

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 1st September 2025.



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

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

Summer opening hours (from 31st March 2025):

Monday – Friday	9.00am – 12 noon & 5.00pm – 6.00pm
Wednesday	CLOSED ALL DAY
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 Thursdays 7.00 pm - 8.15 pm
Enquiries to Mike Buckle 07982 104144

Radio Club 3rd Wednesday each month 7.30 pm - 9.30 pm

FREE Coffee Morning 1st 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.

KEEP THE DATE

Mobile Skip coming to Hudswell on **Saturday 17th May 2025**



Upper Dales mobile HWRC Service

North Yorkshire Council provides a mobile household waste recycling centre (HWRC) service to residents in areas which are not adequately covered by a permanent HWRC.

Dates for 2025/26

Hawes	Reeth	Aysgarth	Hudswell	Muker	Askrigg
19 April 21 June 16 August 18 October 17 January 9:00 - 13:00	19 July 25 October 21 March 9:00 - 13:00	17 May 09:00 - 10:30 the times may vary depending on location	17 May 11:30 - 13:00 the times may vary depending on location	20 September 09:00 - 10:30 the times may vary depending on location	20 September 11:30 - 13:00 the times may vary depending on location

The mobile HWRCs all operate on **Saturdays**.

Waste left at the site at any other time would be classed as fly tipping, which is against the law, so can attract an unlimited fine and up to 5 years imprisonment.

Askrigg - Carrs Billington Yard off Station Road, Askrigg DL8 3HZ.

Aysgarth - Village Green, Aysgarth, DL8 3AH.

Hawes - Charcoals Way, Upper Wensleydale Business Park DL8 3QT.

Hudswell - Opposite Ashley House, DL11 6BH.

Muker - Car Park off the B6270 at Muker Bridge, Muker DL11 6QG.

Reeth - Village Green, Reeth DL11 6SY.

Accepted wastes

Yes	No
Household waste Garden waste Wood Furniture Paper, cardboard Bric-a-brac Glass Food and drink cans Foil, scrap metal Mixed textiles and clothes Fluorescent tubes TVs and monitors, fridges and freezers Small and large electrical appliances	Hardcore and rubble Plasterboard Tyres Asbestos Hazardous chemicals Gas bottles and cylinders To find out how to dispose of these wastes, please visit www.northyorks.gov.uk/hwrc

Commercial and charity wastes are not accepted at the mobile HWRC.

Contact us

Online: northyorks.gov.uk/contact-us

By telephone: 0300 131 2 131

North Yorkshire Council, County Hall, Northallerton,
North Yorkshire, DL7 8AD

You can request this information in another language or format at
northyorks.gov.uk/accessibility

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LIFE AS A VOLUNTEER – One of our own!

From an exhibition in the Town Hall about women in Richmondshire who have contributed to the community ...

Annie Sumner Volunteer and Campaigner

Annie has been central to most of the Hudswell Community Projects for which the village has become well known.

In 2008 she joined the local campaign to purchase and reopen the village pub, The George and Dragon, playing a leading role in the refurbishment and maintenance of the pub. The success of this project has paved the way for many other community pubs in the UK.

Since 2014 Annie has been a trustee of Hudswell Community Charity. One of its notable achievements has been the building of three new homes on land the Charity owned. As treasurer, Annie played a leading role in managing the funds, securing a mortgage and overseeing the building contract. More recently she has played a key project management role in the creation of a walkers/cyclists hostel, 'St Michael's Lodge' on the site of the Hudswell Parish Church, which is due to open in the spring of 2025.

HUDSWELL'S NEW HOMES ARE READY

On the 28th February the community in Hudswell gathered together to celebrate the completion of the construction of three new Plews Cottages (numbers 4, 5 and 6). About 45 people turned up to view the new homes, learn about their state-of-the-art heating, energy creation, storage and management systems, and admire the fine views from the rear of bungalows.

Those who came were given a guided tour of numbers 4 and 5 and offered refreshments. They then listened to three brief speeches from the Chair of Hudswell Community Charity, Susan Ferns-Williams, the Charity Bank representative, Jeremy Ince, and Councillor George Jabour, the Vice Chair of North Yorkshire Council. Susan (pictured below) thanked everyone who had been involved with the construction of the homes, in particular our builder Rob Petch, ground worker Brian Kassell and project manager Annie Sumner. She also made mention of the numerous volunteers from the village who had turned up when asked to help with the heavy lifting of the wall panels, doors and windows, laying the sedum roofs, or levelling the garden areas. This had made the construction of the new homes a real community effort of which we can all be proud. It had also helped considerably in keeping the cost of the construction within budget.



On behalf of the Charity Bank, who have provided the mortgage to fund the project, Jeramy Ince congratulated Hudswell Community Charity and the community of Hudswell, for their achievement in bringing this project to completion on time and within budget. He added that many much larger organisations, with full time staff, are unable to manage building projects as well as this one has been managed. Councillor Jabour then added his congratulations for the team effort, adding that North Yorkshire Council were extremely impressed and delighted to see that the community in Hudswell were making their contribution to building much needed new homes. He stressed that the Council were determined to build many more homes for rent and affordable purchase across North Yorkshire and explained that the Council were keen to see more affordable community led developments like the one in Hudswell. In fact, they had pledged £1 million a year over the next four years to fund similar projects across the County and would be looking to Hudswell as an example of what can be achieved.

Speaking privately to the trustees, one of the tenants, Yvonne Private, who was planning to move into her new home the following day, explained how excited she was and how much she was looking forward to living in a warm, dry, modern home, which would be such a benefit for the health of her family.

With the completion of these homes, this now brings the number of homes owned and managed by Hudswell Community Charity to nine. In a village of just over 100 houses this is a significant contribution to our overall stock and helps to ensure that those on average and below average incomes, who have strong local connections to Hudswell can afford to live here. The trustees of Hudswell Community Charity believe that these homes help to keep Hudswell a vibrant community, with a healthy demographic mix and strong commitment to community spirit.

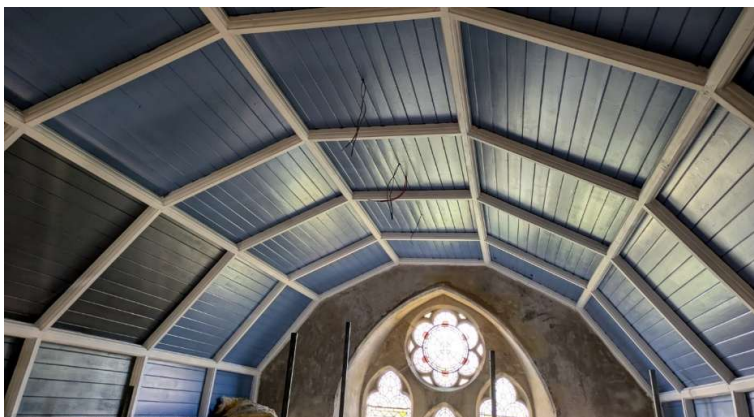
Martin Booth
Secretary HCC

ST MICHAELS LODGE TO OPEN IN MAY

Progress on the conversion of Hudswell Parsh Church to a Lodge has been so good over the last few months that the trustees are now confident that it will be open in time for the late May Bank holiday and should benefit from a full summer season of visitors. The roof has now been fully replaced with new slates on the north side, vestry and porch and solar slates on the south facing roof. These solar slates will power intra red heating foil located in the ceiling beneath the plasterboard in the bedrooms, bathrooms, corridors and also store electricity in the batteries now installed in the cellar below the vestry.



All the internal rooms are built and are currently being plastered and decorated. The shower rooms and toilets are being fitted out and stairs to the first floor will be installed shortly. The blue wood panelled ceiling in the chancel area has been restored and repainted, all the windows have been cleaned and restored and will be fitted with internal double glazing shortly. Rob Petch is currently building the eight pairs of bunk beds using the wood from the former church pews.



In addition to this the trustees have appointed local Hudswell resident and experienced hospitality manager Melanie Sadler, to be the manager at the Lodge. She will begin work in a few weeks time, working with the trustees on preparing the hostel to be opened and with our website design company on launching the website and attracting customers to book the lodge. Bookings will be taken for a room (either a four bed or a two bed room), for several rooms or for the whole Lodge. As well as walkers and cyclist we hope to attract organisations who may wish to hold small conference or activity events in Hudswell, making use of St Michaels Lodge, the George and Dragon and the Village Hall. Or villagers may wish to book the whole hostel for a family gathering.

As with the building of the new homes the trustees of Hudswell Community Charity have been able to call on villagers to help from time to time with heavy lifting or cleaning jobs. It has been a true communal effort and a credit to the village that we have been able to retain and restore this important historic building, keeping it in the ownership of the village and using it for a purpose that will give it a new lease of life that will also bring additional customers to the community owned pub and shop and generate funds that Hudswell Community Charity can use to support other local initiatives and projects. Once we have a definitive opening date, we will of course let the village know.

HCC Trustees



NEWS FROM THE WOODS

It's been a busy winter in the woods as our five-year Countryside Stewardship woodland management grant finished at the end of December. As part of the agreement approximately 50 veteran trees were identified for management across the site. Work involved felling selected trees to reduce competition either on existing veterans, or to recruit younger trees that could become veterans in the future. As always, felled trees were left to create deadwood habitat which will eventually be recycled through fungal decomposition back into the woodland soils.

Trees classified as being veterans are in their second or mature stage of life, and this varies according to species, a 150-300 year old oak for example might be classed as veteran, whereas a shorter-lived silver birch would qualify at 100 years. Veterans are not old enough to be classified as ancient trees, yet they possess many of their valued characteristics and they provide incredible habitat. They often contain deadwood in the crown, ideal for insects that require deadwood for part of their lifecycle, and for species such as woodpeckers that feed on these insects. Veteran trees can also host a great diversity of fungi, lichens, mosses and epiphytes (plants that grow on other plants). Fungal decay and wounds from storm damage or deer browsing also create scars and rot holes, and these may provide habitat for birds and bats. A veteran tree is not only valuable in itself, it also supports an entire woodland community. In Hudswell Woods we have a number of veteran oak, sycamore, ash, wild cherry, large leaved lime, yew and beech, and our management helps optimise the value of what we have for nature and biodiversity.

We have also progressed some of our access work, again focussing on replacing the timber edging used on the high-level permissive path between Round Howe and Billy Bank. This path is in places exposed to the cliff edge at the back of the riverside grassland and there are sections that benefit from a post and rail fence and revetment. Like just about any task in the woods, moving materials to the work location is a significant part of the job. Disappointingly, some of the new timber we had stored from last autumn's work was 'removed' by persons unknown over the winter. We (Rangers and Volunteers) have however made the most of the recent dry spring weather and replaced another section of ageing timber. We intend to continue this work over the summer as time and other commitments allow.

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>

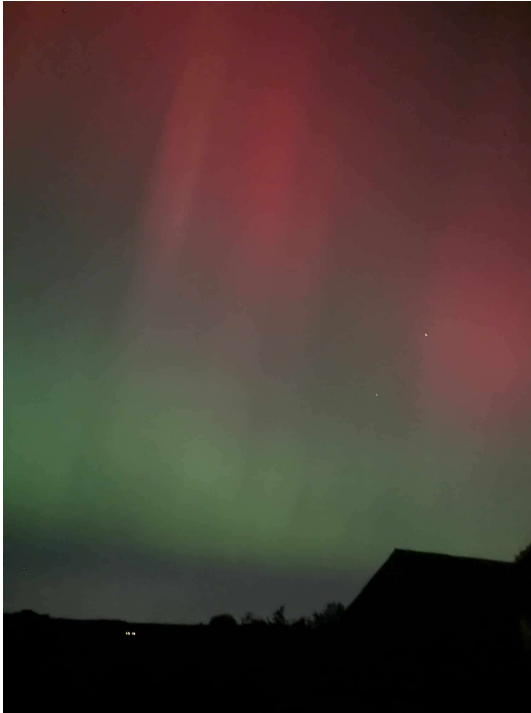
Seb Mankelow

Ranger, National Trust Yorkshire Dales

seb.mankelow@nationaltrust.org.uk | mobile 07876 138354 | Office 01729 830416

DARK SKIES IN HUDSWELL

As many of you will be aware, the dark skies of the Yorkshire Dales are internationally recognised; the National Park being granted Dark Sky Reserve status in 2020. The beauty of our dark skies doesn't just stop at the National Park boundary and throughout Hudswell we are privileged to experience the awe of our night sky in full glory with the Milky Way, planets, meteors and the Northern Lights regularly making a spectacular appearance (my phone reminds me of this almost daily with the buzz of an Aurora status alert).



I have been lucky enough to have been surrounded by the dark skies of the Dales for a long time, having lived in Hudswell for 5 years and before that in Wensleydale. I find it hugely consoling to gaze at the night sky in the back garden after a day's work and remember how small we are in its vastness. Our connection with the night sky stretches to the dawn of humanity when people would have had a much stronger link to the stars, and even now the dark skies bring us as a sense of our significance in the universe. The sense of magic we feel under this blanket of stars is lost to many in the UK, with the Milky Way only visible to 22% of the population and only 2% experiencing a truly dark sky.

(Northern lights from our garden in Hudswell)

We may have an abundance of wildlife here, but our biodiversity is under significant threat and light pollution is part of the problem. Our wildlife is reliant on dark skies, particularly for the natural rhythms of migration, reproduction and feeding patterns. Bats, moths, and owls all depend on good nocturnal conditions. Migrating birds can become confused by artificial lights whilst the circadian rhythm of our birds can be affected leading to disrupted sleeping patterns. Domestic lighting in villages and towns can have particular impacts upon wildlife that may visit our gardens. Moths play an important role in pollinating flowers during their nocturnal activity and are declining by 40%. Two-thirds of invertebrates are partially or wholly nocturnal, resulting in a significant reduction in night pollination. Other creatures such as bats and hedgehogs will emerge too early from hibernation or will hide away and fail to mate or hunt.

It's not just wildlife that is affected, as artificial light, particularly 'blue light,' can have a significant impact on our own circadian rhythms and disrupt our sleep. In a time of climate crisis, we are also wasting billions of tons of carbon (not to mention money) to produce electricity for lighting which simply lights up the sky.

Despite being close to Richmond and the Garrison, and the further afield skyglow at Teesside, Hudswell remains a dark place and there is a lot we can do as residents to protect what we have. Unlike many of the earth's pollutants, light pollution is one of the quickest to remedy through the flick of a switch. However, we all need lights so we can't just keep the lights off.

Many of us worry that lighting is necessary to deter crime, yet we can be blinded by the glare from bright white lighting so that offenders can hide in the shadows. It is also harder for opportunist crime if it is dark.

The best thing we can do is to have good Dark Sky friendly lighting; lighting what we want and when we need it. Following these simple steps will help reduce the impact on our dark sky:

- ❖ Angle lights downward and shield them – so there is no unnecessary light above or near the horizontal.
- ❖ Lamps of 500 lumens and less are appropriate for most domestic purposes (40w incandescent, or 4-7w LED bulb) – most bulbs have the lumens specified.
- ❖ Avoid bright white lights and opt for warmer tones (a colour temperature less than 2700K).
- ❖ Point where the light is needed and install them at the lowest possible height to achieve lighting levels you need.
- ❖ Switch lights off when not needed. Use proximity sensors and avoid dusk-till-dawn sensors.
- ❖ Shut the curtains and rooflight blinds at night.

The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority has lots of guidance and tips on stargazing and good lighting; <https://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/park-authority/living-and-working/dark-sky-reserve-guidance-for-residents/>

Katherine Wood
Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority
(Dark Sky Reserve Steering Group)

LOCAL SERVICES

Fionagh Bennet:

Composer, organist/pianist, tutor.
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
<https://uw.partners/fionagh.bennet> 07802 442551

Richmond Sash Windows:

Sash Window Renovation Specialists. Restoration, refurbishment, upgrading and draught proofing of traditional timber sliding sash windows. We now also free up and service spiral balanced windows and provide secondary glazing solutions. For free advice or to request a survey, call Will on 07944 161040.

www.richmondsash.co.uk, email: will@richmondsash.co.uk

Travel Agent:

Designer Travel by Tracy Charlton - Local, award winning, self-employed Independent Travel Agent, with over 30 years experience with full ABTA & ATOL protection for peace of mind.

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Charlton

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.