

HUDSWELL & DISTRICT MESSENGER



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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 2021.

This Newsletter is published by:

HUDSWELL & DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: John Dixon Tel: 01748 824631

Councillors: Paul Chapman Tel: 01748 823909
Jaj Mankelow Tel: 01748 826882
Beverley Phillips Tel: 01748 824038
Richard Phillips Tel: 01748 824038
Heather Swettenham Tel: 01748 519604

Parish Clerk: Claire Swainston Tel: 01748 826989
claire.swainston@btinternet.com

Minutes of meetings can be found displayed on the main parish notice board (in Hudswell), the parish information folder in the library at the *George and Dragon* and on the following website:

www.richmondshire.gov.uk

under *Council and Democracy*, then *Parish/Town Councils*

HUDSWELL ALERT

If you would like to be added to the **Hudswell Alert** list, providing residents with local information, then please email the parish clerk.

(Over 60 email addresses have already signed up.)

THE LITTLE SHOP, HUDSWELL

Probably the smallest community shop in Britain

Monday to Friday 9.00am – 12 noon & 5.00pm – 6.00pm (Thursday 4.30pm – 6.00pm)
Saturday 9.00am – 12 noon
Sunday 10.30am – 11.30am

UPDATE ON “THE LITTLE SHOP”

How time flies! A year ago, almost to the day, an article appeared in the Spring Messenger after three of us rather recklessly agreed to take on the running of the Little Shop following the retirement of Lorna and Paul Chapman after their seven years of sterling work.

We started off by deciding how we could simplify the running of the shop and set out our intentions as to how we were going to try to do this. We held our first volunteers meeting on 3 March 2020, which was very successful (or it might have been the large quantities of homemade cakes on offer). Many people attended and told us they were pleased to meet other volunteers rather than do their shifts in isolation and to share suggestions and

ideas. We wanted to make this a regular occurrence but then something unexpected happened. Four days later we were in Lockdown and everything changed.

Most of you know the history of the Little Shop and its relationship with the Community Pub but for the benefit of our new residents who have come to live in the village since the pandemic, here is a brief resume.

The Little Shop first opened in December 2010, staffed and run by volunteers. Hudswell Community Pub Ltd, who own the George and Dragon, had always envisaged that the newly re-opened Community Pub would include a small village shop. It was believed that not only would the shop provide a service to the village by enabling those who could not easily access the shops in Richmond or further afield, but it would also provide a hub for community life, for socialising for those otherwise isolated and for volunteers to contribute to the community.



Over the years, the shop has proved a valuable asset to the community and it was on this basis that we agreed to take on the running of the shop as a team, to see if we could find ways of simplifying the systems of ordering goods, stock checking and other systems to attract more volunteers to become involved in the future. We agreed we would initially work together for six months to try to achieve this aim. Well, here we are a year on and what a year it has been!

Once the pandemic struck and it became evident that our lives had radically changed, we quickly joined forces with the pub to make sure that all those vulnerable people in the village were protected and provided with everything they needed. Some of our volunteers are elderly and unable to work in the shop and in their place those who were working at home, furloughed, including some of the pub staff, in their own time or those just bored witless, came forwards to fill the gaps. The combined effort was magnificent and all those involved should be commended for their efforts. It showed real community spirit which has continued in the succeeding months.

The plans we had originally for involving volunteers more in the running of the shop, having regular meetings, and transferring the management teams in 6 months intervals have had to be postponed but we hope we can resume all these options in the future when restrictions are lifted. In the meantime, we have made some changes including a new digital till (Arkwright's till has now left the building), which has made a massive difference to the cashing up and the banking of cash, it now only takes minutes rather than hours!

We have introduced a weekly pre order for bread from the Angel Share Bakery in Richmond and supply pre ordered fruit and veg from Carrick's. We now stock locally sourced Brymor Ice cream, free range eggs from Gilling West, range of beers from the Rudgate Brewery and have Local Honey, including from the apiary on the village allotment behind the pub (when available).

We stock cheese and butter from the dairy at Hawes and organic milk and cream from Acorn Dairy. We also have our marvellous Hudswell Bakers, who regularly supply us with cakes and bakes. We stock a varied range of goods and try to use local suppliers whenever possible. If you have not done so already, please come and see what we have to offer.

We are always looking for new ideas to improve our service and help the community for example, we are looking at ways we could reduce our plastic usage. One way would be to reduce the number of plastic bottled milk we sell and switch to glass bottled milk. A few of our customers already pre order glass bottled milk from us but we would like to increase this number. If you would like to support us in this first small step to reduce plastic waste then please contact either Heather or Ian at the Little Shop with your order, the milk is delivered every Monday and Thursday morning. The cost of a pint is £0.90p and then £0.30p refund on a returned bottle (therefore £0.60p per pint with every return).

What we need now are more volunteers, anyone is welcome. We have range of age groups involved from sub 18 to 70 plus (no names no pack drill!) and even if you don't fancy doing a regular shift in the shop, we are looking at other ways you could be involved. If you are interested in joining our friendly and supportive team, then please call in for a chat or call or message Heather on 07521 335419 or Ian on 07548 132730. It is a great way to meet other people in the village and to play a valuable part in the community of Hudswell.

The Little Shop Team

HUDSWELL ALLOTMENTS AND COMMUNITY ORCHARD

If you are interested in an allotment please contact John Walton (Tel: 850884).

COLDITZ

Since it started to be built, Dales View has been referred to disparagingly by some people as 'Colditz'. I am not quite sure why but, anyway, here is a reply from 'Colditz', to be sung to the tune of "I Belong to Glasgow":

*We belong to Colditz,
Dear old Colditz Schloss,
And, whatever you say about Colditz,
Well, we couldn't give a toss.
If you don't like our elegant, modern homes,
You can get on that Little White Bus,
'Coz, when we've had a couple of pints on a Saturday,
Colditz belongs to us!*

Best wishes, Roger Ordish

HUDSWELL COMMUNITY CHARITY

As most residents know the main activity of the Charity is the provision of affordable housing for rent to people with a strong local connection to Hudswell. Our six properties have remained fully let throughout the year and when vacancies occur there has been a good level of interest in taking on the tenancy.

In mid-2020 the trustees of the Hudswell Schools Charity decided that they would close this charity and transfer its assets of about £8,000, and their responsibilities – to support

students in higher and further education with small grants - to the Hudswell Community Charity. The HCC trustees were happy to take on this role and have circulated information to the village about the availability of these grants. The criteria for grant aid are:

1. Applicants must be between the ages of 16 and 21.
2. Applicants must be current residents of Hudswell or its surrounding area including Walburn, Stainton, Downholme and Brokes and must have resided in this area for at least the previous year.
3. Applicants must be in or about to enter full time or part time education that is leading to a technical, professional or academic qualification.
4. Applicants are eligible for grant aid for each year that they meet these criteria, up to a maximum of three years except in exceptional circumstance.
5. Each applicant in full time education will automatically be awarded a grant of £100.
6. Each applicant in part time education (as defined by the course they are engaged in) will automatically be awarded a grant of £50.
7. Applicants who wish to apply for assistance above these limits are welcome to do so, and must make a specific case for further grant to meet a particular purpose that is necessary for them to complete their education or training.
8. Applicants must complete a simple application form and send it to the secretary of Hudswell Community Charity.
9. If an applicant leaves the course within the first term or within three months of commencement, they will be required to repay the grant.

We have already had one successful application from Archie Dolan and we hope that there will be many more as the youth population of the village has increased in recent years.

Archie let us know that he would like to thank the Hudswell Community for assisting him with funds towards a new office chair, printer and desk. He recently applied to the HCC Education Fund for help with purchasing the items as he felt they would help him to study more effectively at home both during the ongoing Covid19 pandemic and in the future when he hopes to study further at university.

Archie says he found applying for a grant was simple and quick and thinks it's great that the village does something to support students who live locally.

Archie has been able to buy his printer and chair but is still waiting for delivery of his desk that he has asked a local joinery company to make for him.



Grants to support community activities

The Charity also has more general grant giving powers which it has not used much in recent years and we have agreed to publicise these more widely as we would love to support other local initiatives. The village has really worked well together through the

pandemic and, as life begins to return to normal, we would like to encourage anyone, or any group that has an idea that will benefit the local community to approach us for some financial assistance. So, if you would like to start a playgroup, youth club, lunch club, walking group, sports club or anything else that will enhance village life, we are here to support you. Please contact the secretary for an application form.

Martin Booth

Secretary Hudswell Community Charity

E mail: martintbooth1@hotmail.com

HUDSWELL HOSTEL @ ST MICHAELS

As we all know it's been a difficult year! Nevertheless, despite having to have "virtual meetings", (even with people who live a few houses away) and it being hard to make progress with so many organisations having furloughed staff, we have been able to move forward with our plans for St Michaels church.



It is more than a year ago since we conducted the village consultation on the future use of the building. Using the results of this survey and some further research of our own into the most viable way of preserving and re-purposing the church, we have settled on the proposal to convert it into a hostel for walkers and cyclists and others seeking short term budget accommodation. This will provide a type of accommodation which is currently not available in the village. It will also enable us to preserve the building, celebrate its heritage, provide a service that will benefit local businesses (shop and pub in particular) and maintain the serenity of the building and its surroundings. It is important to stress that, if we are not able to achieve this, the church will be sold into private ownership and the village will lose access to this important part of our local heritage. Over the past year we have made the following progress:

- The land between the church and the road has been transferred (at no cost) from private ownership to the Diocese of Leeds. This will enable them to transfer both the land and the church to our ownership once we are ready to receive it. The access problem has thus been resolved.
- We have formed a new, not for profit company, Hudswell Hostel @ St Michaels, that is wholly owned by Hudswell Community Charity, but legally separate from it. The directors of this company are Susan Ferns-Williams, Annie Sumner, Rev Martin Fletcher, Martin Booth and Ian Whinnray. Andrew Boyle is also a member in an advisory capacity.
- The church has been formally closed as a place of worship and the ownership transferred from the local parish to the Diocese of Leeds who are charged with finding a new use for it and are working with us on the hostel proposal.
- The building has been surveyed and found to be basically sound, though in need of considerable remedial works.
- We have met with planning officers and they have confirmed that this will be an appropriate use for the building providing that we can produce a design that preserves its character and protects its heritage.
- We have appointed a local architectural design company to work up a design that will provide 14 beds in a mixture of two bed and four bedrooms, a resident's lounge/meeting room and a kitchen. All of the rooms will have their own shower room and toilet. This design work will lead to a planning application.

- We have employed a business consultant and specialist hostels consultant to work on a business plan that will show that the enterprise is viable. They are well on with this and have already informed us that the proposal will be financially sustainable.

Our next step will be to submit a planning application, but we will be consulting further with the village before we take this step either at a public meeting – if we are able to - or by newsletter and a display of the plans.

Hudswell Hostel @ St Michaels Director

WHO'D BE A RURAL COMMISSIONER?

In August 2019 I received, out of the blue, a letter from the Chief Executive of Yorkshire County Council asking me if I would join a Rural Commission for North Yorkshire that would “investigate the sustainability of our most rural communities”. The letter suggested that the Commission would meet for a day a month for six months starting in October that year. It would consider evidence from key witnesses and produce a report with recommendations for the County Council and other relevant agencies to consider. It was to be chaired by Rev John Dobson, the Dean of Ripon Cathedral and would have six other members drawn from a variety of backgrounds including farming, journalism, business, estate management and the rural economy. There was to be no payment involved (apart from travel expenses), but it sounded interesting. Did I want to be involved in a few meetings for a few months discussing rural policies? I thought “why not”!

Eighteen months and 20 meetings later (virtual ones for the last year), we are in the final stages of producing our report and I have learnt a great deal about the problems facing rural communities and the challenges for the future of villages like ours. My professional background has been in community development and regeneration, all of this in urban settings in the north east of England and London. So, other than having lived in Hudswell for the past 15 years (punctuated by two years in Rwanda), my only experience of rural issues has been my involvement on Hudswell Community Pub and Hudswell Community Charity. This experience, however, proved to be relevant to much of the debate at the Rural Commission meetings.

The Commission meetings were initially held at County Hall, Northallerton, before we moved online. They were all day affairs in which we listened to and then questioned expert witnesses, in the fields of farming, transport, digital connectivity, education, housing, the rural economy and energy. At these meetings I learnt a great deal about our county. For example, that North Yorkshire is the largest geographical county in England, three times larger than Luxembourg and bigger than 32 countries around the world. The County covers more than 3,000 square miles of urban, coastal and rural terrain, including two national parks and three areas of outstanding natural beauty (AONB). The current population of North Yorkshire is 618,000, with two thirds of this population living in larger urban or coastal places and the remaining third in market towns and smaller rural villages. Most of North Yorkshire (85%) is classed as super-sparse, with less than one person per hectare. Overall, the population density in the county is more than five times lower than the England average. The national average number of people per square-km in England is 430 compared with just 76 for North Yorkshire.

With its picturesque landscapes, pretty villages, market towns, and peaceful countryside, most people think of North Yorkshire as a tranquil, desirable, and prosperous place, with few social or economic problems. Certainly, this is how my urban living friends see it, and

compared with the poverty, deprivation and poor environment experienced in many areas of nearby Teesside, for example, I agree that challenges we face in rural North Yorkshire are not as great or as clear cut. Nevertheless, as I have learnt, there are real and pressing issues to be addressed if we want to see our rural villages remain, or return to being thriving, diverse communities. The Commission has received a vast amount of evidence that it is impossible for me to summarise in this article. So, I will pick out some of the highlights that struck me as being the most important.

- Our farming – particular in the upland area - is in crisis as most farmers make little or no profit and are reliant on EU subsidies that have now disappeared.
- The population of North Yorkshire is becoming increasingly elderly. There are 149,000 people aged 65 years or over. This is 24% of the total population and is expected to increase significantly in the next 20 years. On the other hand, the proportion of residents who make up the working age population is below the national average and is forecast to fall.
- The economic development of much of our rural areas is highly dependent on the actions, or inactions of the owners of large estates. Some of whom work with their local communities to improve local facilities, whilst others do not.
- Housing is expensive and this leads to young families and people on average incomes being unable to afford to live here.
- Poor digital connectivity (mobile networks and fast broadband) hampers economic growth and tourism.
- The old, traditionally built housing stock is expensive to heat, the lack of gas in rural areas makes it heavily reliant on oil and coal. Planning constraints hinder wind and solar power generation, and electric cars will be less viable where distances to charging points are so great. We are in danger of being left behind in the “green revolution”.

It seemed to me that the evidence presented indicated that, if policies are not developed to address these problems, there is a danger that many of our rural villages will become places dominated by retired people, holiday and second homes. Many farms may be abandoned. We will be left behind as green energy comes to dominate. Housing will become increasingly unaffordable for people on average or below average incomes. Schools and pubs will continue to close and many of our villages will not be real communities at all.

The Commission has yet to reach its final conclusions and recommendations to address these problems, though we are now in the final stages of our work and hope to complete it by early summer – almost two years after I agreed to become a commissioner. We have agreed to keep our powder dry until the official launch of the report, so our recommendations will have to wait until another article. But I think it’s fair to say that many of the things we will be recommending, we already do in Hudswell. We have an active community that has supported the village through the pandemic. We own our own pub and shop, we have a thriving village hall, a good mix of housing, including affordable housing to rent. We have a good mix of age ranges in the village, with more children and young people than there were 10 years ago. There are a few holiday homes that bring visitors here, which helps to support the pub and shop. There are one or two second homes, but not too many. People want to live here as a permanent base from which they can work and bring up a family and are constantly investing in their homes. We are a thriving village and, once again, we find that we are leading the way in Hudswell!

Martin Booth

National Trust Yorkshire Dales

NEWS FROM THE WOODS – SPRING 2021

With more lockdown, home schooling and picking up bits of work that we can undertake safely, it has been an odd winter. Punctuated with much rain, several heavy snowfalls, and what used to be normal seasonal temperatures, I am not sure if the winter has flown by or limped past, but finally we find ourselves enjoying longer daylight and again waiting for the first migrant birds to return. Curlews, oystercatchers and skylarks are all back in the Dales, but my ears cannot wait for chiff-chaff chiff-chaff to ring out from the little brown non-descript warbler of the same name. I will know then that spring has truly returned to the woods.

Our winter work has focused on a number of things that have dragged me away from the woods, but we did manage to continue with some of our grant work that is mostly designed to add disturbance and complexity to our woodlands. I'll elaborate a little here and try to provide a bit of explanation. It may sound odd but much of our woodland ecology has evolved to live alongside the large herbivores that wandered about after the last ice age. So, in the absence of species such as long tusked elephant (seriously) we might use a chainsaw to artificially create woodland glades or standing dead wood, or just increase levels of dead wood on the woodland floor. This work is not about trying to recreate the past but more focused on restoring a functioning ecology for the future. Think of woodland as a car engine; if you take random parts out it either doesn't work too well, or even at all. A woodland, or any habitat for that matter, is the same, if species are missing, for whatever reason, then the processes and food chains, all evolved over hundreds of thousands of years, start to fall apart or go off on tangents, some unsustainable. Sometimes, for whatever reason, it's not possible to replace missing species so we might use a proxy that would perform the same function (e.g., Belted Galloways on the riverside grassland at Round Howe) or, in the case of some aspects of woodland management we may still be reliant on a chainsaw. Conservation practice that mimics nature and works with nature processes instead of trying to stop them, is slowly gathering pace, and it has much exciting potential.

Continuing the theme of allowing nature some freedom I am pleased to report that with the help of our tenant farmer the hedge on the eastern boundary of the hay meadow at the top of the woods has again been spared the flail. Good hedges are like miniature woodland edges, they are incredibly important habitats when managed for wildlife rather than tidiness. The uncut hedge this winter has been full of food; studies show that cutting every third year and encouraging taller wider hedges benefits many species that feed on berries and use the hedge for cover and nesting. I walked the 300m hedge line in January and counted 9 nests in the new growth above the old cut line. That's 9 nests that would not exist if the hedge had been cut. Nature doesn't lend itself to a clean extrapolation but that's a possible 9000 nests in 300km. There is an estimated 402,000km of managed hedgerow in the UK: just think of the possibilities if even half of our hedgerows were better managed for wildlife!

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 Mankelov

Ranger, National Trust Yorkshire Dales

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

Yorkshire Dales National Park

RANGER REPORT, SPRING 2021

Being a Ranger often requires the ability to adapt to varying situations, unusual circumstances or last-minute changes of plan; thinking outside the box and making the most of what resources we have to hand. I guess you can understand how these skills have been tested over the last year.

As if the flood damage remaining from July 2019 and then subsequent flooding in February 2020 hadn't created enough extra work on the rights of way in Swaledale; when Covid-19 arrived and confined us to barracks we were left in an ever more desperate situation.

We have two types of Ranger in the Yorkshire Dales National Park. *Access Rangers* (Roger in Swaledale & Arkengarthdale and two more in Upper and Lower Wensleydale in our Northern Team) carry out the day-to-day maintenance work, the nuts and bolts as it were, and can be seen out and about more frequently in their 4x4's. Often they are accompanied by a single volunteer or apprentice or may have a whole group of helpers out with them. They have excellent practical and motivational skills and make good cat herders.

Area Rangers (that's me in Swaledale & Arkengarthdale and we have one other to cover the whole of Wensleydale) have been referred to as the Jack of all trades (but Master of a few) as our role is so varied no two days are the same; project management comes into it on larger schemes, community liaison with local people and landowners, managers and their agents. We try to work with local schools and groups mainly concerning access, recreation and the local environment.

For Area Rangers working from home has become a new adaptation. Normally I am based at Hudson House in Reeth but for me, with two young children at home, I can say I have found it to be quite an enjoyable time. I have the best of both worlds; being able to get out when I need to visit somewhere but being at home to help with home schooling.

For the Access Rangers getting back into the field was a priority and from as soon as the first Lockdown lifted we were able to resume some kind of service. Our main limitation has been the lack of volunteers; we had to stand the majority of them down and could only use single volunteers at a time. This has shown (not that we didn't know) how much we rely on volunteers, single and groups, to get certain jobs done; the jobs that need the grunt work, lots of carrying of materials or those labour intensive but relatively simple jobs.

We have, however, made some headway now into the post-deluge backlog. We have repaired two major footbridges, are in the process of rebuilding a ford near Langthwaite and the land slipped Bridleway near Reeth. I have been working on diverting a footpath in Slei Gill lost to the catastrophic erosion on the 30 July and getting the Swale Trail back into a reasonable condition near Healaugh. The list is long and all the while there is the day-to-day maintenance which the Access Rangers are so good at keeping on top of.

In the Hudswell area we plan to surface some of the routes along the top of the wood near Church Gill (this was postponed from last year) as this has become rather narrow and sticky recently. Once we have the volunteers back out this can happen; lots of barrowing and cutting back overhead. They'll be in their element! Roger has been here a few times already; clearing fallen trees has become a more frequent requirement.

I'm sure I'm not alone in hoping this current episode will soon be over and our Rangers will become more of a familiar sight once again whilst out and about wherever you may be walking.

Michael Briggs

Area Ranger, Swaledale & Arkengarthdale

michael.briggs@yorkshiredales.org.uk | Office 01748 884060

HAPPINESS

Anon

A smiling face,
A word of praise,
A helping hand,
Forgiving ways,
Add tolerance, faith, love and prayer,
This recipe works everywhere.

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- *“Local Services” adverts cost £5 per annum (2 editions).*
- *Inside Front/Back Cover Full Page: £30 for Black & White / £50 for Colour.*