

# HUDSWELL & DISTRICT MESSENGER



**Editor:** Claire Swainston, Parish Clerk

*Thank you for all your contributions; the information contained is only as good as that supplied so please keep it coming! Deadline for the next issue is 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024.*



Unfortunately speeding appears to have increased yet again in Hudswell. The highest recorded speed observed is **54 mph** by a known resident.

The figures are not good. Every time Speed Watch has been deployed vehicles have been recorded speeding and notified to North Yorkshire Police who issue an initial warning letter.

You might be interested to know that North Yorkshire Police are currently progressing to a new and better system whereby drivers are issued with a Section 59 Anti-Social behaviour warning instead of a second letter. If a third offence should happen within 6 months of the Section 59 then their vehicle is removed there and then.

This Newsletter is published by:

## **HUDSWELL & DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL**

**Chairman:** John Dixon Tel: 01748 824631

**Councillors:** Ali Barker Tel: 01748 821466  
Paul Chapman Tel: 01748 823909  
Beverly Phillips Tel: 01748 824038  
Richard Phillips Tel: 01748 824038  
Heather Swettenham Tel: 01748 519604

**Parish Clerk:** Claire Swainston Tel: 01748 826989  
[clerk@hudswell-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@hudswell-pc.gov.uk)

Minutes of meetings can be found displayed on the main parish notice boards (in Hudswell and Downholme) and on the following website:

<https://hudswell-pc.gov.uk/>

### **THE LITTLE SHOP, HUDSWELL**

*Probably the smallest community shop in Britain*

*Winter opening hours (from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024):*

Monday – Friday	9.00am – 12 noon & 5.00pm – 6.00pm
Wednesday	<i>CLOSED ALL DAY</i>
Saturday	10.00am – 1.00pm
Sunday	11.00am – 12 noon

### **HUDSWELL VILLAGE HALL – Events and News**

**Badminton** Mondays 7.00 pm -9.00 pm (September-April only)  
Enquiries to Martin Booth 01748 451299

**Bridge Club – Weekly** Fridays 1.00 pm – 4.00 pm  
Training session prior to games from 10.30 am – 1.00 pm  
Enquiries to John Taylor 07983 869420

**Pilates – Weekly** Thursdays 4.00 pm – 5.00 pm *and*;  
Thursdays 5.00 pm – 6.00 pm  
Enquiries to Joanna Gibson 07572 539213

**Yoga – Weekly** Tuesdays 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm  
Enquiries to Val Worley 07791 776438

Thursdays 7.15 pm - 8.30 pm  
Enquiries to Mike Buckle 07982 104144

**Radio Club** 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday each month 7.30 pm - 9.30 pm

**FREE Coffee Morning** 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday each month – 10.00 am – 12.00 noon, all welcome

Hudswell Village Hall is **available for hire** for parties, anniversaries, clubs and meetings. To make a booking or for other enquiries contact Sue Rowley – telephone: 07544 239752.

## **A BRIEF HISTORY OF HUDSWELL VILLAGE HALL**

1947	The school closed and the 35 pupils were transferred to schools in Richmond.
1953	Richard Henry Prior Wandesforde (the Prior Wandersforde family owned the school and grounds) gifted the land and buildings to the Parochial Church Council of Hudswell with the legal estate vested in the Ripon Diocesan Board of Finance. The church would act as custodian Trustees for the Parish of Hudswell.
1961/62	Discussions took place with the church to convert the school into a village hall as a charitable organisation.
1963	35-year lease agreed with church to convert the school into a village hall at a peppercorn rent of £1 per annum. Trustee signature on behalf of the village hall were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Arklie Pickersgill</li><li>• Reginald Deighton</li><li>• John Horseman</li><li>• The Reverend John Northcott Harrison</li></ul>
1964	The first official committee was elected with the following members: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Rev John Northcott Harrison – Vicar of Hudswell and Downholme</li><li>2. A Pickersgill and R Deighton on behalf of the Parish Council. A Pickersgill would be Chairman and R Deighton would be Secretary/Treasurer</li><li>3. John Horseman – Hudswell PCC</li><li>4. Mrs Salvin – Wesleyan Chapel</li><li>5. Mrs Goulding – Women’s Institute</li><li>6. Mr J Porter – Hudswell Cricket Club</li><li>7. Eric Harrison – Youth Club</li><li>8. Mrs Parnaby – Drama Group</li><li>9. Mrs Delf - WVS</li><li>10. Mrs Jefferson – Roman Catholic Church</li></ol> The co-opted members were J Geaney and L Porter. The new committee agreed to improve/extend the building at an estimated cost of £1,828. The work would involve

	connecting the toilets to the main sewage pipe in Hudswell Lane.
1971	It was agreed to convert the existing playground into a carpark. This was made possible with a grant from Richmond District Council.
2015	A new 35-year lease was agreed with the church at the same peppercorn rent as in 1963 of £1 per annum. Signatures on the lease on behalf of the Village Hall were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• John Horseman</li> <li>• Michael Vening</li> <li>• Paul Chapman</li> <li>• Rev John Richard Chambers</li> </ul>

## **LIFE AS A VOLUNTEER**

Life is funny, you never know where you might end up next, for me it was volunteering at Oxfam. My part-time employment stopped when Covid 19 came along and I needed a new outlet for my energy. A couple of years later I was offered the role of Deputy Manager, and I happily accepted. I had previously been having fun sorting donations, chatting to customers, combing the hair of Barbie dolls, researching LEGO, working out why people pay so much for anything related to Star Wars, meeting old friends, sharing much laughter and learning new skills, now I took on the task of running the online side of sales. In Richmond we are lucky to have a large shop with sorting rooms for books, household goods, sporting items, clothes of every imaginable shape/colour/design, linens, toys, new items sourced by Oxfam and much more. Our supporters provide us with a wonderful array of donations, and we are always on the lookout for more help so that we can keep our shop fully stocked and our customers happy.

No previous skills are required for volunteers as we offer a wide range of activities including sorting, steaming clothes, photography, pricing, researching books or Meccano or cameras, in fact anything that we plan to put online, the tasks are endless but all extremely valued. We need people with computer skills to add items to the Oxfam Online Shop, folks to run the till and help our customers, plus volunteers to fill up the shelves. We will only ask you to do a job that you are comfortable with so you can try out a range of activities.

I try to plan my day in advance so that I can support the volunteers and achieve as much as possible, however, no two days are the same and I never know what might happen. On one day we sold online a No7 Illuminated Make-Up Mirror, a Le Creuset saucepan, a floral vintage Laura Ashley skirt, a brand-new Triumph bra, a pair of antique wooden shoe stretchers, a vintage Crime Club party game and a watercolour travel bag complete with paints, crayons and sketchpad. Sold prices ranged from £7.99 to £45.99, illustrating why we spend time researching donations, and once the items have sold then the fun begins when trying to wrap them up.

So, if you have a few hours to spare then I can certainly recommend volunteering at Oxfam. Some of our volunteers prefer to work the same hours each week whilst others vary the days and hours, they come in to help. We can guarantee that you will have fun, make friends and have the opportunity to become a part of a wonderful team.

Even if you do not have time to help, please can I ask that when you turn out your cupboards that you remember us and bring in your donations. For those of you who pay tax then we can enrol you for Gift Aid, this enables us to claim an extra 25% from the government on every item that we sell on your behalf.

So, if you have a few hours to spare please pop in and have a chat, I can certainly recommend volunteering at Oxfam, plus there is the opportunity to purchase a gem that you never knew you needed.

Ali Barker

## **HUDSWELL COMMUNITY PUB LTD**

### **Minimum share amount changes**

As HCP members, we own the George and Dragon pub, shop and land. We are therefore responsible for the maintenance of the buildings and all costs associated with running the little shop, allotments, orchard and apiary. To learn more about our community pub, please take a look at 'about the G&D' on the George and Dragon website [https://georgeanddragonhudswell.com/about\\_the\\_gandd/](https://georgeanddragonhudswell.com/about_the_gandd/).

Whilst we have a healthy membership, HCP are always looking for new members. The original minimum **first** share option purchase was **£500** for 500 shares (20,000 max). However, we are very aware that in the current climate £500 is a big investment for many. HCP have reduced the minimum **first** share option purchase to **£250** for 250 shares, obviously you are welcome to purchase more than 250 shares (20,000 max).

If you would like to join our great little community and become a shareholder then please do not hesitate to send an email to the membership secretary at [membership@georgeanddragonhudswell.com](mailto:membership@georgeanddragonhudswell.com) or complete the application form on the George and Dragon website <https://georgeanddragonhudswell.com/share-applications/>. Any additional shares for existing members can be purchased from as little as **£1**.

### **Quoits Pitches at the George and Dragon**

Unfortunately, the Quoits pitches have not been used for a quite a few years and have fallen into disrepair. HCP have tidied them up and made them safe for now, but we are now reaching out to the community to understand if anybody would be interested in starting a G&D quoits team, and taking on the maintenance of the pitches (with HCP support and funding).

Please contact the membership secretary via email at [membership@georgeanddragonhudswell.com](mailto:membership@georgeanddragonhudswell.com) or leave your contact details with a member of the G&D team at the pub. If there is not enough interest, then we will look at ways of covering them to enable us to preserve them for the future.

Please keep an eye out for news and events via the George and Dragon website, Facebook and Instagram. You can also receive updates by subscribing to the George and Dragon newsletter by completing the 'JOIN THE PUB NEWSLETTER' section on the 'Contact Us' page on the Website.

Caron Grundy  
**HCP Membership Secretary**

## **REVITALISED ST MICHAELS AND NEW HOMES FOR HUDSWELL**

The last nine months has been a very busy one for Hudswell Community Charity. Converting St Michael and All Angels Church into a hostel, now to be known as St Michaels Lodge, and building three new eco homes, has been hard going at times. However we are pleased to report that progress on both has been good.

The trustees did not originally plan to run these two complex projects at the same time, but when the funding for both became available to be spent within restricted time periods, we decided we would take both on.



As most residents will have seen the construction of the silver space age bungalows is now nearing completion. The interiors are now close to finished, the wooden cladding will be going on soon, which will make them blend in with their rural surroundings. Then the area around will be landscaped, with garden areas and patios.

Our tenants and part owners have been selected and we are hoping that the homes will be ready for occupation by mid November.

We could not have made the progress, within the time frame and budget that we have, without the outstanding help from many people in the village who responded to calls to assist with installing doors and windows, lifting insulation panels and laying the Sedum roofs.





We are very grateful to all these volunteers. Your efforts have made this a true community project in every sense.

Meanwhile, up at St Michaels Church, the access road and car park have been built, with a wider entrance, new drystone walling and cattle grid. Internally, the building has been emptied (once again thanks to a lot of voluntary effort) and the interior walls have been sandblasted back to the internal render. The internal frames for the new rooms to be constructed inside will begin shortly. The timetable for the completion of the conversion work is less certain, but we are aiming to be open for Easter 2025.



A branding exercise has led us to choose a new name for the hostel, which will be known as St Michaels Lodge. This name was chosen, in part because it echoes the names of the other walkers accommodation in upper Swaledale, as those walking the coast to coast trail will be able to stay in Keld Lodge, Grinton Lodge and then St Michaels Lodge. We also have a new logo and website to be launched shortly.



We will be looking to recruit staff for the hostel (manager, cleaners, receptionist ) at the end of this year or early next year. As far as possible, local trade people have been used on both sites, so that the economic benefit of the work is kept local.

The creation of St Michaels Lodge has also led to the Origins of Hudswell Project, whose latest activity is to fill a Time Capsule, to be buried with the Lodge grounds,

with letters, photographs and artefacts from Hudswell today, to be discovered by future generations.

Also, the pilgrimage walk via St Michaels Hudswell to St Michaels Downholme will take place again this year on the feast of St Michael. We hope this will become an annual event.

We have been very much encouraged by the amount of local support we have received for both of these projects and their related activities, all of which have attracted attention and recognition from elsewhere, as is demonstrated by the request from the Historic Towns and Villages Forum to hold a workshop in Hudswell, so that they can learn from our activities and the recent request to feature all these activities in an up and coming episode of “Cafe Hope” to be broadcast on BBC Radio 4.

Once again Hudswell is leading the way, something of which we can all be proud.

### **Hudswell Community Charity Trustees**

## **NEWS FROM THE WOODS**

This time last year I was commenting on the relative abundance of butterflies; a complete contrast to this year. Unseasonal cool temperatures, sometimes with heavy rain, have been blamed for the subsequent absence of butterflies and flying insects this summer. Forming the base of many food chains and having a critical role in pollination, a healthy invertebrate population is vital, even to our own survival, yet we continue to drive insect declines with habitat loss and nationwide use of next generation pesticide and herbicides (yes, herbicides are also responsible for declines). The charity Buglife’s study, sampling insects on car numberplates indicates a 78% decline in flying insects since 2004. Common wasps also seem to be largely absent this summer, they play an important predatory and pollination role in healthy ecosystems, despite their antisocial reputation with us. Wasp populations do naturally vary but their decline is now being investigated by a citizen science project run out of the University of Gloucestershire. I am sure all the keen gardeners out there will have noticed a shortage of insects this year.

Habitat-wise at Hudswell Woods and Round Howe we have the services of some ‘new’ Highland cattle which will be managing our grassland for, amongst other things, flying invertebrates. We need all the habitat we have in good condition and employing low numbers of hardy cattle is an excellent way to achieve this. Spells of high wind have brought a few trees down so some fence repairs are required before they move down to the riverside at the end of this month.

We – the Ranger team and Volunteers - have also been busy maintaining visitor access, in particular starting work on the high-level path between Billy Bank and Round Howe. This path relies heavily on revetment board edging, and rail to remind walkers that there are sections of cliff. The old timber is slowly coming up

for renewal, but the task of replacement is typical of any work at Hudswell Woods whereby just moving materials and tools to the work site is at least half of the job. Our Volunteers have been excellent in this regard (a big thank you to all involved), lugging timber backwards and forwards and helping with construction. We have plenty more to do and work will proceed over the next year or two as we juggle the task with other priority work across the Woods and wider Dales.

This winter our woodland management felling will continue as our current Countryside Stewardship grant draws to a close. We also have some planting to undertake on the Hag Wood roadside after our ash dieback felling at the back end of last winter. Consisting of species such as hazel, bird cherry, holly, and hawthorn, this planting will supplement the saplings that are already establishing from natural tree regeneration. Unfortunately, most of our felled ash that was left for deadwood habitat – again supporting insect populations - has been ‘removed’ without permission, presumably for firewood, the result of it being in easy reach of a car boot or pickup.

As always, please contact me if you have any questions about our work in the woods, or if you have any suggestions or interesting observations. You can also follow our work across the Dales using Facebook  
<http://www.facebook.com/YorkshireDalesNT>

**Seb Mankelow**

**Ranger, National Trust Yorkshire Dales**

[seb.mankelow@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:seb.mankelow@nationaltrust.org.uk) | mobile 07876 138354 | Office 01729 830416



## LOCAL SERVICES

### **Fionagh Bennet:**

Composer, organist/pianist, tutor. [www.fionagh-bennet-music.co.uk](http://www.fionagh-bennet-music.co.uk)  
07802 442551

Save on all your household bills and get discount on your shopping, with Utility Warehouse, “Which” recommended Best Provider.

Contact [fionagh.bennet@uw.partners](mailto:fionagh.bennet@uw.partners).

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### **Richmond Sash Windows:**

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### **Travel Agent:**

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*To place an advert in the next issue of the Hudswell & District Messenger please contact the Editor. Your support will help with printing costs, a copy is delivered to each house in Brokes, Downholme, Hudswell, Stainton and Walburn (200 copies in all).*

- “Local Services” adverts cost £20 per annum (2 editions).
- Inside Front/Back Cover Full Page: £50 for Black & White / £75 for Colour.