

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 March 2023.

This Newsletter is published by:

HUDSWELL & DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: John Dixon Tel: 01748 824631

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Parish Clerk: Claire Swainston Tel: 01748 826989
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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*

THE LITTLE SHOP, HUDSWELL

Probably the smallest community shop in Britain

Monday to Friday 9.00am – 12 noon & 5.00pm – 6.00pm
Saturday 9.00am – 12 noon
Sunday 11.00am – 12 noon

HUDSWELL VILLAGE HALL – Events and News

Badminton Mondays 7.00 pm -9.00 pm (October-April only)
Enquiries to Steve Hustwick 01748 850447

Bridge Club – Weekly Fridays 1.00 pm – 4.00 pm
Enquiries to John Taylor 07983 869420

Pilates – Weekly Thursdays 5.00 pm – 6.00 pm
Enquiries to Joanna Gibson 07572 539213

Photography Every 2nd Wednesday 7.00 pm – 9.00 pm
Enquiries to Ian Short ishort1998@aol.com

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 1st and 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.

PLEASE HELP ...

Could you find a bit of community spirit to volunteer for 4 - 5 hours per year? Hudswell Village Hall is a charity run facility operating for the local community. If you feel you could spare a little time now and then to support your local village hall committee, we would love to hear from you.

The hall is run by volunteers who live in the village; we meet 3 times per year to review the state of the building and action any points which keep the hall in good repair and functioning for the use of hirers, both within the village and further afield. Whilst we have a few committed committee members to keep things going, we'd love more help.

Think you could give an occasional helping hand? Speak to someone at our free villagers' coffee morning on the first Thursday each month 10.00 am – 12.00 noon or, you can contact Sue Rowley on the number above.

We really hope to hear from you 😊

Hudswell Village Hall Committee

HUDSWELL COMMUNITY CHARITY

Are you in full time or part time education, leading to a technical, professional or academic qualification? Are you aged between 16 and 21? Then you could apply for a grant. Contact the Secretary [martinbooth1@hotmail.com] for an application form.

DEFIBRILLATOR FAMILIARISATION TRAINING

On Tuesday 20th September Hannah Phillips very kindly led a defibrillator familiarization session in Hudswell Village Hall. This was attended by 28 residents, quite a number from Downholme who have recently seen a brand new defibrillator installed in the village.



Funding of the defibrillator was provided by grants from the Richmondshire District Council **Richmondshire Area Partnership Funding Scheme 2020-21** and the North Yorkshire County Council **County Councillor Locality Budgets Funding**.



Training AED and manikin loaned from North East Search & Rescue Association [nesra.org.uk]

HUDSWELL VILLAGE PLAYGROUND

New play equipment has been installed at Hudswell Village Playground. The children have enjoyed exploring!



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 75 email addresses have already signed up.)

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH ST MICHAELS CHURCH?

Its more than four years now since Hudswell Community Charity offered to try and find a new use for our redundant Parish Church and one year ago since we held our public consultation meeting in the church to explain our proposals to the village. Progress remains slow, but in the last few months there have been some significant steps forward, though one major obstacle remains.

Before I explain the current position, I thought it was worth reminding everyone of the history of the church. St Michael and All Angels church was built in 1895 and was used for over 120 years until, in 2015 regular worship ceased. It was formally closed as a church last year. It is a listed building with important architectural and heritage features. It replaced an earlier medieval church, believed to date from 1250. This may have replaced an even earlier building as Hudswell is recorded as a settlement in the Domesday



Book completed in 1086. Therefore, this site may have been at the centre of village life in Hudswell for the past 1000 years. Apart from being a fine example of late Victorian church architecture it contains many older relics including, built into the walls of the porch, a corbel with a human face and four fragments of tomb slabs with various forms of the foliated cross, probably dating to the 14th century. Two of these are shown here.

We want to preserve these and other early remains by keeping the church in the ownership of the local community, retaining public access to it, whilst recognising and celebrating its historical significance.

In June this year the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority finally granted planning

permission and listed building consent for it to be converted into a hostel. On the 8th August, the Church Commissioners published a scheme to transfer the church to the ownership of Hudswell Community Charity, for conversion to a hostel. This was followed by a 6-week consultation period, a necessary step prior to transfer taking place. The planning permission has many conditions attached to it, all of which the Charity trustees are keen to comply with. This will be a low impact conversion, with little or no changes to the external appearance of the church, or the cemetery and, in the interior, we are keen to conserve all its historic features. The hostel will provide 16/18 beds in six rooms, by inserting a mezzanine floor on the nave, although this will not stretch right across, so views will be possible up to the ceiling and, in the chancel, the residents lounge will retain the high wooden roof and full height window.



With planning permission secured we have developed a business plan which demonstrates that the hostel will be a viable and sustainable business. This has been boosted by the recent announcement that the Coast-to-Coast route is to become a national trail and, as this passes nearby the hostel, it should bring extra customers who are walking the route. In addition to this the hostel will be a stopping point on the Camino Ingles. This is a new long-distance pilgrimage route being developed from Finchale Priory in County Durham to Durham, Ripon and York Cathedrals and then on to the south of England to join the ancient Camino Ingles to Santiago. This will also provide

additional customers as we believe that staying in a former church on a pilgrimage route will be attractive to many pilgrims.

Our big remaining challenge is to raise the necessary funds to pay for the conversion work. Providing a high-quality hostel within a listed building is not going to be cheap and our quantity surveyor has estimated the conversion cost to be around £970,000. When you add on the cost of purchase, legal and professional fees and the cost of furniture and fittings, we think we are going to have to raise almost £1.1 million. This is a lot more than we originally thought and is a big challenge. However, we have a funding strategy in place and are busy writing funding bids. We have committed to £25,000 from our own reserves and are talking to the Charity Bank about a £120,000 loan. We also hope to raise at least £25,000 from donations from individuals who want to support our aim to preserve the church and its important features for future generations to appreciate. We are hoping that people who were married or baptised there, or have relatives buried in the cemetery, or who simply want to support this worthwhile cause may be prepared to make a donation. In order to launch this crowd funding campaign we need to create a website and a social media presence (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram etc). We have a digital market company who has offered to help us with this, but it would be very helpful to us (as the trustees are all old and don't understand how social media works), if someone who has some knowledge about social media campaigns would offer to help us with this. If you think you might be able to get involved with this, please talk to one of the trustees listed below or ring me on 07903872635.

Martin Booth

Secretary Hudswell Hostel @ St Michaels

Website: daleshotel.com

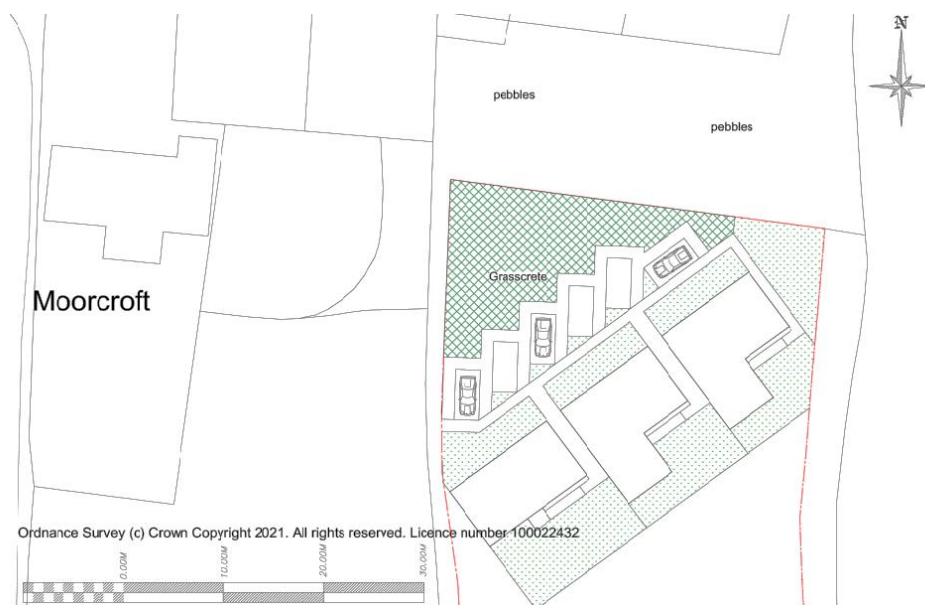
Hudswell Community Charity Trustees: Susan Ferns-Williams, Ian Whinray, Annie Sumner, Heather Swettenham, Phil Simmonds, Rev Martin Fletcher and Martin Booth

MORE AFFORDABLE HOMES FOR HUDSWELL

As some people may have heard on the village grape vine, Hudswell Community Charity has been considering a proposal to build three more homes in the village. Whilst this idea has been in our minds for a while, we had hoped to get the church project completed (or abandoned) before taking this on. However, for the reasons set out below, we have decided to press ahead with this idea now.

- With new active trustees we feel we have the capacity to take on this project now.
- Demand for our current homes remains high and vacancies are quickly filled.
- The need for affordable homes in rural North Yorkshire is acute, as was evidenced in the report of the North Yorkshire Rural Commission published last summer.
- We have the opportunity to access grant funding for these homes from Richmondshire Council and this authority will go out of existence in a few months' time, so the opportunity may be lost if we delay.
- With the current crisis in the cost of living and energy prices we have the opportunity to work with Teesside University and Norscott (a company specialising in custom built eco-homes), to provide homes that will be extremely cost efficient to heat and run.

The proposal is to build on the field behind Plews Cottages. The current car park will remain for our existing tenants and new homes would be built on land that gradually slopes away to the south. The site plan is shown below.



They will be single story and therefore not visible from the road. They will be modern, extremely well insulated homes, largely built off site, that will have very low energy costs, high specifications, be fully accessible and designed with disability in mind. They will have green, sedum roofs, large south facing windows to capture the sun's warmth and systems to distribute this throughout the home. They will also have solar panels located in the field below. In short these will be very modern, low impact homes that are cheap to run. They will therefore look a little different from most of the homes in Hudswell, as illustrated in the computer-generated image. The cladding of these homes could be stone or render to fit in with nearby homes, or perhaps this would only be required on the north facing wall (not shown on this picture).



All our existing homes are available to tenants with a strong local connection, to rent. It is possible that one, or perhaps even two of these could be shared equity – part owned by the resident and part rented. We are considering this because, in the past we have had to reject applications from people who had a very strong case to live in Hudswell (relatives in the village would support them for example), because they owned their own home and were therefore not in housing need. Shared equity would allow us to house someone in this situation and allow them to keep some of the value of the home, whilst we retain the right to re-allocate it once they no longer require it.

The Charity can afford to build these new homes with a combination of a small amount of capital from our reserves, a loan from the Charity Bank and grant from Richmondshire

Council. Currently this remains a proposal, which has not yet been submitted for planning approval, so it is subject to change and amendment. The views of the village on this proposal are important to us and we want to offer every opportunity for villages to find out more, ask questions and make suggestions. We are holding a public meeting in the village hall to facilitate this on **Friday 14th October at 7pm**, at which we will explain our proposal in more detail. Please do come if you can.

In addition to this please also talk to any of the trustees, or e mail me or ring me at the address and phone number below if you want to know more or have a suggestion to make.

Martintbooth1@hotmail.com mobile number 07903872635 home number 01748 541299

National Trust Yorkshire Dales NEWS FROM THE WOODS – AUTUMN 2022

Blackberries galore! There's been a wonderful bramble crop this year, so good that tucked out of the breeze in the warm sunshine they even scent the woodland edge with a sweet fruitfulness. I'm a big fan of brambles, but being prickly and 'invasive' they are often cut or sprayed and 'tidied away'. They are however an undervalued species as they provide so much cover and food. Brambles are a natural tree guard for tree saplings, their flowers and fruit are a welcome food source for many invertebrates, from wasps to the beautiful ragged winged comma butterfly. Brambles also provide shelter in which insects and other species overwinter or seek refuge from inclement weather. I have even watched bullfinches in the frosty depths of winter picking over the wizened remains of blackberries, expertly extracting the dried nutritious seeds from the browned berries that failed to be picked or eaten.

The summer just gone will not however be defined by blackberries, instead it will probably be remembered for the searing heat in July. I recall travelling back to Hudswell from Richmond on the 40-degree day, the temperature was incongruous to the familiar surroundings, as if weather from the Mediterranean or North Africa had been dropped upon us, which in some ways I suppose it had. Rapid climate change will and already is having a massive impact on our local wildlife. There is a wide spectrum of impacts from simple observations such as swallows and martins struggling to find nest building mud, to more complex and visually less apparent problems such as changes to insect populations and life cycles, or an increase in tree pests and diseases. Much of our woodland management is aimed at improving resilience to climate change but this does not replace tackling the root causes of what is increasingly being recognised as climate breakdown.

It's tough to follow on from such a serious topic but our work over the summer (involving both Rangers and much valued Volunteers) has continued to improve access at Round Howe and reduce the widening and soil compaction along popular footpaths. Our winter grazing plans on the riverside grassland have also been modified a little and we look forward to continuing the grassland rehabilitation with a low number of cattle in the coming weeks. A new metal kissing gate is also being installed on the Billy Bank riverside, hopefully this sturdier gate will be more resilient to being submerged and hit by debris from the Swale in flood. We shall see!

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

Yorkshire Dales National Park

TEES SWALE: NATURALLY CONNECTED

Here is a brief summary of this joint project which is now underway in the Swaledale part of the Yorkshire Dales National Park and further north in the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. These two areas share many similarities in its landscape and communities. The project is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and Mark Holmes, the Tees Swale Community Engagement Officer, has kindly provided a few details of what is happening.

As the Tees-Swale: Naturally Connected programme enters its third year, both engagement and nature recovery activities continue within Swaledale and surrounding areas. Local schools from Reeth, Northallerton, Darlington and Bedale all visited the National Park as part of their curriculum last year, organised and funded by the programme, with dates already in the diary for this coming year to deepen that link. Youth groups, including local Scout and Young Carer groups have experienced various activities across the Dale and community events such as the Farming Film Festival have been well-attended; plans are in place to grow these further in 2023.

On the ground, the programme has been working with local farmers and landowners; helping to restore hay meadows and grasslands, plant areas of new tree cover whilst surveying existing woodland and exploring the development of pollinator corridors. The project also employs several young apprentice trainees who are involved in all aspects of the work going on.

More information about the Tees-Swale: Naturally Connected programme can be found at <https://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/park-authority/living-and-working/tees-swale-naturally-connected/> with details of local events and activities being shared on both North Pennines AONB and Yorkshire Dales National Park social media channels.

Image below; TS:NC Apprentices L-R Simona, Benji (Sir John Lawton Chairman of the TS:NC Board) Beth and Caitlin.



Habitat Creation with a Youth Group in Swaledale

HM QUEEN ELIZABETH II

There are many things Brits are famous for; three that spring to mind as I reflect on my visit to the capital last Saturday were an unswerving love of monarchy, a stiff upper lip, and an innate predisposition to queue; it was this unique combination of English eccentricities that created one of the most memorable and enduring (literally) phenomena that I've ever experienced.

It was a spur of the moment decision, precipitated by the sight of a shiny new (albeit altogether grief-worn) King standing sentinel with his siblings around his later mother's coffin in Edinburgh's St Giles Cathedral, that determined me to travel to London to pay my own respects to the late monarch. As such I barely had time to consider the potential logistics and/or lunacy of waiting in line for what was predicted to be 16 hours along a



chilly river bank in a city on the cusp of autumn. Whilst I'd had the sense to dress appropriately in warm kit and my most forgiving trainers, the forethought of carrying not only spare jumpers, gloves, a hat and even a jacket and proper shoes befitting my intended courtesy once I got into Westminster Hall, was countered by the lack of consideration for the weight of such amassed items I would have to bear.

The queue itself was a masterpiece of flow dynamics: by channelling us through row upon row of zig-zagging barrier lines, the sensation was one of almost continuous movement, and therefore progress. This clever mental sleight of hand, coupled with a well chosen route along the river helped the time pass quickly. Having queued for the queue (yes indeed, we'd shuffled through half a kilometre of zigzag pens before officially receiving our wristbands and joining the Actual Queue) in Southwark Park, the first stage of our odyssey paid homage to London's maritime trade history. With Docklands and Canary Wharf on the opposite bank of the Thames, we wended our way through the gentrified warehouse alleys of Bernoldsey, Southwark and Shad Thames, amidst buildings with such evocative names as Cinnamon, Spice, and Vanilla and Sesame, past the Francis Drake's dry-docked *Golden Hinde* and the (alleged) oldest pub in London (sadly, before its doors opened for the day) and out along the riverfront just east of Tower Bridge. And what a magnificent sight that was. Drenched in purple light and sporting glowing golden crowns, the towers themselves were the first visual reminder of a nation commemorating Her Late Majesty's reign. As we moved further west along the river, the purple theme was echoed in London Bridge, the Shard, the Millennium and Waterloo Bridge and eventually Lambeth Bridge, where we were due to cross the river and head back east to the Palace of Westminster.

By early dawn we'd reached Bankside and enjoyed views of Tate Modern, Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, the National Theatre and the Southbank Centre, where the most diehard of skateboarders were already attacking the subterranean ramps. By midmorning we'd reached Jubilee Gardens where the London Eye and clear blue skies filled the space above us, the sight of both lifting spirits that may have hitherto worn rather thin over the chilly hours of early morning. It would only be another hour before the Houses of Parliament would be visible across the river and we knew we were on the home stretch.

Throughout the journey spirits were high, reminiscences were shared, spaces were made for those returning from (the wonderfully well organised) loo or refreshments breaks,

volunteers were greeted and thanked. And whilst decibels levels were kept respectfully low, there was a definite feeling of shared fun and adventure. Within a few hours, as we edged airway closer towards the west aspect of Westminster, there was a visceral change in atmosphere as the 'living in the moment' camaraderie and banter of the last twelve hours was replaced with more insular, private contemplation and anticipation of what was to come. Another hour of zigzag queue lines across the Palace Gardens led us eventually through a very thorough 'airport style' security check. (Many a female in the queue would have wished there had been clearer advice about being prepared to jettison any expensive cosmetics of the fluid variety and enough lighters were confiscated to rival Guy Fawkes' own incendiary haul some four plus centuries earlier). As we rounded the corner and found ourselves standing at the foot of the steps into Westminster Hall, there was an audible intake - and possibly - holding of breath as the enormity of what we were about to experience sank in.

Enormity in the sense of the size of the hall itself, enormity in the scale of security operation surrounding the catafalque, and enormity in the occasion itself. Obviously every single individual who entered that space that day had their own reasons to be there and their own reactions to what they saw; I won't try to impose my own sentiments upon those myriad personal motivations and feelings. Suffice it to say that the protracted time spent queuing, (along with the weight of both my legs and my bag thirteen hours in,) as vastly disproportionate to the actual time spent in the Hall as it was and the weight of emotion that overwhelmed me, paled into insignificance as I paused fleetingly to honour the most venerable of British institutions.



LOCAL SERVICES

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Composer, organist/pianist, tutor. www.fionagh-bennet-music.co.uk
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www.richmondsash.co.uk, email: info@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. Contact me to help you plan and book your next holiday on 01748 822540/07795 522429 or email me:
tracy@designertravel.co.uk, follow me on Facebook: tracy at Designer Travel

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.