

Village View

The newsletter for the residents of Green Hammerton

Aug/Sept 2018

Planning granted for 80 more houses

Green Hammerton will be the site of a third new, large housing development. Chris Chelton of Keep Green Hammerton Green reports from the council chamber.

It has been over a year since Loxley Homes first submitted their bid to build 80 houses on Green Hills, the first field on the right along New Lane. The bid finally came before the Harrogate Borough Council's planning committee on 24 July.

The council planner dealing with the case outlined her recommendation to approve the application with a number of slides, describing the site as "prominent" some five times. Backing the development she had produced a 50-page report stating how, among other things, "structure planting" of trees would soften the impact of these houses. Ann Myatt, the new district councillor, spoke eloquently against this development, describing it as "the wrong development in the wrong place at the wrong time" and urged the committee to listen to the volume of public concerns.

Our parish council chair, Ian Bailes, said he was staggered that the site was being recommended and highlighted all the damaging impacts of this further

development on, for instance, the school, shop, surgery and traffic. He spoke of the strain that the rapid increase in size would place on the village and stressed that the field did not even feature in the draft local plan.

In my address I drew heavily on the council's own landscape architecture consultant's report from July last year which was nowhere in the case officer's document. It concluded: "It is not possible to successfully mitigate a development of this scale in this

landscape in a prominent location on the edge of the village". I asked to give a copy of this report to each of the committee members but was refused.

The prospective developer then spoke, lambasting the councillors for their failure to have a five-year housing supply plan and all but daring them to reject his application under threat of a costly appeal.

continued overleaf ...

Come on in! The water's lovely!

The lost and found beaches of Kirk Hammerton – p6



He had them over a barrel and he knew it just as he knew that fear of expensive litigation trumps application of any sound planning judgement. If the planning committee was not already suitably intimidated there then followed a warning from the council's legal representative about the cost of such an appeal and that was it. Job done. There was only one way the committee was going to vote. They "reluctantly" approved the application by eight votes to three with one abstention. So the disgraceful decision was made.

Numerous conditions were placed on the approval including no more than two storeys on any building. At some point Loxley will submit a detailed application which will enable to see the proposed layout of houses and comment on features such as the so-called "emergency vehicle access" onto New Lane, but that's our only remaining chance to influence what actually gets built.

When the Strata Homes application, which is the field on the opposite side of New Lane, comes forward there will be yet another consultation and we will ask you once again to write or sign letters. Our village has been the subject of four major planning issues already this year, each of which we have needed you to comment upon. Despondency is understandable but please stick with us. The CEG consultation for 3,000 houses has just closed and the recent public consultation by the Maltkiln developers in the village hall signals they will be doing the same very soon. The planning inspector's examination of these and the Flaxby Park proposal will probably conclude early next year. At least he or she will be independent and the next decision will not be made by the impotent planning committee in Harrogate.

See back page for the latest plan of the development.

Redrow funding comes through as council signs cycleway papers

by Jon Purday

A sum of £30,000 towards the building of the safe cycleway from Green Hammerton to Thorpe Underwood has just been received by Harrogate Borough Council. It's been paid by Redrow, the developers of Churchfields, as part of the money they have to pay the local community from the proceeds of their sales. Linden Homes, which is developing the housing behind St Thomas's Way, will be paying their cycleway contribution of £10,000 once they've sold their sixth house.



North Yorkshire County Council recently signed a legal agreement with landowners whose tracks will be crossed by the cycleway. Robert Wrathall and John and Penny Lange signed up to dedicate the route in perpetuity as a public

cycleway under the Highways Act 1980. Their help in making the cycleway happen is much appreciated as is all the work done by the county council to officially establish the route.

Thorpe Underwood Estate has already signed its side of the legal documents with Little Ouseburn parish council and offered to pay £5,000 towards the cost of the build. So we have £45,000 of the original £60,000 estimate with further funding in the pipeline.

The next step is to check that the original estimate is still valid. The Green Hammerton Recreational Charity, which will take responsibility for the cycleway, will put together a specification that sets out exactly what's needed in line with the original cycleway report available on the village website.

The spec will be checked by Harrogate Borough Council. Then it will be forwarded to organisations with experience of building cycle tracks in the area, for example Sustrans, the national cycle charity, and Chain Events, who put together the original cycleway report. If you want to stay in touch with progress, email me at jonathan.purday@gmail.com.

• The Editor adds: "Redrow has generously agreed to sponsor a year's worth of six editions of Village View. The funding will help pay for the additional copies needed for our expanding village and also enable more colour pages." See sponsor's message on p5.

Defibrillator twice called upon

by Jane Bannan

This village defibrillator has been in place outside the surgery for over a year now and, to date, has been taken to two incidents, both fairly recent and at which the equipment was not used in the end.

The first incident took place at the Village Club late one Friday evening. I understand there were five men at the scene, two of whom have had first aid training and initiated and supervised CPR. The man needing attention was taken to hospital but, sadly, died the next morning. The five men that came to his aid did a really amazing job in what were extremely difficult circumstances and the final outcome takes nothing away from their actions. It is good to know we have such people living in the village.

The other incident involved a little girl who lives very close to the surgery. Thankfully, all is now well with her. Seven villagers check the defibrillator once a week on a rota basis.

The Springbank Surgery patient group is running basic CPR sessions. They are free but there is the option to make a small donation to help cover running costs. Any surplus goes to the British Heart Foundation which provides the training aids. For more information please contact Toni Ramsay via 322828 or toni.ramsay@icloud.com.



Cyclists make day trip to Whitby

by Tom Polito of the Green Hammerton Cycling Club

A huge thank you to all who donated to our Whitby 150 charity ride. The target of £3,000 was reached, benefitting Breast Cancer Now, the Alzheimer's Society and Green Hammerton junior football.

The route took us to Rievaulx Abbey, on to Rosedale chimney and over the Moors to Whitby. After fish and chips we headed back through Dalby Forest to Thornton-le-Dale where some felt strong enough to enjoy a fortifying pint. After Crayke we had almost 12,000 feet of climbing behind us and the race was on to make it back to The Bay Horse before the kitchen closed. We made it and Jon's legendary curry (plus more beers) replaced a few calories. Talk of next year's ride started immediately! With joints no longer friction-free we have found a sport that is gentle on the body, allows us to see our glorious countryside and make some good friends into the bargain.

Pictured at Whitby are, from left: Tom Henry*, Bryn Jones, Jim Wardle*, Kev Smith*, Giles Councill, Justyn Ashford*, Tom Polito*, Rob O'Connor*, Nick Coad. (Those asterisked hail from Green Hammerton.)

FoGHS ring the changes

*by Annabelle Polito of
Friends of Green Hammerton School*

Another busy year has flown by and FoGHS has worked hard to fundraise for our school while, at the same time, bring the school and village community together. An initiative for last term was a family fun day instead of the summer barbecue. Everyone enjoyed an afternoon of garden games, crafts, delicious refreshments, ice lollies, rounders and, the pièce de resistance, a gigantic bouncy castle!

The wonderful key stage two summer play, Treasure Island, drew the crowds. We were on hand to provide cold drinks and ice lollies as temperatures soared. With a new school year in the offing we hope to bring news of a brand new chair of FOGHS at our AGM along with a whole host of fresh fundraising ideas. Thank you to everyone who has attended our events this year and helped make them such a success.

- The school holds an open day on Wed 26 Sept from 9.30-11.30am and 1.30-2.30pm. For more information ring 330314 or email admin@greenhammerton.n-yorks.sch.uk

GREEN HAMMERTON CAR BOOT/TABLE TOP SALE

on the green on Bank Holiday Monday (27 Aug) from 9am to 1pm.

Cars and tables £8. Vans £10. Buyers by donation.

Delicious food available. In aid of St Thomas's Church fabric fund.

Further details incl. pitch booking from David on 330386 or Sam on 332015.

Youngsters tell lost gardens tale

by Claire Jeffrey of Badapple Theatre



Our latest 'play in a week' summer school attracted 20 young actors. They performed *The Lost Gardens of Hammerton*, a play specially written by our artistic director Kate Bramley and directed by Sue Rosser who was ably assisted by professional actor Frances Tither. Further support came from set designer Catherine Dawn with technical wizardry from John Bramley.

In the play a group of teenagers tasked with clearing up a pile of rubbish on the orders of one Simon Mack had no idea what awaited them behind a long locked door. The cast of characters including a trio of garden gnomes, Professor David Attenrock, reporter Lois Limestone, the stone age Hammerstones and Indiana Rose and Kylie the dinosaur led the sell-out audience on an exciting song-filled, action-packed comedy adventure. Actors ranged in age from 6 to 13 and what an amazingly talented group of young people they showed themselves to be. Huge thanks to all of them for their commitment and dedication throughout the week. We will run the summer school again next year.

Meanwhile, our youth theatre sessions at the Village Club on Tuesdays continue to go from strength to strength. Sessions resume on Tues 25 Sept. If you are a young person (or know a young person) who would be interested in joining either the younger or older age group sessions please do get in touch via 339168 or office@badappletheatre.com.

Finally, our adult theatre company will return to Green Hammerton village hall on Tues 16 Oct with a last chance to see our highly acclaimed First World War production, *The Thankful Village*. This performance will be a theatre company fundraiser as we have unfortunately not been successful in our bid for Arts Council support towards funding our autumn season. Tickets are priced at £15 each. More details in the next edition of Village View.

Ladies make the most of the heatwave

by Susan Bowe of Kirk & Green Hammerton WI

As well as the Mediterranean weather we've been enjoying a varied summer programme. In June Caryl Hallett introduced us to the principles of stained glass making and showed us some of the beautiful hand-made glass she creates in her Harrogate studio, offering items for sale.

Our garden meeting in July had an afternoon tea theme despite having to be rescheduled to the evening due to unforeseen circumstances. Our members had the opportunity to showcase their baking skills to wonderful effect! It was a quintessentially English summer's evening in Dorothy Turner's beautiful garden with views out over the fields at Kirk Hammerton.

Still to come is our August outing to Breezy Knees Gardens before we return to the village halls for the remainder of this year's programme of speakers. The new term starts with John Stirling speaking on the intriguing sounding topic of 'Toytown to Buckingham Palace' on Tues 11 Sept at 7.30pm in Kirk Hammerton village hall. Visitors are most welcome. A charge of £4 includes tea/coffee and biscuits. Please contact me for further information on 330651.

Proms
ON THE GREEN

at Kirk Hammerton Playing Fields
Saturday 15th September
Grounds open from 4.30pm
Music starting at 5.30pm
Finale around 9.30pm

York Railway Institute Brass Band playing all your prom favourites plus a number of solo singers completing the entertainment.

- Advance booking required for tables and chairs under Gazebo cover (available to hire for a small additional fee)
- Plan of layout available when booking
- Ample parking

FOR TICKETS, PLEASE CONTACT:
Sally on 01423 339389. Email philandsal26@aol.com or
Gill on 01423 339275. Email: gill552@btinternet.com

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

Family Ticket £35
(2 adults/up to 3 children)
Adults £15



This event is supporting the fight to stop over-development around our villages.



Roger's nature notebook: know your raptors

by Roger Mattock



In the skies around Green Hammerton you will see four common birds of prey. The red kite, a large elegant reddish brown bird, is distinguishable by its swept back wings and forked tail. Once extinct in the UK, the red kite was reintroduced in Yorkshire as part of a breeding program at Harewood House.

A regular visitor around our village and often seen being chased off by rook, the common buzzard is darker brown and has broader wings and a rounded tail. It is often difficult to tell the male from the female in both species but females tend to be larger. They are generally scavengers feeding off carcasses and wrongly persecuted for taking game birds and livestock.

Sometimes found hovering at the roadside is one of our smaller raptors, the kestrel. A small reddish brown bird, the males have a slate grey head. This bird, like all raptors has sharp eyes and can see a beetle moving from 50 metres.

Birds of prey visiting your garden feeders are likely to be a sparrowhawks (pictured). They will kill anything up to the size of a woodpigeon. They have a slate grey colour and a female has a white stripe above its bright yellow eyes.

A word from our sponsor



This issue of Village View is sponsored by Redrow Homes, bringing new residents to the village with their two-, three- and four-bedroom homes at Churchfields, on Harrogate Road. Current prices are £249,950 to £479,950. Part-exchange may be available for those with an existing property. Alternatively, the Government-backed Help to Buy equity loan can reduce initial outlay by up to 20%. Show homes open 10am to 5.30pm (closed Tues and Wed). For more information see redrow.co.uk/churchfields or call 01423 586905.

Young footballers grace the Town turf

Green Hammerton **junior football club**, pictured below, played in the summer junior league at Harrogate Town. Regular coaching sessions for boys and girls aged 5-9 years resume on Sat 8 Sept from 9.30 to 10.45am. £5 per session. More information from Claire Jeffrey on 331304.





Down Memory Lane swimming special

by the editor

My family and I rediscovered the old fashioned joys of wild swimming during the July heatwave. We swam in the Swale and Wharfe in the Yorkshire Dales, Gormire Lake in the North York Moors and the Lumb Falls in Calderdale all of which reminded me of tales I'd heard about a beach beside the River Nidd at Kirk Hammerton.

Les Hornby, editor of Kirk Hammerton News, confirms that there was, indeed, such a beach with sand just downstream from the mill in the village as shown in the picture from 1960, above, which he supplied via Bernard Gascoyne.

The beach existed because of a weir beside the mill which slowed the flow of the river downstream causing it to broaden and deposit sand on the west bank. When the weir disintegrated in the 1960s the flow increased again, giving the river a narrower, deeper and more direct course. The beach area has since become completely covered in nettles, trees and bushes and bears no resemblance to the scene in the photo.

You can still swim, though, at two mini-beaches a few yards downstream as I found out with my son, Bertie, pictured on the front cover, one golden Saturday evening. I like to think that the new beaches were formed of sand from the old beach as it was deposited on the inside of the sharp meander where the flow is slower. (I was paying attention in geography classes.)

The water isn't deep, rarely going above your waist, and the conditions underfoot are relatively firm and sandy or gritty. The gentle flow makes swimming upstream hard work but would provide perfect propulsion for an inflatable unicorn! You can easily get out after a float then walk back along the sand to where you got in and do it again. The beach is a truly idyllic, secluded and peaceful spot where all you hear is the distant baaing of sheep and trickling water.

To find it walk or cycle from the Kirk Hammerton war memorial down Mill Lane. Pass through a bridlegate beside a gate near the end of the lane. Proceed between the mill and farmhouse and through another signed bridlegate immediately ahead. Follow the track for about 200 metres. The beach is located just past fishing post no 14. Use your common sense and take precautions about safety when swimming in the Nidd and any other rivers or lakes especially with children.

In the distance in the archive picture you can just make out Skewkirk Bridge, a Victorian iron toll bridge, that connected Tockwith and Kirk Hammerton until its demolition in 1969. There have been calls for the installation of a new footbridge in the same spot pretty much ever since but they have come to nothing due to land ownership issues and objections to the proposed type of the bridge by the British Horse Society. A pre-fabricated bridge that had been sourced in readiness for the new crossing was eventually used to reconnect the two halves of Tadcaster after the town's bridge was washed away in the storms of Christmas 2015. The bridleway which loops back up to Mill Lane resulted from a campaign for public access led by the late Wyn Evans of Kirk Hammerton.

Annabelle takes the plunge

by Annabelle Polito

The hitherto preposterous idea of doing the Great North Swim, the UK's biggest open water swimming event, came about after randomly watching a bit of open water swimming on television. This planted a seed in my head and, the next thing I knew, I had signed up to swim a mile (equivalent to 64 lengths of a 25m pool) in Lake Windermere in June.

As the dreaded date loomed I became a frequent visitor to Knaresborough pool as well as Allerthorpe Lake near Pocklington. Until then my swimming career had consisted of giraffe-like breaststroke or else parky dips in the North Sea on family visits to Norfolk. So with technique non-existent, I slowly practiced front crawl and got used to wetsuits, swimming caps and goggles. Finally the big day dawned. After catching a boat from Bowness to the start at Brockhole on Lake Windermere we were greeted by the sight of hordes of neoprene-clad swimmers. Over a three-day period they tackled distances from 250m to a gruelling 10km which takes an average of four hours, so I'm told.

Luckily the weather had been kind in the run-up to the event so the water was not only clear but a balmy 19C. After a pre-swim pep talk by 2008 Olympic silver medallist and two-time world champion swimmer Kerri-ann Payne we were off. Nervous and slightly grim-faced, I joined the flurry of splashing and kicking and tried to enjoy the experience. Some 38 short minutes later it was all over and I staggered out of the lake feeling relieved and elated in equal measure. With such magnificent surroundings to enjoy and the sense of satisfaction in having tried something new it was hard not to find yourself signing up to do it again.



Noticeboard

- The audition for the fourth annual **village play** will take place in the village hall on Mon 10 Sept at 8pm. The play will be performed in the hall on Fri 23 and Sat 24 Nov. Director Chris Turner says: "If you're interested but can't make that date ring me on 331306. Also if you're interested but nervous about making that step on to the stage let's chat about it."

- David MacDonald (330836) still seeks **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.

- Liz Powley writes: For a while now I've been organising the monthly **coffee morning and book exchange** but I now feel that I'd like to take a break and hand it onto someone else. I'll continue to do the next three months, i.e. Aug, Sept and Oct. If you're willing to have a go at taking over from me then please call me on 330246 for more details. The money raised goes to village hall funds.

- A new series of **Otago classes** for better balance have just started at Green Hammerton village hall. Janet Dixon who is leading the classes said: "Otago is a very gentle exercise and can be chair-based if required. The exercises are low impact. Most people will notice a rapid improvement in their confidence, balance and stability. Otago helps prevent falls in and outside the home." Classes take place every Friday from 1.15-2pm and cost £5. More information from Janet on 320876 or 07916 344727 or just turn up on the day.

- Jon, Tina and the team at **The Bay Horse** would like to thank everyone who supported them during the World Cup. They have recently added new benches and umbrellas to expand the outside seating areas into the two courtyards at the rear of the pub. There are currently vacancies for bar/restaurant, kitchen and housekeeping staff as well as a weekend pub cleaner. For more information contact Jon or Tina on 330338 or email your CV to bayhorsegreenhammerton@btinternet.com.

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.

Edited by Paul Kirkwood, 331396
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News and pics to paulkirkwood@talktalk.net.

Next issue: Sun 30 Sept. Deadline: Sat 22 Sept.

General Notes

Overall site area = 4.9 hectares

Developable site area = 3.12 hectares

Number of proposed houses = 80 (maximum)

Approximate overall density of housing (across the entire site) = 16 houses per hectare