

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 2024.

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
	claire.swainston@btinternet.com	

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

<https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/>
under "Your council", then "Parish and town councils"

THE LITTLE SHOP, HUDSWELL

Probably the smallest community shop in Britain

Monday – Friday	9.00am – 12 noon & 5.00pm – 6.00pm
Wednesday	<i>CLOSED ALL DAY</i>
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 Training session prior to games from 10.30 am – 1.00 pm Enquiries to John Taylor 07983 869420
Pilates – Weekly	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 rd Wednesday each month 7.30 pm - 9.30 pm
FREE Coffee Morning	1 st 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 ...

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.

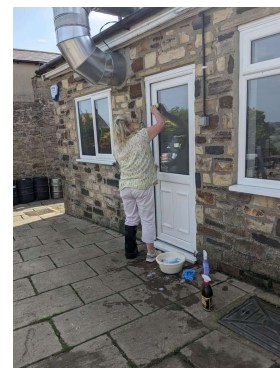
Think you could give an occasional helping hand? Speak to someone at our free villagers' coffee morning on the first Thursday each month 10.00 am – 12.00 noon or, you can contact Sue Rowley on the number above.

We really hope to hear from you 😊
Hudswell Village Hall Committee

ALL CHANGE AT THE GEORGE AND DRAGON

When the village decided to rescue and re-open the George and Dragon, following more than a year of closure in 2008/9, the directors of HCP Ltd – chosen by the membership – promised that this would never happen again. Back then, the Chair of the Board of Directors, Paul Cullen, who has been chair for the last 14 years, said ***“Now that the pub is owned by the village and our friends and supporters, we can ensure that, whatever the economic climate, or the performance of our tenants, the George and Dragon will remain open and at the heart of the community in Hudswell.”***

This promise was put to the test in August this year when our latest tenants, Mark and Michelle Firby, who had run the pub for just over a year, announced that they were quitting, giving the board just three weeks' notice. The reasons for their surprising decision have been the subject of much rumour and misinformation. The facts are that the economic climate had been difficult for them, they had built up debts over the 12 months they had run the pub including to HCP Ltd. The board offered to help them with a reduction in the rent, but they felt this was not sufficient and chose to walk away, breaking the terms of their lease by not giving the required three months' notice.



This meant that the board of HCP did not have sufficient time to recruit a new tenant and, because the Firby's took away all the furniture and fittings that belonged to them, we were left with an empty pub, with little or no stock. We quickly concluded that, whilst we searched for a new tenant to take on the business, we would have to open and run the

pub ourselves for a limited period. The alternative would have been a lengthy closure, which we had promised back in 2010 would not happen again. So, on the day that the tenants left, the community sprang into action. Furniture, equipment and pictures for the walls were all donated, volunteers cleaned and repainted the pub, tidied the garden, replaced weeds with flowers, renovated the donated furniture and cleared out the storage areas. Meanwhile a “transition team” of HCP directors worked on securing new contracts with suppliers, purchasing equipment for the kitchen and installing a new digital till and card machine system. All of this was achieved at breakneck speed, with over 30 volunteers involved and it enabled the pub to be re-opened on the evening Saturday 16th September.

The first night was a great success. With almost no publicity the word spread that the pub was open and villagers, including many who had not been seen there in recent months, poured in. The bar was staffed by a combination of volunteers and experienced staff. The new till system, only installed hours before opening, worked well and there was a happy, relaxed and celebratory atmosphere. It was great to have our pub back!

Our current plan is to run the pub with a core team of experienced bar and cellar staff (Alex Purvis and David Harper) supplemented by volunteers. Our former tenant, Stuart Miller, assisted by his dad Keith, has offered to provide Sunday lunches and may do the occasional special food nights. Otherwise, for the time being the pub will be providing drinks only with restricted opening times of:

Monday – Wednesday	2pm – 9.30pm
Thursday	2pm – 10pm
Friday and Saturday	12 noon - 11pm
Sunday	12 noon - 9.30pm

These times may change as we learn more about customer demand or we are able to recruit a chef to provide a more comprehensive food offer. In the meantime, the search for a new tenant is on. So far, we have had nine enquires about the tenancy, several of which look likely to turn into full applications. The board of HCP Ltd have learnt several lessons from their recent experience, the two most important of which are not to rush the selection process, rather we will take our time to make sure that we choose the right tenant to take on our great pub. Secondly, we will ensure that they have the necessary financial resources to launch the business.

Despite our recent experience and the rash of pub closures elsewhere, we are firmly convinced that the George and Dragon is a viable business that will provide a great opportunity for the right person. A person with vision, drive and financial acumen-who with a combination of an innovative and reliable service delivered within a friendly and welcoming atmosphere, will be able to take our famous village pub into the future. In the meantime, please do use our pub. It belongs to the members of HCP Ltd, over half of whom are villagers or the close friends and relations of villagers. With new furniture, décor and pictures it looks great, so please pop in and have a chat and a drink, raising a glass to the fantastic community in Hudswell who would not let our pub die.

If you would like to become an investing member of Hudswell Community Pub Ltd then ask me for a share application form or pick one up next time you are in the pub.

Martin Booth
Secretary HCP Ltd

HUDSWELL CHURCH ARCHAEOLOGY UPDATE

Over the last couple of months Hudswell villagers have been taking part in the Hudswell Origins Project, in a bid to understand more of the history of the church, its immediate surroundings and the village as a whole.

Hudswell was mentioned in the Domesday book completed in 1086 for William the Conqueror. The name probably means Hudel's spring from the Old English name of *Hudel* and the Old English word of *Wella* meaning spring or stream. It is likely that the village has its origin in the Anglo-Saxon period. The current church at Hudswell was constructed in 1884 and the earliest available Ordnance Survey map, surveyed in 1854 and published in 1857, reveals that an earlier church stood on the same location as the current church. It is possible that this represents the second church to have been built in the village, and there is an even earlier predecessor in the vicinity.

Local archaeologists Cath and Stuart Ross noted that Lidar (laser imaging, detection and ranging) mapping of the area revealed a rectangular structure in the field to the immediate south of the current church and to the north of the beck. This structure didn't appear on the first edition Ordnance Survey or subsequent maps indicating it predated the mid-19th century.

With the support of small grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Yorkshire Archaeological and Historical Society the villagers decided to investigate this site. An archaeological excavation was planned to reveal the nature of these remains. The structure had the potential to represent either an agricultural building such as a barn, a structure associated with the church demolished during the 19th century, or a much earlier structure, such as an early church. A second trench was also planned to the immediate north of Hudswell Lane in order to establish the presence or absence of Medieval roadside settlement in this area.

Community excavations were held on the 8th and 28th of July. These were attended by more than 45 villagers including many children, who – led by the local archaeologists, investigated the archaeology within the two trenches. A group of professional archaeologists from Ecus Archaeology also enjoyed a volunteer day on the 20th of July, helping to progress the excavation.



Work on the trench closest to the church exposed some stonework which appeared to have a revetted, apsidal eastern end, causing much excitement for the archaeologists. However, as the site weathered out, a central depression became more apparent and it became clear, through further excavation, that what we had thought was a wall foundation was in fact the up-cast stone from a central shaft, which had been neatly revetted around the eastern end. Frequent fragments of galena (lead ore) were identified within the up-cast material which has led to the interpretation of the site as a bell pit associated with lead mining.

A sherd of green, lead-glazed pottery dates the activity at the site to the 17th or 18th century. A couple of fabulous finds were also made in the subsoil pre-dating the bell pit. The first was the bowl of a clay pipe which dates to between 1610 and 1640. The maker's mark on the foot of the pipe reads 'IC' and may indicate Isaac Cary of York as the maker. The second was a silver penny of Elizabeth the 1st, which can be closely dated to between December 1560 and October 1561.

Excavation within the roadside trench revealed the presence of two probable medieval plough furrows running from north to south. No dateable finds were recovered from this trench. The absence of building platforms in this area indicates that this has always been an agricultural plot and that if the village continued this far west during the medieval period, it may have been on a slightly different alignment.

Now that the excavations have finished, the roadside trench has been backfilled. The larger trench containing the bell pit has been fenced off for safety but has been left open and may remain so for public viewing. A report on the findings is under preparation and this will be made available both online and at the church. Once the finds from the excavation have been processed, they will be returned to the Hudswell Community Charity for eventual display in the church.

Cath Ross (Ecus Archaeology)

THE CAMINO INGLES TO PASS THROUGH HUDSWELL

Linda and I have walked three Camino pilgrimages to Santiago de Compostela in northern Spain. The first was in 2011 from St Jean Pied de Paul on the French side of the Pyrenees, the second from Seville in southern Spain in 2016 and the third from Porto in Portugal in 2019. They were all great walks – the longest was from Seville is known as the Via de la Plata. It was over 600 miles long, through stunning countryside and great historic cities. But, as always with pilgrimages, it was the other pilgrims you meet along the way that also made it such a great experience. These Camino routes start from all over Europe and people come to walk them from all over the world.

Now, it seems that we can start the walk from nearer to home as the Friends of the Finchale Camino group are developing a route from Finchale Priory in County Durham that will eventually make its way to the south coast to join the Camino Ingles route from A Curuna on the north coast of Galicia – a mere 75 miles from Santiago. The inspiration for this is St Godric, who was a sailor and then hermit from the 12th century and one of the first recorded English Pilgrims to Santiago. Following his return from Santiago, he lived an austere life in Finchale Priory. The remains of St Godric's hermitage lie in a beautiful location by the River Wear at Finchale Priory. The chapel and his tomb can still be seen among the ruins of Finchale. The group have developed the route beginning at Finchale Priory, then on to Durham Cathedral, south to Bishop Auckland and West Auckland. It then goes down to the River Tees at Gainford, and along the river to Piercebridge. From here the Camino heads south to Richmond. From Richmond it continues through Hudswell Woods and across the moor to Downholme, then to Leyburn and down to Ripon Cathedral. From there it will continue to the south coast.

To celebrate this development the Friends of the Finchale Camino have worked with St Marys in Richmond and Hudswell Community Charity to organise a Pilgrimage walk from St Marys Church to St Michaels in Downholme on the 30th September, which is the feast

of St Michael. The walkers will be blessed by the Bishop of Ripon at the start and will stop on the way at St Michaels in Hudswell for refreshments, where they can also to learn about our plans to convert it to a hostel. Hudswell Community Charity now own the church and the land between the cemetery wall and the road. They have raised more than half of the funds they need to convert the building and we hope that having a famous pilgrimage route pass by the door will be a good source of customers for the hostel.



When we struggled along the hot miles of the Meseata between Burgos and Lyon on the Camino Frances, Linda and I never dreamed that one day a Camino route would be passing by our back door. Maybe it is beckoning us to walk it again!

Buen Camino

NEWS FROM THE WOODS – AUTUMN 2023

Autumn seems to have arrived with some force. Yesterday we cancelled our guided walk for Richmond Walking Festival (this year it was a Peat Bog Walk in Upper Wharfedale) and looking at images of vehicles stuck in flood water from the Ure I am pleased to have got my car home in one piece. The warm week in early September seems a long time ago now and blackberries have quickly developed a mouldy coat. Yet, a splash of sunshine here and there still brings out the odd butterfly, a speckled wood, or white, or a late comma feasting on devil's bit scabious. Figures for butterflies this year have been more encouraging after last year's low, they seem to have bounced back a bit. It is a reminder that given a chance nature can bounce back, but to do that it needs good quality habitat, lots of it, and ideally it needs to all be connected so wildlife can move with ease through a countryside that is essentially created and managed by people.

I've noticed a few more sorry ash trees recently, ash tend to drop their leaves earlier than many other trees anyway, but there are constant reminders across the Dales that ash dieback is very much here to stay. This non-native fungus is also shaping our landscape. We continue to monitor our ash trees for tree safety and this autumn we are felling the ash in our roadside woodland along the Reeth Road, a couple of miles west of Richmond. Hag Wood has 500m of roadside boundary and we intend to fell all the ash within one tree length of the road, in a similar way to the work the MOD undertook several years ago on their land. If you use Reeth road please look out for the advanced notice signage as it may involve a short closure. All of the work is covered by an appropriate felling licence and approval from Natural England as it is within a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

It seems contradictory that we spend a lot of time planting trees and then felling other trees but there is an obvious importance given the proximity of the road. Moreover, our native woodland is also very resilient to felling and disturbance, there is a very ready seed source nearby which will provide new trees and part of our permissions prescribes that we undertake some replacement planting to offset the loss of the ash. Where safe to do so the bulk of the felled wood will also be left on site to create dead wood habitat and crucially the biology of the woodland soil will remain largely undisturbed. Within a few years – as with the ash dieback work that the MOD undertook several years ago - the woodland will bounce back.

Additional ash dieback work is also planned at other locations in the woods this winter. If you are out walking we'll do our best to avoid disrupting your route but please heed

instructions from our Rangers and Volunteers, we are only trying to keep you safe. Occasionally people still ignore us and walk under trees that already contain felling cuts!

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

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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.