

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 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 |

It's been just over 4 years since we took over the running of the Little Shop from Paul and Lorna (where has the time gone!).

We now feel it's time to take another look at the future of the Little Shop and try to understand what the people of Hudswell want from this precious Community asset.

To that end we would like to invite the people of Hudswell to a meeting at the Village Hall on **Wednesday 17th April 5.30 pm to 6.30 pm** for tea/coffees and cakes.

We would like to solicit views from as many people as possible on how they would like to see the shop develop over the next 4 to 5 years. So please come along and have your say on the future of the Little Shop.

The Little Shop Team

BEST KEPT VILLAGE 2024

Hudswell has been entered into this year's Best Kept Village competition, organised by the Rotary Club of Richmond, who want to continue to celebrate the efforts communities make to provide lovely village environments. However, they also feel it is time to broaden the competition and to set some new challenges, which they hope we will find of real interest. Particularly, they wish to celebrate the many ways villages are seeking to encourage biodiversity and to support nature.

The notes below are contained in the judge's guidelines for villages:

"Certain villages have a natural charm and beauty but are not necessarily of the highest standard. So far as possible you must judge the effort made by communities to keep their village as clean, tidy, and attractive as possible in all respects. Allowances should be made in respect of major roads running through or near to villages, or other sites or developments over which they have no control.

The judgements take account of the extent to which the village community have considered how they encourage biodiversity and nature. Some village environments lend themselves to this, but all are able, even in small ways, to demonstrate the effort they have made and should be rewarded for this.

Judges are asked to nominate particular initiatives which may be considered for the subsidiary awards for the encouragement of nature and wildlife, or accessibility."

QUICK UPDATE FROM "THE GEORGE & DRAGON"

I just wanted to give a quick update to you all on how things are going at the pub and say thank you for the support shown to us in the last couple of months.

The kind words and encouragement we have received from locals and regulars since taking the pub over again has been truly lovely and very much appreciated. The beer selection, pies and special evenings have all gone down brilliantly and the atmosphere in the pub is great.

As I am sure you are all aware this is still a very tricky period for the hospitality industry especially for those in more rural locations. The model we implemented with the business this time around by reducing the hours and food times is definitely working. Reducing our costs has meant we are not losing the money we would have otherwise, this has been extremely important with us starting the business in the quieter winter months. As we move past Easter and into the summer we will be extending the hours further and opening every day. We are also introducing a weekday loyalty stamp scheme where you will get every tenth pint free!

This summer we will be having two beer festivals, the first will be May bank holiday (25th-27th) which will be a little smaller than the main festival in August (24th-26th). We will again be looking for bar volunteers but we would generally like to have more community input and support so help with anything at all is appreciated.

Thanks again for all you support, Stu & The G&D Team.

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** 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 ...

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

ST MICHAELS CHURCH – THE TRANSFORMATION BEGINS

In late December 2023 Hudswell Community Charity received the great news that we had been awarded £250,000 from the government's Community Ownership Fund. This was followed in January by an offer from the Garfield Weston Foundation to award us a further £50,000. This brought the amount of funding awarded from eight different funders and our own reserves to £875,000. Although we originally thought that we would need about £1 million to convert the church to a hostel, some diligent work on competitive quotes have brought the costs down to below £900,000, including a large contingency element. The trustees therefore felt confident that work could begin on the access road and car park in January. This work will be completed in March after which the footpath to the cemetery can be reopened.



Inside the church we have removed the pews, which will be converted to bunk beds. Work on the internal conversion cannot begin in earnest until we have a bat licence from Natural England, which we cannot get until June at the earliest, as we are required to conduct another bat survey in May.

We have and will continue to use local trades people wherever possible to carry out the work. The internal renovation will be completed to a high standard and will retain and conserve as much of the interior as possible. The choir stalls, for instance will be retained and reused as benches in the residents lounge/dining room and the font and pulpit will be retained. The windows will be cleaned, repaired, and protected by internal double glazing and the artifacts from the earlier medieval church will be protected and retained in situ. It is important to remember that this is primarily a conservation project, which seeks to retain and preserve this much valued building, keeping it in the ownership and control of the local community and generating enough income, from its new use, to continue to maintain it in good order.

The Origins of Hudswell Project was part of this endeavour to value and understand more about the history of the site. We will be reporting back to the village on what was discovered through this project at a meeting in the village hall on 23rd March at 4pm. We intend that several display board will be created and placed within the hostel and in the grounds outside explaining these findings and the history of the church and the lead mine that we discovered in the grounds outside the cemetery. We think that the history of the church and lead mine and the links to other historic sites in Swaledale will be a major attraction that will bring people to stay at the hostel. We are therefore working with the National Lottery Heritage Fund on a proposal to have a Community Heritage Officer based at the hostel who will organise talks, activities, walks and perhaps more community digs, where the participants stay at the hostel.

It is too early in the construction to predict a finish date, but we hope that the works will be completed this year, with the hostel opening at the earliest in December, or perhaps early in the new year. We will organise an opening ceremony to which everyone in the village will be invited. Watch this space for mor information about that.

Hudswell Community Charity Trustees

THREE NEW HOMES FOR HUDSWELL

As many villagers will have noticed work has begun on the construction of the three new eco homes on the land behind Plews Cottages. By the time this article is published the



site will look very different from this picture and the prefabricated panels, from which the homes will be constructed, should have been delivered to the site. The homes are being built by Hudswell Community Charity because we know that there is demand for affordable housing in Hudswell from people with strong family connections to the village, who cannot afford to live here. Two of the homes will be for rent and one will be offered as a shared equity (part rent part buy). The reason for this is to allow people to apply for a home who have a strong case to live here, but who do not qualify for a rented property because they already own their own home. To be eligible to apply for one of these homes the applicant, or at least one of the applicants in the case of a joint application, must meet the same criteria as for our other homes, which are:

- They currently live in the village of Hudswell.
- They have previously lived in Hudswell for a considerable period.
- They have close family members, such as parents, siblings or children currently living in Hudswell.
- They work in Hudswell.

In the case of the shared equity home, which will be one of the three-bedroom houses, the applicant must be 55 or over and be able to buy at least 40% of the value of the home and meet certain other financial criteria. Whilst we do not expect the homes to be completed until the Autumn, we will be seeking applicants for the shared equity home in April or May and advertising the tenancies after that. This will ensure that we have successful applicants in place ready to move in as soon as the houses are ready.

If you wish to apply for one of these homes, or you know someone who wants to apply they can contact the Hudswell Community Charity Secretary, Martin Booth by e mail at martintbooth1@hotmail.com or ring him on 07903872635 to express an interest.

Hudswell Community Charity Trustee

NEWS FROM THE WOODS

Since I wrote the Autumn 2023 News from the Woods it barely seems to have stopped raining. Aside from the odd cold snap it has also been remarkably mild, indeed record-breakingly so according to the Met Office website. Just a couple of weeks ago in mid-February the warmth brought bats out to feed. Spiralling away from the car headlights along Hudswell Lane they searched for invertebrates, but I doubt they found enough to maintain their fat stores should cold weather prompt them back into torpor. This is but one of the challenges climate change presents. Much of our wildlife will struggle to adapt quickly enough to cope, especially bat species whose opportunity to evolve is limited to a single offspring a year. Rapid climate change will favour generalist species and not those that have evolved to exploit very particular food sources or habitats. One of our big conservation challenges is maintaining and improving species and habitat diversity as our climate changes at pace.

Grassland diversity is something the Highland cattle at Round Howe have been working hard on since September. Of course, they are just eating and doing what cattle do, but they are a dynamic presence that drives change and creates diversity along the riverside at Round Howe. The Highlands browse very differently to the Belted Galloways (our previous incumbents) and they are much more partial to eating bramble. In frost and snow they seek out and browse on holly and ivy, and think nothing of forcing through blackthorn thickets to find these evergreen leaves. There has even been some investigation of the gorse which is a testament to how tough their tongues must be. Even subtle changes such as poached ground underneath a favourite scratching branch creates habitat that will be used by something, whether that's an invertebrate or bird using a puddle of water collected in a hoof mark, or a plant seed falling on and being pushed into the bare earth. By using the right breeds in the right numbers, domesticated animals can be a very effective way of managing certain habitats.

It's a matter of days now until the first migrant warblers return to our woodlands from North Africa and Southern Europe and we are pleased to have completed the ash dieback felling on Hag Wood boundary with Reeth Road before they arrive. The work has been a success and despite looking quite severe it will quickly soften as everything comes into leaf and the ground flora responds to increased light. We are also planning some tree planting to offset the ash trees lost but this will take place in the autumn.

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

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Composer, organist/pianist, tutor. www.fionagh-bennet-music.co.uk
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Contact me to help you plan and book your next holiday, either phone 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.