

# 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 1<sup>st</sup> March 2016.*



*This Newsletter is published by:*

## **HUDSWELL & DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL**

**Chairman:** Paul Hetherington Tel: 01748 850310

**Councillors:** John Dixon Tel: 01748 824631  
Beverley Phillips Tel: 01748 824038  
Elizabeth Ramage Tel: 01748 826663  
Pat Whelan Tel: 01748 824331  
*One Vacancy*

**Parish Clerk:** Claire Swainston Tel: 01748 826989  
[claire.swainston@btinternet.com](mailto:claire.swainston@btinternet.com)

A huge “thank you” to our two Councillors who resigned at the last election (i) Barry Brack who served as Chairman for over 14 years, not to mention his additional contributions above and beyond the call of duty which included erecting the playpark bench, cementing, weeding, grass cutting and grant applications, and (ii) Jef Robinson who managed the development of Hudswell Play Park.

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 websites:

[www.parishconnect.co.uk](http://www.parishconnect.co.uk)

[www.richmondshire.gov.uk](http://www.richmondshire.gov.uk)  
under *Council and Democracy*  
then *Parish/Town Councils*

## **PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCY**

The Parish Council is currently operating with one less Councillor than we should have. If you are interested in joining this very small team, and live in Hudswell, please speak to the Chairman and we can arrange for you to be co-opted at the next meeting!

## **THE LITTLE SHOP, HUDSWELL**

### ***VOLUNTEERS NEEDED PLEASE***

More volunteers are needed to help at The Little Shop. If you are able to spare a couple of hours a week please contact John Walton (Tel: 850884).

**The Little Shop is open 9am-1pm and 4pm-6pm weekdays;  
9am to 4pm Saturdays and 11am-1pm on Sundays.**

## **HUDSWELL SCHOOL CHARITY**

Are you about to take a residential course at college or university and live in Hudswell? If so you may be eligible for a grant. For details contact John Horseman (Tel: 826216).

## HUDSWELL GARDENING CLUB

Meet in Hudswell Village Hall at 7.30pm on last Wednesday of the month. Visitors and new members always welcome. Enquiries to John Walton on 850884.

28 <sup>th</sup> October	Autumn in Hudswell Woods – Seb Mankelow
25 <sup>th</sup> November	Flowers in the Wilderness – Annie Sumner
8 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Meal
27 <sup>th</sup> January	AGM and Quiz

## HUDSWELL ALLOTMENTS *(behind the George & Dragon)*

If you would like to be considered for a plot when the next one becomes vacant, please contact John Walton (Tel: 850884).

## RICHMOND FLOWER ARRANGING CLUB

Meet in Hudswell Village Hall at 10.15am on first Wednesday of each month, except January and August. Coffee served from 9.30am. Visitors and new members always welcome. Enquiries to Judy Farrar on 824514.

7 <sup>th</sup> October	Sue Lee will describe 'A Day in the life of a Florists Shop'
15 <sup>th</sup> October	Coffee Morning at Richmond Town Hall 9am-12noon
4 <sup>th</sup> November	Christmas Workshop with Kathleen Dodds
2 <sup>nd</sup> December	Demonstration by Denise Marmont entitled 'Colours of Christmas'
January 2016	No meeting
3 <sup>rd</sup> February	Club Workshop – 'Spring Forward'
2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Annual meeting followed by talk by Sarah Hopps - 'Right Plant, Right Place'

## HUDSWELL VILLAGE HALL EVENTS

### Monthly events:

First Thursday of the month – **FREE Coffee Morning**, all welcome - 10.00am - 12.00 noon

First Wednesday of the month - **Flower Club** - 9.00am - 12 noon

Second Tuesday of the month - **Scrabble Club** - 7.30pm

Last Wednesday of the month - **Garden Club** - 7.15pm

### Every two weeks:

Started on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September - 2.15pm - 5.15pm - **Ukulele**

October dates are: 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> - same time as above

### Weekly events:

Every Monday - **Badminton** - 7.30pm - 9.30pm

Every Tuesday - **Chair Pilates** - 6.00pm - 7.00pm

Every Thursday - **Art Club** - 7.00pm - 9.00pm

Every Friday - **Mummy and Me Pilates** - 10.00am - 11.00am **Pilates** 6.00pm - 7.00pm

**COMING SOON:**

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2015**    **Christmas Domino Drive** commencing 7.30pm – £2 entry fee, excellent prizes and raffle. Donations of prizes gratefully received by any member of the Village Hall Committee!

Please be aware that the Village Hall Car Park is no longer managed by Richmondshire District Council and is now the responsibility of the Village Hall. The car park is vital when we are hiring the hall for events, please could residents be mindful of events taking place and park in their own driveways whenever possible.

Hudswell Village Hall is available for hire for parties, anniversaries, clubs and meetings (£10 per hour and regular meetings £7 per hour). To make a booking contact Sue Shaw, Orana, Hudswell on 825084.

**DEFIBRILLATOR FOR THE VILLAGE**

Yorkshire Ambulance Service (YAS) ran a training session in Hudswell Village Hall for those interested in learning how to use the defibrillator. Those who attended thoroughly enjoyed the session and learnt a great deal. If you'd like to seek help then those who've a little knowledge are listed below: (of course there is no substitute to calling the ambulance service in an emergency, simply follow the instructions on the outside of the box).

Trixie Bradley	Alison Needham	Ivor Sadler	Claire Swainston
Jon Jones	Beverley Phillips	Barbara Scott	
Jen Jones	Richard Phillips	Susan Shaw	
Jane Law	Sheila Sadler	Chris Shaw	

The defibrillator is now live and its location is listed with YAS as available.

**RESULTS OF 2015 BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION**  
**3% improvement on 2014!**

1	WEST BURTON	90%
2	EPPLEBY	88%
3	MOULTON	86%
4	MIDDLETON TYAS	85%
5	CALDWELL	84%
6	SCORTON	81%
7	CLEASBY	80%
7	STAPLETON	80%
8	SKEEBY	78%
9	BELLERBY	74%
<b>10</b>	<b>HUDSWELL</b>	<b>60%</b>
11	NEWTON LE WILLOWS	57%
12	CROFT	49%

## **PARISH COUNCIL ACHIEVEMENTS SO FAR ...**

- Worked with RDC for 3 new pieces of equipment for play park upgrade (thank you to Cllr Jef Robinson)
- Notice boards in Stainton and Downholme
- New gate at cattle grid into Downholme
- New wicket gate and side fence at cattle grid into Downholme
- Dog waste bins
- Speed gates into Hudswell
- Integration of the villages of Downholme, Stainton and Walburn into Hudswell & District Parish Council
- Transfer of deeds and ownership of the village hall playing field
- Started an anti speeding campaign in Hudswell
- Waste bin for Downholme
- Underground electricity cables through Hudswell village
- Extension of 30 mph zone at the end of Hudswell Lane with Richmond to Brokes Road
- Anti fly tipping fence in Brokes Lane (*Tarn Lane!*)
- Village name plaques at either end of Brokes
- Investigation into carriageway repairs near Downholme Church
- New bench in the Hudswell play park
- Repairs to Downholme road signs

### **NEW ACHIEVEMENTS:**

- Installation of grant funded defibrillator outside the George and Dragon, Hudswell
- Defibrillator training course conducted by YAS
- Grant funded refurbishment of Downholme “historic” road signs
- Purchase of 10 professionally made “SLOW DOWN” speeding signs for Hudswell

*If you can think of anymore lets add them to the list and be proud of what our small community can do.*

*Plenty of space for more!*

## **A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A ... Civil Engineer**

The day begins with a trip to Gateshead to visit the A1 Coalhouse to Metro Centre Improvement – a road project currently being built by Balfour Beatty for Highways England. This is to sit in on a contractors' safety meeting where those involved in construction review the last month and look ahead to tasks to be completed. Lessons from other highway projects and across the UK construction industry are shared, with the aim of making highway construction a safer place for road workers and the travelling public.

Next, travelling to Stockton to the office to catch up with a port engineer and pick up some more work to help them with compliance with safety regulations on an oil and gas terminal.

This was followed by a look through tender documents for a client to help them ask the right questions in the Health and Safety Section.

That was work, then home to Hudswell.

Later on a mountain rescue committee meeting for Swaledale Mountain Rescue team. As a team controller, the attending of these meetings is part of the smooth running of a voluntary rescue organisation.

A quick pint at the George and Dragon before home!

*I'm hoping to make this a regular item, we've a NT warden, NP planning officer, landlord, falconer, teacher, builder, paramedic, farmer, archaeologist, funeral director, vet, accountant, lecturer, bird ringer, councillor, to name but a few in the village. Please be forthcoming with an article and it will appear in a future edition!*

# **National Trust Yorkshire Dales**

## **NEWS FROM THE WOODS – AUTUMN 2015**

Well, it's been an erratic summer, not terribly wet but certainly unreliable, similar perhaps to the England rugby team (although at the time of writing the latter still has a slim chance of redemption). Nature hasn't minded too much (about the weather) although some of the migrant birds suffered with unseasonal cool conditions decreasing food supplies during the critical nesting period. Saying that, two pied flycatcher nests were successful in Hag Wood, and owls also seem to have done well, taking advantage of a healthy small mammal population. There's plenty of tawny activity in the woods and I've recently seen barn owl on Hudswell Moor, and at other locations further in the Dales. Resident kingfishers on the Swale also managed to fledge two broods, so on the whole birds have had mixed success.

Looking back we ran a very successful Easter egg hunt in April, and a geocaching event also in the Easter holidays. The birdsong walk in May didn't attract much interest and our animal-tracking afternoon in July was a wash out; full credit to the three families who endured the conditions and stayed until the end! In August we ran two bat walks, a community event for residents of Hudswell and a public event at Round Howe. Both were very well attended and generated a lot of interest, I was fooled several times by keen participants downloading and playing Bat Apps, broadcasting different bat echo location calls from their phones... technology does have its uses.

Progress on the restoration of the grassland areas was very apparent in May and June, many regular visitors commented on the increase in wild flowers and the general consensus was that the meadows have not looked as good in years. This was in part due to the seed and plug plants that we have reintroduced and the lack of muck application on the top field. However, much of the credit should really go to the Shetland ponies that grazed the site last winter, it was their 'management' that has moved things forward. Unfortunately the same ponies are not available for this winter and we are desperately looking for something suitable (Shetland ponies would be ideal) to continue the conservation grazing, please contact me if you can help.

Woodland and path work has been minimal through the summer, other activities on other sites have taken much of my time. However, now that autumn is here we will continue with our woodland management and path upkeep. Clearing overhanging branches and the odd tree to allowing more light on to the footpaths and coppicing hazel on Round Howe are priorities, along with the finishing touches to several of the woodland clearings. Again the focus of our woodland management is to create and maintain a mosaic of habitats, favouring native species and dead wood - both standing and fallen, and opening the canopy to allow sunshine (assuming we get some!) to reach the woodland floor.

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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# **Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority**

## **NEWS FROM THE WOODS – AUTUMN 2015**

Following quite a few years of head-scratching and negotiation you may have noticed that the “Steps” between Hudswell and the Lownathwaite pumping station have recently been the subject of some rather hard graft. My name is Michael Briggs and as The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority’s Area Ranger for Swaledale it has been my job to oversee these works – I am based in Reeth at Hudson House and primarily I am responsible for the maintenance of Public Rights of Way (amongst many other varied tasks!).

It was about three years ago that Seb Mankelov (your local National Trust Ranger – don’t get us mixed up) and I met with local chap Mike Isles to discuss what we could do about the steps – them being a Public Footpath. They had become shrouded in historical mystery as well as deteriorated to a rather bad condition. Seb was looking to improve the paths around the National Trust property and the steps would make up a part of this network of routes. However, the steps actually lie in a section of MoD land (it took a while for them to decide this though) and is leased to the water pumping company Severn Trent Water (it took another while to establish this too). There was also the often mentioned legend that the steps were originally constructed by Italian PoWs and therefore had some special historical value. I couldn’t confirm this so decided that we shouldn’t dwell on it in case it proved to be true. It was true though that the steps were constructed alongside one of the original clay water supply pipes to the garrison. The pipe is still there to be seen although we now believe there is a new plastic pipe somewhere parallel to the steps. What also came to light was that the steps had been repaired at least once – possibly in the 1970’s. Since then it seemed nothing had been done.

If you are familiar with the steps you will know how steep they are and how numerous – 319 steps ascending about 80 vertical metres - though it feels more. Making any sort of repair was going to be logistically difficult and likely expensive – hence the aforementioned head-scratching and negotiation. You shouldn’t have any difficulty in understanding that National Park budgets are rather stretched at the minute so that dashed my hopes of a helicopter mounted step laying machine being recruited. On asking the MoD if they could consider a contribution it was also met with a polite decline. This was when Ian Broadwith, my trusty Access Ranger, and I decided we would have to take the bull by the horns and do what we do best – just get on with it ourselves!

Our trump card in these situations is our ability to recruit volunteers to help us out. With a tiny budget to cover materials – some plywood, timber board, a few loads of stone, two pallets of cement and loads of rubber buckets - we have had to rely on others’ generosity with their time and energy to do the job in a very manual way, against gravity, with a little assistance from our mechanical tracked barrow. At the current time the job is over half way complete and we are preparing for another period of activity before the year ends. Our own Dales Volunteers (DVs) and associated Ragged Robin group have given countless hours – the most technical job being to construct the timber shuttering to contain the poured concrete. The less technical but definitely strenuous task of hauling buckets of mixed concrete uphill has been very energy sapping. Cadets from the Army Training College at Harrogate have been a great help – they have the record of laying 48 steps in one day. We are hoping that the new intake will be ready to give us a few more day’s graft in October. We have also had help from our weekend work parties of DVs and a group associated with the John Muir Trust. In theory it should get easier as we start to work downward from the top of the steps! I’m not convinced.

I hope that some of Hudswell's villagers have been using the steps and watching their progress. It may seem slow but please be assured we are doing as much as we can (as well as our work throughout Swaledale) in the most pragmatic and cost effective way possible. I think you'll agree that the route from your village is already much improved and if all goes to plan we may have the steps complete by Christmas!

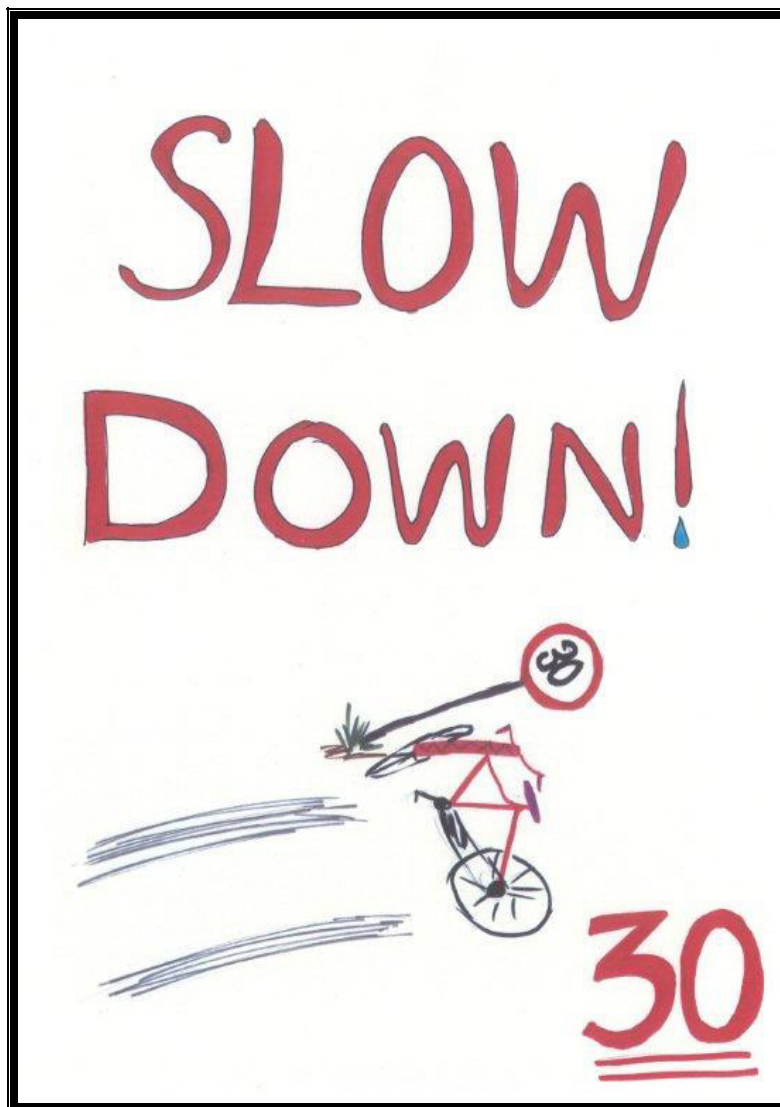
**Michael Briggs**

**Area Ranger, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, Swaledale & Arkengarthdale**

[michael.briggs@yorkshiredales.org.uk](mailto:michael.briggs@yorkshiredales.org.uk) | Office 01748 884060

## **SPEEDING TRAFFIC**

Vehicles speeding into and out of Hudswell remain a concern of the Parish Council. 30mph is the MAXIMUM permitted speed in the village NOT THE MINIMUM. PLEASE, PLEASE KEEP YOUR SPEED BELOW 30 MPH FOR THE SAKE OF OUR CHILDREN.



## **LOCAL SERVICES**

**Branching Out:** Creative design in flowers. Professional Floristry Service. Weddings, events, parties, demos & workshops.  
Tel: Lucy 01748 829627 Mob 07958 957285

**Jelly Designs:** Handmade stationery for weddings & special occasions.  
Tel: Gill 01748 821470 or visit [www.jellydesigns.co.uk](http://www.jellydesigns.co.uk)

**John Blenkiron & Sons Ltd:** Funeral Directors – Traditional Joinery Manufacturers & Installers. Tel: 01748 850033

**Len Porter Fencing:** Scar Close, Hudswell Tel: 01748 823287

**Malcolm Jackson:** General Builder, Bellgarth Cottage Tel: 01748 824839

**Mobile Hairdressing:** Fully qualified with over 10 year's experience.  
Tel: Stacy Nicol 07716 458833

**NYCC Home Library Delivery Service** The Mobile Library Service has now ceased to operate. If you would like books delivered to you at your home, fortnightly on a Thursday, please contact Pat Whelan, West Cottage, Tel: 01748 824331

**Piano/Organ/Keyboard/Theory Lessons:** All ages & stages. Freelance organist, composer. Tel: Fionagh Bennet 01748 823866 [www.fionagh-bennett-music.co.uk](http://www.fionagh-bennett-music.co.uk)

**Reiki Therapy:** Tension & Stress Tel: Susan 01748 823866

**Swale Veterinary Services:** Fairfield Way, Gallowfields, Richmond.  
Appointments, Info, Advice. Tel Pets: 01748 826600  
Farm/Equine: 01748 822389

**TC Printing Services:** Booklets, photo-copying, scanning, leaflets & flyers. For all your local printing needs. Tel: Debbie 01748 200557

**Travel Consultant:** Tailor made luxury holidays by the experts. We offer our clients a competitive, personal and professional service, let me help you plan your next holiday. Tel: Tracy Charlton 01748 822540 Mob: 07795 522429  
Email: [tracy@designertravel.co.uk](mailto:tracy@designertravel.co.uk)

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