

During **Christian Aid week** we held an art exhibition in church and a cake sale. We displayed work by the children who had visited Ripon Cathedral and also pictures by class one which were inspired by St Thomas's. Thank you to everyone who supported our events at which we raised £66. The theme for Christian Aid Week this year was 'stronger than storms' and money raised will support families in Haiti who have been affected by an earthquake and hurricane.

The school choir took part in the Queen Ethleburga's **choir festival** on May 10. We joined with seven other schools who all sang songs on their own and then performed four joint pieces. Thank you to Miss Coulthard for accompanying us so well on the piano and well done to all of the children in choir who sang beautifully and were excellent ambassadors for the school.

The school choir attended the **parish communion service** on April 29. The service had a Christian Aid theme and included a talk from Steph Cooper about the Christian Aid focus this year. The choir children sang Love Grows Here beautifully and then helped during the talk.

## Round-up

- The **Green Hammerton cricket team** sits proudly at the top of the Wetherby third division for the first time in 15 years having won all three opening fixtures, writes Neil Phillips. Coming up is the Bill Davey memorial match with barbecue on Sun 8 July in which Green Hammerton takes on The President's XI. We're still on the look-out for new members and this would be an ideal opportunity for them to play. If interested in playing or matchball sponsorship contact me on 07795 387441.



- The Bay Horse will provide 'breakfast on the go' for Yorkshire Show week and show all matches in the World Cup. The pub is also recruiting bar and restaurant staff. Applicants must be at least 18 years old. Please ring Tina or Jon on 330338 or send your CV to bayhorsegreenham merton@btinternet. com. Jon is currently expanding his curry menu and also compiling summer menus.

- After a few years of hard work and significant investment the new **holiday flat above the village shop** is now up and running. Accommodation consists of a contemporary open plan living room and kitchen with dining table plus double and twin bedrooms and a bathroom. Chris and Ingrid Hay have already taken bookings from friends and family living locally and have only a handful of summer vacancies. Available to book via AirBnB, the flat currently has a five-star rating. Funds will be put towards further renovations planned for Seymore House.

• The **Village Club programme** is as follows: Fri 15 June, 8.30pm: quiz; Fri 29 June, 8pm: Country & Western singer, David Wilson; Sat 30 June, 8pm: bingo and Play your Cards Right; Fri 6 July, 8.30pm: quiz; Fri 13 July, 7pm: open mic; Fri 20 July, 8.30pm: quiz; Fri 27 July: Country & Western singer, Dave Lesley; Sat 28 July, 8pm: bingo and Play your Cards Right. Free pool every Sat evening. Every Tuesday evening our three cask ales are on sale at £2 per pint subject to availability.

• The **answers to the quiz** questions (see p3) are:  
1. Andre Agassi; 2. The Kilburn white horse; 3. Bilton-in-Ainsty.

## Down Memory Lane

*by the editor*

Here's a picture of the draper, grocer and post office that used to occupy part of what is today The Birches at the top of the green. Lindsay Councell, who lives there now, said: "The bread used to be collected daily from York. The shopkeeper's family lived in the left hand side of the building and the shop was the half facing the Boroughbridge Road. As far as we know the shop closed about 60 years ago. The premises had been converted into an enlarged dwelling about 18 years before we bought it and no evidence of the shop remained but if you look carefully at the side of the house you can still see where the sign was and the shape of the window."

A piece written by Peter Nixon for the Green Hammerton Chronicle states: "The Birches is partly built with limestone similar to the rock formerly quarried in Knaresborough. Such stone was used in the construction of houses over a wide area and recycled from the castle demolished in 1648".

## Nature Notebook

*In a new series for Village View, naturalist and photographer Roger Mattock of New Lane takes a look at seasonal species that can be spotted in and around our village.*

If you go to Helenfield over the next few weeks keep your eyes out for the banded demoiselle (pictured, right). This is a species of damselfly. The difference between a damselfly and a dragonfly is that the wings on a damselfly are parallel to its body whereas a dragonfly's wings are at 90 degrees. The male of this species (see pic, front cover) has a metallic blue body and wings with a dark patch in the outer half. The larger female can grow up to 45mm long and has a green body with greenish yellow wings. Damselflies breed in muddy still water like that in the pond in Helenfield.

Village View is published bi-monthly and distributed free to every household in Green Hammerton. Also available (including back issues) at [greenhammerton.org.uk/village-view-newsletter](http://greenhammerton.org.uk/village-view-newsletter).

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Next issue: Sun 5 Aug. Deadline: Sat 28 July.

*Next time ...* family bike ride around Askham Bryan and Askham Richard from Rufforth.







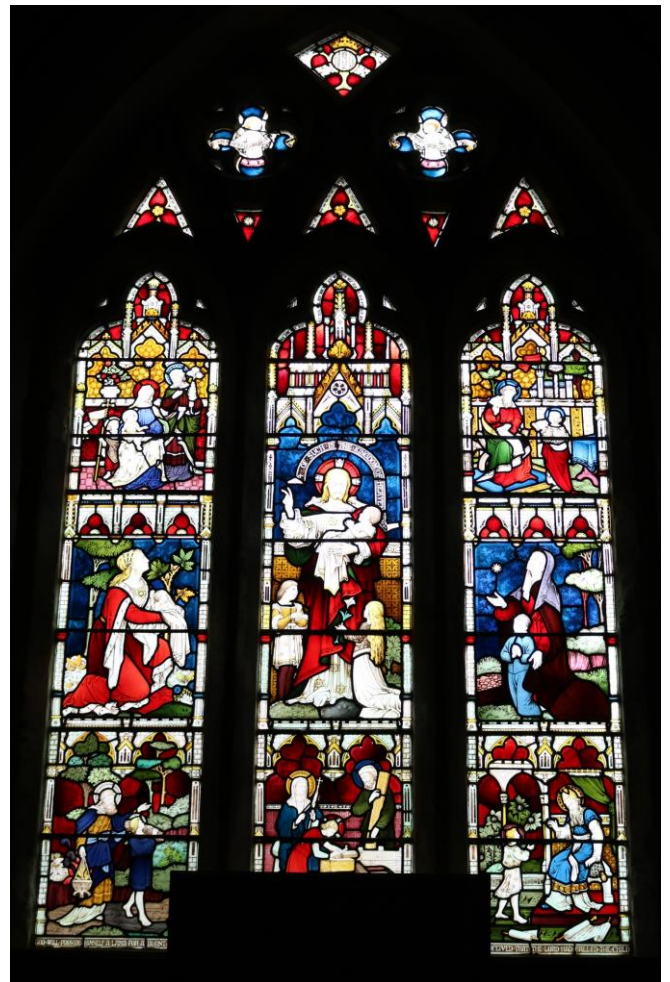
## Third gold garden award for Lorna

*from The Harrogate Informer*

Garden designer Lorna Batchelor of Meadow Vale and stone mason/sculptor Johnny Clasper collaborated on a garden design to win a gold award at the Harrogate Spring Flower Show in April.

The garden was titled Eden and following display at the show it was moved to a permanent home at the Henshaws Art and Craft Centre in Knaresborough. The design took the form of a vertical wall that flips to form four waterways, surrounded with marginal plants. It took five days and 15 tonnes of stone to put together.

Lorna has worked in garden design for 12-years and has won two previous gold awards at Harrogate. She said: "Putting a show garden together can give you much more opportunity to have free-reign over the design than maybe with a normal garden project. Normally you need to sit and really listen to what a client wants. Shows are really different as you can more do as you wish."



The repaired and cleaned nave window at St Thomas's Church in all its glory. See story, p8.

Are you aware of the 'Kirk Hammerton and Surrounding Villages' page on Facebook? Very handy particularly if you're after local recommendations. Ed.





# Scarecrow festival picture special - see story p4



Kirsty (right) and Freya Armstrong of Whixley won the prize for the best scarecrow, Peter Rabbit, left.

