

Dec 2019/Jan 2020

## Wheels turning for cycleway

by Jon Purday

**Green Hammerton parish council is ready to get estimates for building the new cycleway between the village and Thorpe Underwood.**

Parish Councillor Chris Jackson said: "We're very keen to provide a safe cycling route for families to connect our village to some of the most enjoyable local cycling routes. It's great that, following a summer of international cycling in the area, we've now got the money to get up-to-date estimates for our cycleway and decide which local contractor to entrust with the build."

The cycleway will cross the fields at the end of the Green to join back roads leading up to Aldwark Bridge and the National Cycle Network to Beningborough Hall, into York and beyond. Suitable for cyclists, walkers,

buggies and wheel-chairs, it will provide an all-weather stone surface for just over a mile through fields and woodland.



**Hammerton Greenway update**

with similar sums from Redrow and Linden Homes which are already held on behalf of Green Hammerton by Harrogate Borough Council.

More information about the Green Hammerton cycleway can be found on the village website. See [greenhammerton.org.uk/hammerton-greenway-cycle-track/](http://greenhammerton.org.uk/hammerton-greenway-cycle-track/). For more information and to join the cycleway email list contact me via [jonathan.purday@gmail.com](mailto:jonathan.purday@gmail.com).

**Nonagenarian bows out ...  
Roger Flower obituary, page 3**



**What's a rhea doing here?  
Boxing Day walk, back page.**



## Duo are quiz champs

*by the editor*

The village hall was packed once again for Dave and Sally Walker's annual quiz night in October.

The runaway winners from 13 teams were just a duo: Aly Lawson and Colin Raper from York (pictured), who called themselves the Voldemorts and scored 119 points. Colin's daughter, Caroline Hartley from Green Hammerton, was on the winning team last year. Runners-up were the Knackered Dads with 101½ points and, in third place on 95 points, were Lock up your Tortoise.



My favourite round was one in which you had to name three of a kind. For instance:

1. Diseases Louis Pasteur created the first effective vaccines for.
2. Main exports from Newcastle in the early 1900s.
3. First items to be rationed during the Second World War.

I also liked the challenge to name this youthful famous person (mainly because I got it right despite sceptical team-mates). Answers on p6.



The evening raised £1,100 for the Parish of Green Hammerton and Whixley with £165 of this sum coming from the raffle. What a happy and fun community occasion.

Thanks to Dave and Sally, organisers Helen Walsh and Alan Smith, barman Michael Walsh and cooks and caterers Liz Powley, Margaret Andrew, Jan Jackson, Sheila Lythe, Caroline Hartley, Sheena Powley, Pauline Lumb, Jane Bannan, Julia O'Connor, Rachael Holloway, Chris Turner and Gill Singleton.

## Try campanology, the first heavy metal!

*by David MacDonald of St Thomas' Church*

Have you ever been to a wedding and, hearing the bells ringing from the church tower to celebrate the occasion, wondered how it was done? The ancient art of bell ringing which originated in this country has been practiced in some form or another for centuries here and abroad. Yet you may be surprised to know that, while there are over 5,000 bell towers in England equipped for "change ringing" there are fewer than 300 elsewhere in the world. Our own parish church in Whixley has a ring of six bells with a small team of enthusiastic ringers who practise every week. We would welcome anyone who would like to know more about this fascinating pastime.

As well as being enjoyable and satisfying, bell ringing offers an exhilarating but gentle workout for mind and body, burning calories, toning muscles and relieving stress. It is an all weather activity which improves concentration and co-ordination while for the younger generation it can be a pursuit at many of our universities. If you would like to know more, and perhaps try your hand (under expert supervision!) at something different and rewarding, why not join us on Sat 18 Jan from 2pm at Whixley Church bell tower? You'll be able to see for yourself what it's all about. I promise you won't be disappointed! If you have any questions in the meanwhile, you can call me on 330836. We'll look forward to seeing you soon!

*You can ring their bell ... Whixley ringers, from left: Ian Bailes, Janine Jones, Brenda Harpham and David MacDonald.*



▪ At this time of year it's worth reminding everyone that there is a permanent food bank box at the back of St Thomas's Church, writes Annabelle Polito. Villagers can leave non-perishable food or toiletries in the cardboard box at the back of church at any time and it will all go to those who need it.

Grannie to run marathon – p4  
Village play is back – p5  
Christmas ceilidh details – p7

## Obituary: Roger Flower

Born 22.5.26, died 24.9.19.

*by Angie Taylor*

Roger Flower, pictured on the front page, has died, aged 93. Until last winter he could be spotted taking a walk down the Green or enjoying a lunchtime pint in the Bay Horse. He spent his last days at Emmaus House, Harrogate.

Roger moved to Green Hammerton in 1956 with his wife Elaine and their children Carol and Nigel where he worked until his retirement as cow man at Hall Farm. The family lived in Meadow Vale and, in 1960, moved into Village Green Farm.

Roger loved to reminisce about his happy childhood spent in Fulwood near Sheffield, beside the beautiful Mayfield Valley. He paid a final visit with Carol just four days before he died. His deep love and knowledge of the natural world was sparked there by his father lifting him up to see a dipper's nest beside the River Porter, listening to Romney's stories on the radio and a book which he won as a school prize, *Manka the Sky Gypsy* by BB aka Denys Watkins-Pitchford (it's his artwork, below).

He learnt to milk cows by hand and work with horses at Fullwood Hall. After his marriage he worked briefly in Bedfordshire and East Yorkshire before settling in Green Hammerton. Roger worked at a time before the tractor became universal. At Hall Farm he spent many winter days digging out ditches and slashing hedges by hand as well as hoeing sugar beet and running after the 'beasts' (heifers) when they escaped in the spring time. He loved to tell stories about those days especially one about an infamous boss who sacked him when he asked for a pay rise!

In retirement and following Elaine's death, Roger took up painting birds, animals and butterflies in exquisite detail. He gave his pictures to friends and family which have become treasured memorials. He collected straight hazel wands from the hedges and carved fine handles for them. They served him well when he walked his beloved pointer dogs in the Low Country and in his last years when his legs couldn't be trusted. He was a skilled gardener, growing all his own vegetables and flowers. He used his grandfather's hoe, very worn but sharp. I gardened with Roger for many years. He was far too polite to criticise my slapdash methods.



In his last couple of years he needed extra care. He was so thankful to have no pain and kept all his carers smiling with his witty remarks. He said he had been so lucky in his life especially when he looked out of his window at the lime tree he had planted on the Green.

▪ If you wish to contribute an obituary of a Hammertonian to Village View please contact the editor. See p6 for details.

## Running in the family

*by Annabelle Polito*

The Green Hammerton Junior Run is officially up and running (pun intended)! The inaugural event took place on the playing fields in October with 23 energetic young runners, some accompanied by their equally energetic parents such as James and Jack Henry pictured below with dad Tom.



All are welcome at this monthly non-competitive run/walk/jog which is our village's version of the popular Junior ParkRun. The course is two kilometres which equates to three laps of the playing fields. The next run is on Sat 14 Dec at 9am. Meet by the table tennis table at 10 mins in advance.

Green Hammerton Recreational Charity is looking to put a hard track around the edge of the playing fields to help keep people's running shoes clean. The more runners who come along, the better the chance of securing grant funding for this project.

## Bring light to Helenfield

*by Angie Taylor*

Dates have been set for winter work days at Helenfield. They are Sundays 12 Jan, 26 Jan, 9 Feb, 16 Feb and Thu 27 Feb.

The Gauntlet Explorer Scouts will be joining us again. They work so enthusiastically. Do come along and they'll show you how it's done. Just wear stout shoes and old clothes. We provide the tools and rock buns. We shall be thinning the trees and cutting back the brambles to allow more light into the meadow areas. For more information please contact me on 330330, 07591 614806 or [angie-48@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:angie-48@hotmail.co.uk).



## Marathon makes good sense for Sheila

*by the editor*

Sheila Bray is in training for her first London Marathon in April with the support of her employer, the Bay Horse.

Sheila, 66, has never run in a race before nor even exercised. She told Village View: "I've seen the marathon on TV every year and thought 'I'd like to do that' then thought no more of it until this year. My target is to raise £1,500 for the Sense charity but my main reason for running is so that my grandchildren can say 'my nan did that' and for the sense of achievement."

She has twice weekly sessions with a personal trainer, swims daily at Aldwark Manor and exercises at its gym four times a week. "It's quite a regime as I was basically starting from scratch," she explains. So far the furthest Sheila has run is 10km normally around Aldwark but also recently around Regents Park when she went to London to meet her Sense running mates.

Sheila, who used to work at Bettys and Taylors, lives between Kirk Hammerton and Cattal and has worked at the Bay Horse for the last year doing a bit of everything including waitressing, cleaning and washing up. The pub is supporting Sense through some charity evenings in the New Year. "Tina's been very helpful to me in promoting my fundraising through Facebook and so on," added Sheila.

- Donate via [justgiving.com/fundraising/sheila-bray1](https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/sheila-bray1).

## Hall in the loop

*by Brian Halling of  
the Green Hammerton Recreational Charity*

I'm very pleased to report that we have reached our goal of installing a hearing sound loop in the village hall thanks to a grant from the Local Fund for Harrogate District. The facility will enable those with hearing aids to tune-in for better hearing and fully enjoy the variety of events in our hall. We've already had good feedback. The hall also now benefits from bluetooth technology.

I'd like to thank those that have supported coffee mornings during the last six months and donated towards the cost.

The hall's Christmas decorations go up in the first week of December and will be bigger and better than ever this year. Please make a visit to the many events happening at the hall this month. If you want to use the venue there are a very few spots still available so please check with Clare Jeffrey via [marljeff@btinternet.com](mailto:marljeff@btinternet.com).

## Scouts prepared for business

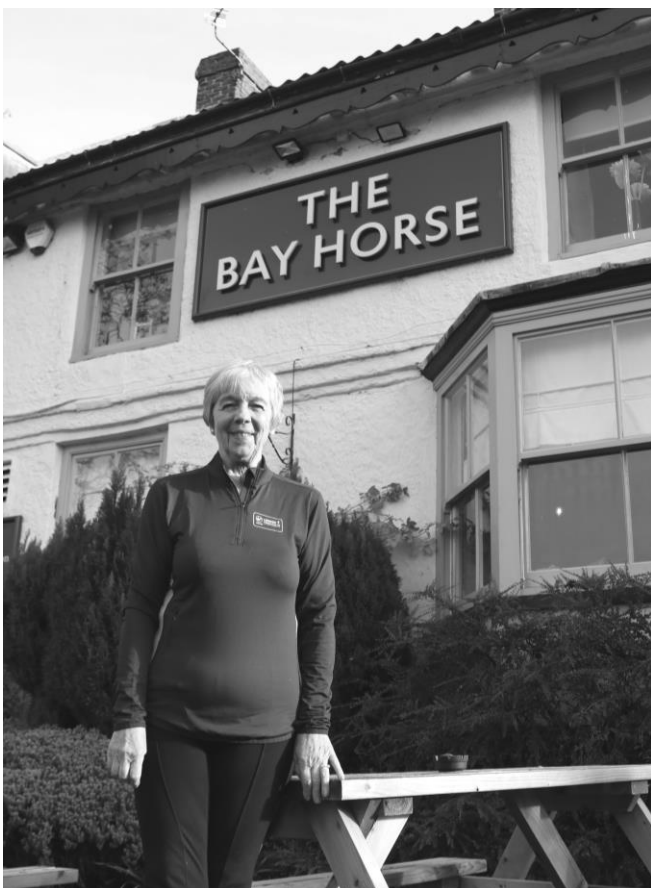
*by Andrea Cayton of Gauntlett Explorer Scouts*

It's been a busy and varied autumn term. We've cooked pizza from scratch, carved pumpkins, practised navigation skills and enjoyed an Explorer led debate. We've also looked at how scouting skills translate to skills for jobs and life by considering CVs and discussing the soft skills required by employers. This culminated in a job interview evening, a novel experience for many of our teens. Explorers were interviewed for three roles within the unit: leaders of teams for social media and marketing, fundraising or the programme/events.

Our Young Instructors, who help teach water sports including sailing, kayaking and canoeing to younger scouts, have completed the RYA powerboat level two qualification and, in the spring, will progress onto safety boat training. They have also spent several weekends helping younger scouts association members experience water sports.

Two teams of Explorers took part in the muddiest Apex Challenge weekend ever. Apex is a national, annual event which involves a late night orienteering challenge, a 4km adventure obstacle course and a full day activity challenge with bases. Meanwhile, a team of four Explorers have successfully completed their Duke of Edinburgh bronze expedition.

Our Christmas fair takes place on Sat 7 Dec from 10am to noon at Kirk Hammerton village hall. A host of local traders will provide unique gifts including clothing, jewellery, cupcakes and decorations. Finally, we still seek volunteers to help run the Explorer Scouts. Contact me via [gauntlletesu@gmail.com](mailto:gauntlletesu@gmail.com) for more information.



## Get in on the act

by Chris Turner

Anyone interested in having a go at acting – in an amateur production, of course! The play is yet to be decided but it will be one-act one so around 40 minutes. We would perform it at Green Hammerton village hall on Fri 27 and Sat 28 March. I will hold the audition on Tues 10 Dec at 8pm. If you're interested and either want to learn more or cannot make the audition date please contact me via 331306 or c.turner2011@btinternet.com.

*Flashback to Last Panto in Green Hammerton from November 2018.*



## Campaigning for fun

by Chris Eaton of Keep the Hammertons Green

We have been advised by the inspector that his report, following the recent consultation on the local plan, will be delayed because of the general election period. Explaining their reasons the planning inspectorate said: "To avoid making announcements that could be politically sensitive, we will not be issuing any letters regarding the soundness or legal compliance of local plans, or final reports (including for fact check), until after the election."

While we wait for release of the report we have turned our attention to having some fun! We are putting on a fantastic Christmas Ceilidh on Fri 6 Dec featuring the

brilliant Castlelean Ceilidh Band with former Kirk Hammerton resident and superb fiddle player, Duncan Lean. The band's "caller" is great at helping everyone to enjoy themselves even if they have not done Scottish dancing before. Newcomers will have a blast "stripping-their-eightsome-reel-willow-thing" and the more experienced will recognise the quality of the band and the dances. Everyone gets caught up in the atmosphere and beers, wine and a supper will fuel your reeling. The event takes place on Fri 6 Dec at Great Ouseburn village hall and will be raising funds to help us make further representations once the inspector has produced his report. See ad, p7.

## A word from our sponsors

This issue of Village View is kindly sponsored by the Bay Horse. Jon, Tina and the team would like to thank everyone who has continued to support the village pub in 2019. We are looking forward to welcoming customers both old and new to the pub over the Christmas period and into 2020. Our Christmas menus are now available.

Thanks also to the following readers for supporting this issue with a Christmas greeting. Ian and Dicky Black wish all their friends and neighbours a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Brian and Lindsay Councell wish all their friends in the village a very Happy Christmas. And festive greetings from the editor to all readers especially correspondents and distributors.

**Coffee Morning  
and  
Christmas Fayre**

**Wednesday 4th December**

**at Low Royd, The Green, Green Hammerton**

Coffee, Tea, Mulled Wine, Mince Pies

and stock up with some delightful Christmas gifts:

- Penny's choice Chutneys, Curds and Jams
- Liz Powley's special Ginger Biscuits
- Delicious Home-made Cakes and Cookies
- Fun Festive Hand-made Decorations
- and more ... !

RSVP to Penny      SMS: 07462 411 099  
email: penny\_john@hotmail.com

**Join us at any time between 10am and 1pm!**

**All proceeds to**

**KEEP THE HAMMERTONS GREEN**

Keep 90 to 1000 houses      Keep 90 to 1000 houses

## Noticeboard

▪ **Candlelight meditation** classes will be held at Green Hammerton village hall on Thu 5 Dec and Thu 9 Jan from 6.30 to 7.45pm. Classes will include body movements, relaxation and guided meditation to suit all abilities. Limited spaces available at £6. Book by contacting Jenni Kirkwood via 07546 295968 or jennidruyoga@gmail.com. Also see jenniyoga.wordpress.com.

▪ A **Macmillan coffee morning** hosted by Chris Turner at her home in October was supported by over 70 people and raised £1,300.



▪ The **Village Club** programme for December includes quiz nights on Fri 6 and 20 Dec; a children's party on Sat 22 Dec from noon to 3pm; and New Year's Eve karaoke from 7pm until later.

▪ A **new volunteer** is needed to distribute Village View around Churchfields. A resident of the estate would be ideal. Please contact the editor (see panel, right) if interested.

▪ **Otago exercise classes** take place in Green Hammerton village hall on Fridays from 1.15-2pm. £5 per session. More information from Janet Dixon via 330867 or 07916 344727.

▪ **Ainsty Farm Shop** wishes to thank everyone for all of their support the last couple of months during major roadworks on the A59. Lilly Beaton said: "We realise it has not been easy getting through and we really appreciate the extra effort it has taken to get to the shop. Hopefully, by the time this goes to print the road will be clear again!"

▪ Did you know that you could have **library books** delivered to your home for free if you are unable to get to the library? Fortnightly deliveries including large print and audio books are made by volunteers. Contact Boroughbridge library via 01609 536629 to arrange a visit to discuss your needs.

▪ **Answers** to the quiz questions on p2. 1. Cholera, anthrax and rabies; 2. Coal, beer and urine (for dying textiles); 3. Butter, sugar and bacon. The photo shows Angela Merkel.

▪ To finish, here's another **Down Memory Lane** picture showing Boroughbridge Road looking towards the village centre from Harlands. Ed.

Village View is published bi-monthly and distributed free to every household in Green Hammerton. Also available at [greenhammerton.org.uk/village-view-newsletter](http://greenhammerton.org.uk/village-view-newsletter). For more news subscribe to email alerts via the same website.

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Next issue out: Sun 2 Feb. Deadline: Sat 25 Jan.







# Christmas Ceilidh Night

**Friday 6th December 2019**

Featuring

**Castlelean Ceilidh Band**

**Great Ouseburn Village Hall**

**Doors open 7pm supper from 7:30pm  
Licenced Bar**

**Tickets £12.50 Children 12yrs and under £7**

Tickets available from;  
Sally Newman (PSN Services, 6 South View, Kirk Hammerton)  
mobile 07921 222 931 or philandsal26@aol.com

Les & Janice Hornby (Llandaff Cottage, Church Street, Kirk Hammerton  
tel. 01423 330154)

Green Hammerton Post Office  
Great Ouseburn Post Office

All profit will be donated to the 'Keep the Hammertons Green' fighting fund..  
Go to [www.kghg.co.uk](http://www.kghg.co.uk) for more information on the action group.







## Boxing Day walk: take a walk on the wild side

*by the editor*

This is a novel linear route, ideally suited to Hammertonians and short winter days and which brings you a new perspective on our surroundings from the River Nidd. You need two cars, though, or someone to provide lifts. The distance is 6½ miles and it took my teenage children and I three hours including a short rest.

Park just on the far side of Cattal Bridge and walk up the road towards Tockwith. About 100 yards after Oak Lodge follow the signed fingerpost on the left diagonally across the field (or around the edge if crops are standing). Go over a stile and turn left along a drive for a few yards then fork left and into the trees on another signed footpath which takes you to the riverside. As you emerge from the trees turn left and you will soon see a sign taking you back to the river. From here keep the river to your left and you can't go wrong. Don't be deceived by a water filled ditch on the right, though. Look out for Kirk Hammerton church, the rear of Kirk Hammerton Hall and the cricket club (pictured, right).

Unfortunately, you can't follow the river through Skewkirk Hall estate. Opposite the mill and beside the remains of Skewkirk bridge turn right (waymarked), keeping a row of trees on your left, then turn left at and along a track to the gateway for the hall. Turn right down the road then first left down a broad rutted bridleway. At this point you'll find a large stone pillar on its side which makes a good bench.

At the end turn left towards New Farm. The path runs through trees to the right of the farm (all well signed) and returns you to the river. Soon afterwards a grassy bank shelves gently down to the river (pictured, above) which makes for a particularly pleasant pastoral spot complete with bench to enjoy the view and a snack.

Shortly after this point the river path terminates. Turn right away from the river, to and through the grand Wilstrop Hall, over the level crossing (with a signal box more like a bus shelter) and along a lane up to the A59. You will pass the quirky farmstead of Skipbridge Country Weddings featuring rheas (see front page pic), rare breed pigs, a shepherd's barn, pond with island and a giant wooden duck on it, and what look like corrugated steel yurts! Turn left and walk with care along the verge to the Skipbridge layby where you will have left a second car or can phone a friend for a lift.

We walked the route just after a very wet week in early December but the footpath was neither flooded nor too soggy. For a free map for your phone or PC see [bit.ly/Niddwander](http://bit.ly/Niddwander).

