

THE TRIANGLE

serving South Holme, Fryton & Slingsby

www.slingsbyvillage.co.uk

No. 45

April/May 2018

*Fancy a walk,
amigo?*

see p8



June/July copy to Joanna Bradley, 10 Cavendish Court, Slingsby, tel: 01653 628305 by **Wed 16th May at the latest please** or e-mail: thetriangle@slingsbyvillage.co.uk

Non subscribers £1.50

Slingsby Community Primary School



The Old School House extension is complete and this is good news for everyone involved with Slingsby School.

The Honourable Nicholas Howard from Castle Howard will perform the opening ceremony on Thursday 18th May at 3pm and the Head Teacher has kindly offered an open invitation to any who would like to be there. If you cannot make the official opening but would like to look round the School, you are welcome to visit anytime but please contact the School first on 01653 628370.

Year on year, Slingsby Community Primary School has, under the professional guidance of the Head Teacher, increased its intake by 70% over the last five years and now stands at 75 pupils. An important part of the policy of the School is to create healthy relations with the communities it serves, especially Slingsby, and it is proud of its . . .

track record of providing a first class education which families really appreciate.

There are many people involved with the School and a significant number in a voluntary capacity. With this community partnership, the school can go from strength to strength and for this the Head Teacher and Governors are very grateful.

Geoff Bishop

Vice-Chairman of Governors

Pins and Needles – all sewn up!

Due to the dwindling numbers the Pins and Needles Group, which met in the Village Hall on alternate Tuesdays is no longer viable. Sadly therefore we have decided to disband the group.

Ann Bayes

Triangle subscriptions

Please note that the annual subscription to The Triangle is now due, so your deliverer will be knocking. The annual amount is £6 to cover six Triangles, six Pinks and one Yellow Pages (delivered with the next issue at the end of May).

Even though this has increased by £1 *a year* we hope you will agree it is still excellent value for money and continue to support the group. Many thanks.

David Thornley

Iris Falkner

The Triangle is very sorry to announce the death of Iris Falkner from Sycamore Close. Iris lived in Slingsby for many years, previously on Railway Street, and was well known to many. Our condolences and good wishes go to her family, who have asked us to make this announcement.

May Day refreshments

All Saints Church will, as usual, be providing the refreshments on the day. This year we will again be in the Methodist Church Schoolroom. We are grateful to the Methodist church for this facility.

Donations of cakes and/or savouries for our refreshment stall would be very much appreciated. These can be left in the Schoolroom from 9am on the day or at Porch House in advance.

Tombola prizes would also be gratefully received – these can be left in advance with Cynthia Fell at the Hall Lodge or with Norma Bulmer at Dunelm, The Balk.

All our fund raising efforts contribute to the maintenance and upkeep of the church building.



Mauraq Carmichael

May Day and Scarecrow weekend

--- also see centre pages ---

We are proud of our maypole, standing tall on the green at Slingsby - one of the few remaining in North Yorkshire. It has been standing there for centuries, thanks to the hard work of generations of local people. The first recorded mention of our maypole was in 1708. The pole erected in 1799 lasted until 1864 but this pole was not seasoned properly and rotted by 1871. The pole put up in 1871 lasted well, was painted again and again until, in 1895, the top half was spliced to a new pole brought in triumph from the woods on a wagon with the vicar and his wife (Rev and Mrs. Brookes) sitting on it! New poles went up in 1905 and in 1924 but in 1956 the pole blew down and many men from the village were involved in digging out the old stump, under which a time-capsule had been buried. This pole was left to season and on 1st August 1959 villagers were involved in painting it, including the golden cockerel on the top. All the digging and shifting soil was done by hand, holding the new pole steady, and hauling it upright. Sadly this pole started to rot and was replaced in 1985, this time with the help of a mechanical digger.

What is the point of a maypole if there are no children to dance around it? Previous dancing round the pole had been organised almost continually in many different ways, sometimes through the school, sometimes voluntarily with both adults and children. Luckily in 1985 two Slingsby ladies came forward and organised the children to dance the traditional dances, weaving the ribbons around the maypole, with local musicians providing the music. This tradition continues today with the children of Slingsby School performing 5 dances using ribbons (and it is not as easy as it looks!). Recently they have been joined by younger children doing the dances they have learned in their PE lessons. All they need is a sunny day and it is a wonderful sight, and so very English, of which we are proud.

Although of pagan origin, the tradition of celebrating the first Monday in May with feasting and dancing is now seen as a farewell to winter and a welcome to the new season with new growth on trees and hedges, new life with lambs and young birds, and a holiday before the heavy work in the fields and gardens begins.

Pat Thompson



Sam Dickson C&G Arb.

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Sunday 1st April - Music Night, 8pm

Sun 15th April - Quiz Night, 8pm

Sunday 6th May - Music Night, 8pm

Sunday 20th May - Quiz Night, 8pm

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**Your Delivery Crew
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Sycamore Close, **Keith Bardon**

The Green, **Maurag Carmichael**

The Green Crescent, **Nancy Coates.**

The Lawns, **Nick Witt**

An Act of Vandalism

On Tuesday, 20th February between 12.00 noon and 5.00 pm a vehicle was driven into the front door of Southlands, on the corner of Railway St and the Green. Philip Jackson, the owner of the house was out at the time and returned at 5 pm to find the door damaged beyond repair and impossible to open. The door and the surrounding frame had been forced back into the house by the impact and some of the brickwork dislodged. Once Dr Jackson had gained access to the house the damage to the interior was even more severe. The movement of the door frame had caused considerable damage to interior walls and plaster and also to the flooring. Builders and insurers who viewed the damage state that they have never seen anything like it. To inflict such damage, the impact of the vehicle must have been very loud.

If anybody saw or heard the incident please could they inform Philip who will pass the information to the police.

June Robinson

The Triangle is sorry to announce the death of June Robinson. June lived down The Lawns with her husband for many years but went to live in Kendal after Jim died.

Defibrillator

We are looking for someone to look after the defibrillator and volunteer VETS (Village Emergency Telephone System) scheme. The Defibrillator needs a quick check once a week and a more thorough check once a month. Information is to be recorded on a website, so access to a computer is necessary. Training will be given.

Fiona Farnell

Oil consortium

A nightmare happened last delivery as I missed ordering oil for someone (they were very gracious). This was because my old email address was used and that is now totally unusable. So can you *please double check* that you now have me in your records as: - **geoff4.bishop4@outlook.com**

Please also note that I will always acknowledge an email order, so if I haven't responded, give me a ring, because something might have gone wrong.

Joining the Oil Consortium is free and, as all the existing 75 members will say, they are saving significant amounts of money a year by buying oil in this way.

If you would like to know more about the consortium, or to place an order, please contact me on 01653 628055 or **geoff4.bishop4@outlook.com**

Delivery period 2 nd week of	Last order date
April	1 st April
June	1 st June
September	1 st September
November	1 st Nov
December	1 st Dec

Geoff Bishop

Slingsby Methodist Chapel News

Improvements to the kitchen and schoolroom are now complete with the laying of a carpet in the schoolroom the final item. It is now being well used with Tea Spot, Soupa lunch, 2nd Sunday Club and the recently started Baby & Toddler Group all going well. Slingsby Ladies Group and several other groups also use it.

This year Easter Sunday is on April 1st and we do invite everyone to come along and share in this glorious celebration of the resurrection of Jesus. The large wooden cross outside chapel will be decorated with flowers on Easter Sunday morning to mark the transformation from the darkness and sadness of Good Friday to the new hope and glory of the resurrection.

A United Mothers Day service was held at The Chapel on March 11th when a good congregation heard several examples of 'Mothers' who made a big impact on people in this area and in fact throughout the world. Audrey spoke about her mum, Ivy; Rachel told us a little bit about her mother, Esther and Stephen spoke about Susanna Wesley, the mother of John & Charles Wesley. Flowers were given out to all the ladies in the congregation and some were taken out to ladies in the village.

Coming events at The Chapel:

EASTER SUNDAY "*Christ is Risen – Hallelujah*"
9am Breakfast in the schoolroom, then at 10:30am Easter Service led by Rev Tania Brosnan (Including Holy Communion)

Don't forget - Slingsby Baby & Toddler Group.

Fridays in term time 1:45pm to 3:15pm, drop in anytime. Venue - Slingsby Chapel Schoolroom. Pre-school children welcome with parent/carer
Play, sing, craft, friends, stories, snack. £2 /family (Contact Louise Hayes for more information 07840 220 900)

Don't forget - 2nd Sunday Club

For children school years 1-6, 5pm – 6.30pm. Come and have tea with your friends, then enjoy games, quizzes, Bible stories etc.

Stephen Prest

Watch out – here comes GDPR!

The General Data Protection Regulations are coming into force on 25th May. This new legislation will provide extra protection (for people like you, our readers) by applying new controls on the way organisations (even small ones like us) hold and use your data.

We in the Website and Triangle Group are reviewing the way we hold and use data (mostly names, addresses and email addresses) to ensure we comply with the new rules. One aspect of this is that we need to have your specific consent in certain areas, and that process has already started.

Some of you may recall we recently asked you to reconfirm your wish to be on our distribution list (formerly Keith's round-robin). If you'd like occasional email reminders about events and Triangle copy deadlines, you may join this list by emailing admin@slingsbyvillage.co.uk

If you have already subscribed to the website (for automated notification of all new posts) you will have gone through the standard 2-step process for your protection. To subscribe to the website, just go to the website, which is www.slingsbyvillage.co.uk on the homepage below calendar and Twitter updates. You can choose to be on either or both of these distribution lists.

We'll bring you more on all this in the next Triangle.

Jon Boots

Slingsby Website & Newsletter Group Chairman

If you wish to submit an article to the Triangle please use thetriangle@slingsbyvillage.co.uk

If you wish to submit to the website please use admin@slingsbyvillage.co.uk

Please send to both addresses if you wish to submit to both The Triangle and the village website.

Thankyou

Village Hall bookings

Please e-mail Trudy Carr at mowbrayrise@gmail.com or telephone 01653 628302



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Walking with alpacas? (see front cover)

Now, here's a thought . . . if you have someone with a birthday approaching, why not treat them to a walk with alpacas? That's different.

Jacki Barlow got her first alpacas in 2009. Her sister had already been breeding alpacas for some 25 years so Jacki decided she just had to get some of her own. She was hooked and warns that alpacas are lovely animals to have around and **very** addictive!



Jacki was brought up on an arable/beef farm in Morley, near Leeds so she's no stranger to the farming world. She bought a field of 20 acres, built a house and now, some 8 years later, has 48 alpacas although last summer had 85 if you count all the babies, which are called cria.

Alpacas originate in South America. They are the same family as llamas but llamas are bigger animals, built for load carrying. Alpacas are herd animals, bred for their lovely soft fleece, but they also make good guard animals for protecting chickens or lambs. Alpacas don't like foxes and foxes won't come near if there are alpacas in the field as they are afraid of being stamped on.

Alpacas are tough and stay outside all winter. They don't mind the cold but they don't like the combination of wind and rain as the wind opens the fleece and the rain then gets in and makes them cold. So they tend to run for their undercover barn when it's wet and windy.

If you think Jacki's face looks familiar you might have seen her on Channel 5's *The Yorkshire Vet*, where her alpacas have been featured many times, usually being treated by Julian Norton, the vet from the Herriot Practice in Thirsk, which he has since left. The show has proved a huge hit for

Channel 5 and is already on its fifth series, recently hitting almost two million viewers.

One of Beacon Alpacas' main attractions is the afternoon walks. You have to book in advance but then you turn up at the farm, near Husthwaite, get your walking boots on and away you go, with Jacki and usually another helper. You walk for a about an hour taking in the stunning views from Beacon Bank then return to the farm to see the flock, and maybe the cria, have a coffee or soft drink and look at the lovely soft alpaca products she has on sale, including socks, scarves, gloves pillows and quilts. The whole experience is about 2 hours.

Cosmo (pictured above) is one of Jacki's walking stars, although she has 47 others! Her alpacas are halter trained, so easily walked, friendly and don't spit or kick!

For more information see the website www.beaconalpacas.co.uk or phone Jacki on 01347 868879. You are guaranteed a friendly reception and you'll become an alpaca expert in no time as Jacki's enthusiasm for them quickly rubs off!

Lydia Broughton

V.I.P. Corner - Janet Clarke

The approach to the front door betrays the fact that a true gardener lives here. When asked what her likes comprised, gardening was first on the list along with knitting, music, badminton and family. Janet has taken her love of gardening further by having a family allotment and being a founder member of Slingsby's popular 'Sowers and Growers' group.



Dislikes consist of one thing only - rudeness. Agreed! It doesn't take much effort to be polite. Social Life revolves around fundraising, and herein lies a tale - or should I say tail - a ducks tail to be precise! About thirty years ago, Janet and her friend, Fiona, were trying to think of a fundraiser for Slingsby Primary School when the inspiration for a 'Duck Race' came to them. It has to be said that the Duck Race is still an intrinsic feature of summer in Slingsby, and if you have never gone to it you really should. It is great fun!

Back to the story, to get into the spirit in those early days, the girls decided to dress as two ducks, and waddle down to the sports ground, to delight the waiting children. Unfortunately, there was a technical hitch and they were summoned urgently, causing pillow wadding slippage and strange looking disheveled ducks appearing instead! The Scarecrow Trail was another great fundraising idea which has also stood the test of time.

Family consists of sons Sam, Joe and Josh who live in Sheffield, Slingsby and Birmingham respectively. The Birmingham contingent is eagerly awaiting the arrival of their first child in June. The fundraising gene must run in the family, as son Joe recently organized a sponsored leg wax (ouch!) for York Hospital A&E and the good news is he raised £1,515.00.

Friends are important to Janet, the aforementioned Fiona, along with Trudy, are just some of her treasured local friends. There is a good friend in York and Janet counts the members of the Badminton Club (who meet on Monday nights in the village hall) and the Village Hall Committee members as friends too.

One of the things Janet likes most about Slingsby is knowing so many people. The tooting car horns and waving people genuinely amazed her York friend as they walked through the village, demonstrating how popular a member of the village she is.

The connection with the village started with her father, who was born here. It was dad who started the lifelong love of gardening. At the time, he had some disused logs lying at the back of his garden and Janet sprinkled some 'London Pride' seeds, which transformed the feature, and that sealed it! A small amount of land was made available for Janet and she honed her skills, still growing beautiful flowers and vegetables to this day.

At one point in her life, Janet moved away to Norton, Stamford Bridge and Broughton before returning to Slingsby in time for the first Birthday of her eldest son, Sam. How did Janet meet her (non local) husband Brian? Brian, from Worcestershire, came to work in Ryedale and lodged with Geoff & Denise Brooks in Slingsby, who, along with mutual friends, hatched the plan for a rather romantic 'blind date!'

One of the fondest, and proudest, memories of Janet's childhood was being made captain of the netball team at secondary school, from a field of 100 girls. That was a great achievement and probably explains why sport remains an important pastime.

When I contacted Janet to ask her permission for an interview, she quickly came back with 'I'm not interesting enough'. I am sure you will agree that there is a great deal to interest us in this hardworking lady resident, one of the valuable people who literally make things happen while we look on in admiration.

Kay Hill

Slingsby Village Hall Committee is a small friendly, fun committee looking for new lively members to take the village hall to the next level! If you have a few hours spare to help out please can you contact Debbie on 07884492278 or email gillgirl42@yahoo.com.

Debbie Firby

Slingsby Local History Group

In February, the local history group welcomed back Steve Moorhouse, a visiting research fellow at Leeds University. He has a particular interest in the interpretation of medieval landscapes. We met on a dank day and inspected the outer ramparts of the castle and looked at the deep ditch on the western side, with special permission from Stephen Prest. Steve has been interested in the castle at Slingsby for some time and is hoping to do some more research work on it.



Steve Moorhouse (facing camera in centre)

His initial thoughts are that Slingsby Castle has a relatively small associated park extending northwards beyond the disused railway line, running along the old parish boundary, and not as far as Brickyard farm. The original hedgerow marker has now disappeared, but shows on maps well into the 20th century. The area is much too small for a deer park, so assumptions that there was one were probably incorrect. While many castles had them, many did not, as the area needed to keep deer for hunting had to be large. The park at Slingsby would have been fenced-in and would have included the water mills and mill ponds to the west of Railway Street.

There may also have been fishponds, which are mentioned in later centuries as being near the former Rectory, and also a rabbit warren for meat. The enclosure, probably a stock-proof hedge, would have been solid enough to keep rabbits, horses etc in, rather than keeping people and animals out. Steve Moorhouse identified the fact that the positioning of the group of houses on The Lawns relate to the much older property of Ashlea, (Peter Smithson's house) which appears on all the older maps, including the tythe maps. He suggests that the origins and site of this property would have been the 'help', or service yard related to the everyday comings and goings of the castle. Visitors' carts and

horses would have been accommodated there, although horses would have been let loose in the park. The Lawns road would have been the route to it. This seems to give a reason for the existence of the Lawns road and houses being so strangely placed outside the main village. The *help* would have housed all the activities, workshops and equipment not needed to be stored in the castle.

Recent talks have illustrated that inland castles like Slingsby were mainly symbols of power in the landscape and houses for the rich and powerful. Although they had defensive features like gatehouses and ramparts and outskirts, most never saw battle and may not have withstood a serious assault if it had happened. There would therefore have been small service and workshop buildings outside the castle, without too much regard for security.

Steve Moorhouse will give a further illustrated lecture on 'Slingsby Castle and its landscape' on 19th June.

Future Local History Meetings:

Tuesday 17th April. How times have changed: a history of Malton. Margaret Mackinder will give an illustrated history talk developed for Malton Museum. This includes interesting old maps of Malton, general history of the town and information about some of interesting characters and businesses. 7:30pm in the Village Hall Committee Room. (Entrance £2 to enable a small donation to be made towards the Museum finances). Please use the kitchen entrance to the Village Hall

Tuesday 15th May. Outdoor meeting: an evening walk led by Kate Giles, Margaret Mackinder and John Clayton to look at some of the village's listed buildings and other historic features around the Village Conservation Area including trees and landscape in general. We shall start on the Green and progress down Railway Street to look at some of the buildings in that area which we have not looked at before. Meet on the Green at 7 pm

Tuesday 19th June. Steve Moorhouse will give an illustrated lecture on Slingsby Castle and its landscape at 7 pm in the main hall of the Village Hall. **Please note the earlier time.** Entrance £3.

Meetings are open to all. If you wish to receive regular news of meetings by email, please sign-up to do so at any meeting.

Margaret Mackinder

Lionel and Ursula Lascelles: we should like to hear from anyone who owns paintings by Lionel (or Ursula) Lascelles and would not mind us photographing them. Please contact David Thornley on 01653 627210 or e-mail southcott@slingsby.myzen.co.uk

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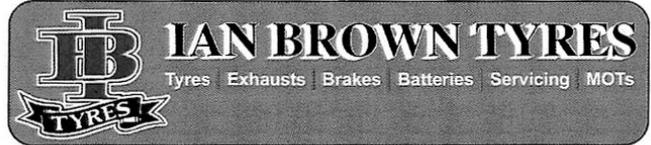
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Slingsby weekend joint Scarecrow event and May Day activities



Nestled at the foot of the Howardian Hills surrounding Castle Howard, Slingsby will once again be adorning its village with a mix of handmade modern and traditional interpretations of the Scarecrow, shown in a variety of forms to amuse and delight.

Slingsby Scarecrow weekend takes place over the May Day weekend running from 10am Saturday 5th May through to Monday 7th May. Scarecrow entries are displayed around the Village of Slingsby and Scarecrow trails are available to purchase for a small charge to raise funds for Friends of Slingsby School. Scarecrow trails are available from our 'pop up' cafe in the Methodist Chapel, from Robin Hood Caravan Park or the Village Shop. Our pop up cafe will be serving refreshments and home made cake and savouries and will run alongside our 'pre loved' children's stall.

As the Scarecrow Weekend runs into the May Day Monday, it is joined by the traditional May Day festivities which take place on the village green.

These include May Pole dancing with traditional stalls and refreshments.

Slingsby Scarecrow weekend provides excellent entertainment for all ages, and coupled with the May Day festivities, is heart-warming traditional fare. Each year the Scarecrow entries and standard of creativity increase, providing any one attending the trail with delight and wonder. We invite all to visit the Scarecrow weekend over the Bank Holiday weekend and remember to vote for your favourite scarecrow to be in with a chance of winning a prize.

Finally, thank you to everyone who attended the Quiz and Curry Night in aid of Friends of Slingsby School (FOSS) at the beginning of February. It was great to see a number of villagers attending the event. We managed to raise £386. FOSS have recently donated an additional amount of money to the school to pay for the purchase and installation of information technology in the new classroom.

Samantha Maw and Liz Wilson

May Day

7th MAY 2018
11AM TO 3PM



Slingsby Village Green

featuring

Swinton Brass Band

Minster Strays

Charity Brass Band

Maypole Dancing

Scarecrow Trail



Tea, coffee & cakes

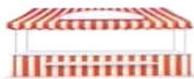


Pulled Pork Sandwiches

Raffle

Crafts

Tombola



Children's Corner



Organisers: Slingsby Fryton & South Holme CIC

The May Day celebrations on Monday May 7th will open on The Green at 11am with Swinton Band. There will be stalls around the green and in the village hall, tombola, raffle, children's activities and refreshments. At noon the children will dance for one hour around the maypole, some of them weaving patterns with the ribbons while the younger ones do their stamping and clapping in time to the music provided by the players. At 1pm the Minster Stray dancers will perform their dances, followed by the Charity Brass Band from 1:30 while all the other dancers (children and adults) learn new steps, before coming to show us what they have learned. The Charity Brass Band will round off the day at 3pm with the raffle.

A sunny day makes for a great day out, but we do have many big gazebos to provide shelter for stalls and refreshments. The children have been known to dance in their coats, so whatever the weather we hope to have a good day. **Help is still needed** to make all of this happen – we are still waiting to hear from folk who could offer one hour's help or more if possible – please ring Pat on 01653 628620 or leave a message at school. It is a busy weekend for us all, and we can work together to show off our beautiful village to folk from all over the north of England who come for an action-packed day.

Pat Thompson

Hedgehogs

Sadly, the view most people get of a hedgehog these days is squashed on the road. The UK has lost around 30% of the hedgehog population since 2002 and therefore it seems likely that there are now fewer than a million hedgehogs left in the UK. That might seem a lot but in fact it's a disastrously small number, both for the hedgehogs and ultimately for us humans too! Hedgehogs now appear to be declining in the UK at the same rate as tigers – at around 5% a year, both in rural and urban habitats.



Founded in 1982 the **British Hedgehog Preservation Society (BHPS)** offers help and advice to those with sick, injured or orphaned hedgehogs and maintains a list of rehabilitators in the UK. BHPS has 8 patrons, namely Ann Widdecombe, Ben Fogle, Chris Beardshaw, CJ de Mooi, John Challis, Lorna Watson & Twiggy.

The hedgehog's natural diet mainly consists of slugs, ground beetles, caterpillars and worms, so they are a gardener's friend in a big way. During cold or dry periods, these creepy-crawlies become much scarcer in gardens, so hedgehogs will benefit hugely from a shallow dish of water and supplementary feeding. NEVER give hedgehogs milk! Bread is low in energy so fairly worthless to them, however hedgehogs will relish any combination of meat-based wet dog or cat food, hedgehog food or cat biscuits. Place in a shallow dish and put in a sheltered area of your garden around sunset.

If you do have hedgehogs around your garden you are very lucky as they devour slugs in large quantities, helping your garden thrive.

Hedgehogs are one of the few mammals that are true hibernators. During hibernation hedgehogs are not really asleep. Instead they drop their body

temperature to match their surroundings and enter a state of torpor.

This allows them to save a lot of energy but slows down all other bodily functions making normal activity impossible.

Hedgehogs usually hibernate from October/November through to March/April. Research has shown that each individual is likely to move nesting sites at least once during this period and so can occasionally be seen out and about. During mild winters hedgehogs can remain active well into November and December.

Why is the number of hedgehogs decreasing?

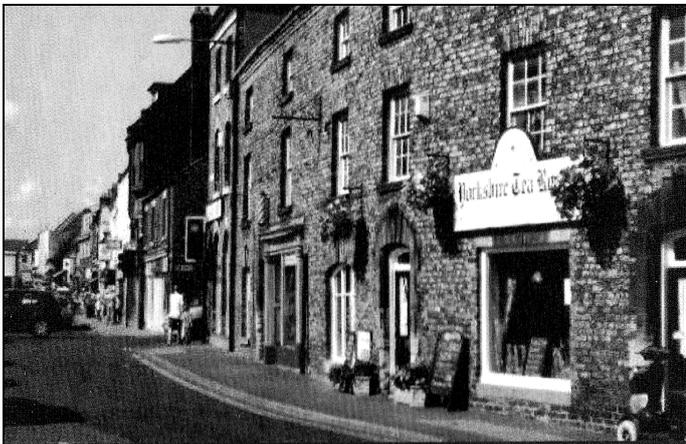
A complex question. However it seems certain that the use of pesticides and slug pellets (even the ones that say they are hedgehog friendly aren't!) is a major factor. So please don't put slug pellets down. The ever increasing number of cars and lorries is a certain factor. Elastic bands are a major health hazard to hedgehogs. These are dropped by postmen in large quantities. Small hedgehogs, being inquisitive creatures, accidentally slip their heads through the bands, then they can't get them off. The hedgehog grows and gradually the elastic band eats into the flesh, causing a slow and painful death. So, come on posties, please stop dropping elastic bands! If you see them lying around please pick them up.

So what can you do to help the hedgehog?

At any time of year if you see a hedgehog out in the daytime it is in urgent need of help. Please use gardening gloves or a folded towel to pick it up, pop it into a high sided box with a towel or fleece in the bottom, keep it warm on a covered warm hot-water- bottle (even in hot weather), offer suitable food and water (see above) and then call BHPS on 01584 890 801 for further advice as soon as possible. Also if you see a hedgehog that appears 'drunk' it is actually hypothermic and in urgent need of help.

Finally, make (or buy) a hedgehog house. The BHPS has simple construction methods shown on its website, or you can even use as simple as an inverted plastic box with a door cut into the side.

One thing is for sure - If you are lucky and manage to attract one, your children or grandchildren will be fascinated by this lovely little creature.



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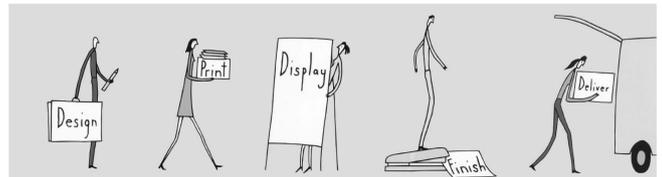
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Elsie Walter

Elsie was born in Slough on 13th July 1928, the youngest of 4 children. Family was always important to Elsie, as her mum had 13 brothers and sisters. Elsie worked as a punch card operator at Courtaulds after leaving school at 14 years old. She loved dancing, partying and music. She went to one party with a young man and came out with another – her future husband whom she married on 25th June 1949 at St. Paul's Church, Slough. They moved to a small village, Langley, just outside Slough where firstly Robert was born in 1951 and 14 years later as a nice surprise, Chris arrived. Elsie then started working as a dinner lady at the local school so that she had school holidays with Chris. Her husband worked as a printer in Windsor and died in 1988.



Elsie and husband, Ron on their wedding day, 1949.

Robert, her son, lived in various places, including Switzerland, where Elsie often went to look after their 3 children. Chris and Simon married in 1995 and moved for their work up here a year later. Elsie decided she wanted to be nearer family so chose

to move to the Yorkshire offspring, just as Rachel was born in 1998. She lived at Porch Farm Close, helping to look after firstly Rachel and then Eloise (born 2001) so that Chris could continue with her work at the Central Science Laboratory. Elsie was made very welcome when she moved to Green Crescent four years ago – she had kept some of the welcome cards she had received along with every Christmas, birthday, and Mother's Day card she had received. Elsie's first great grand-child was born just after Christmas to her son's youngest son, and she was absolutely thrilled. She died on Thursday March 8th 2018 after a fall at home.

While living in Slingsby, Elsie took an active interest in all that went on – the Soupa lunch, the panto, and particularly the school. Even after Rachel and Eloise left Slingsby School Elsie supported the plays and concerts held there, whilst also singing along to the jazz band at Malton School, in which Rachel played. She made many good friends up here, and she was very happy living here in Slingsby with no regrets about leaving Langley, which was soon swallowed up by Slough. Her love of family shone through whenever you heard her talk of her grandchildren, and how proud she was of them all. She will be missed by so many. Chris says "Mum was waiting 30 years to join Dad – they are together now".

Pat Thompson

Planning Applications

A planning application has been made by Mr & Mrs M Atkinson to erect a single storey rear extension (following demolition of existing outbuildings) to 2 East View, Railway Street, Slingsby. For details apply to Ryedale District Council, Ms Niamh Bonner, tel. 01653 600666, extension 325.

A planning application has been made by Mr A R Farnell to erect an agricultural poultry rearing building with feed bins and an area of hardstanding (following demolition of existing agricultural outbuildings) at Beech tree House, South Holme. For details apply to Ryedale District Council, Mr A Gosforth, tel. 01653 600666, extension 332.

Rain stopped play!

Since my last article, back in January, we have not had more than three consecutive days without rain. Of course this is expected in January, but the constant wet (and snowy!) conditions are now holding back normal spring activities.

Work never really stops on a farm though. There is always something to do! Since January we have harvested the last of the sugar beet, and delivered it to Newark Factory. We were very lucky and managed to catch two fine days, a fortnight apart, to get the beet harvested and the field ploughed for Spring Barley later this month (it's usually sown by now...)

We have also been busy washing potatoes (from our stores) for the chip and crisp factories that we supply, mostly in Yorkshire. Washing is something that we have done more of in recent years, and is more necessary in a tricky season like this, to help us hit the specification dictated in our contracts. It's not a fun job in a blizzard.



We have a new batch of 'bed and breakfast' pigs come into our sheds recently. The pigs are owned by Ian Mosey from Gilling, and come to us at about 10 weeks old. They

stay about another 11 weeks, and leave us direct for the bacon factories. We keep them in cozy straw yards, with plenty of clean water and feed, and they kindly turn our straw into farmyard muck to fertilize our fields.

Machinery maintenance continues, to prepare for the (busier than normal) spring season. This year we have spring wheat (for milling), spring barley (for malting), spring oats (for feed), spring beans (for human consumption), sugar beet (for sugar!) and potatoes (for chips and crisps) to plant, so there are lots of different machines to look after.

A relatively recent requirement of us has been to 'MOT' certain machines annually, in a similar fashion to a car. Nematicide applicators, sprayers and fertilizer spreaders have to meet a certain standard in a comprehensive test each year to ensure that we are applying our products effectively, accurately and efficiently. So it's important and good practice to keep our maintenance up to scratch. (What would grandpa say!)

Normally we would be giving our crops their first feed of fertilizer in late February, but the incessant rain has both increased the chance of the nutrients leaching, and reduced any chance of the land actually carrying the tractor to apply the fertilizer. We must be patient.

As part of our obligations to the government for our Basic farm payment, we need to have some Ecological Focus areas on the farm. Ours are made up of cover crops, some grass margins, strategically placed by the side of water courses to form a 'buffer zone' and prevent fertilizer or sprays getting in the water, and some grass on fallow land, from which we sometimes take a cut of hay in late July.

We have grown cover crops in various forms since 2011. They are generally 'direct drilled' (meaning without prior soil cultivation) in late August and usually contain oats, mustard and fodder radish. This provides green manure, aids drainage in winter and builds soil fertility. In addition they provide small animal and bird cover and winter feed, and make the soil easier to work come spring time (and cause a certain amount of 'whats that?' from bystanders!). We grow these cover crops before spring-sown crops, particularly potatoes, but also spring beans and oats. In the potatoes, we will mix the residue from them (with some muck) into the surface of the soil before we plough the field. This will allow the physical 'organic matter' to finish up within the potato ridge, rather than be buried in a layer beneath it, which helps to hold the ridge together in extreme weather, and reduces slumping, capping and cracking. Hopefully this results in less unsaleable green potatoes and easier harvesting, in addition to the environmental benefits.

Before the spring oats, we sometimes use winter barley instead of oats in the cover mix. Any harvest compaction is removed as we sow the cover crop, at a seed rate calculated to ensure that the crop is thick enough to do some good, but to still allow weeds to grow. This is particularly important to reduce an increasingly prolific and hard-to-control weed called blackgrass. We then spray the cover crop off in spring with Roundup, which also kills the weeds, and direct drill the oat crop with a disc drill, to disturb the soil surface as little as possible, so we don't encourage more weeds to grow. The spring oats grow quite quickly in the disturbed soil, the weeds much slower where it is untouched, so the weeds have little chance to get away before the oats close in. So we now spray our oats less than we once used to, which is also good.

Who said farming was simple, eh?

Andrew Wilson

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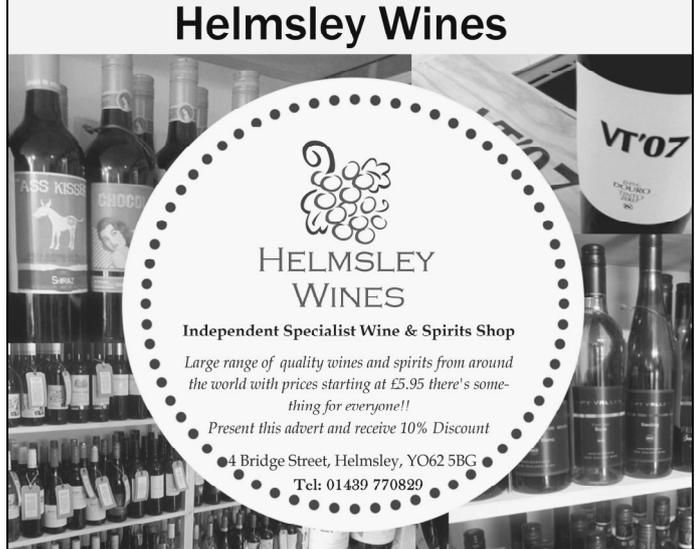
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**Meet Kathryn Craven,
new community fundraiser for St.
Leonard's Hospice, Ryedale**



Kathryn has recently joined the fundraising team at St Leonard's Hospice and will be covering Ryedale, raising awareness of the Hospice's work within the area.

She explains: "My time at St Leonard's so far has been inspirational and I look forward to sharing the great work of the Hospice with the people of Ryedale and surrounding areas. Having experienced the Hospice personally I truly understand the difference it makes to people's lives at really difficult times."

Kathryn would be delighted to hear from anyone interested in supporting or finding out more about the Hospice whether through delivering a presentation to a community group or school or simply having a coffee and a chat (with cake of course!)

This year the Hospice will be holding its very first Art Festival in July. There will be exhibitions at Helmsley Arts Centre. If you are a local artist who may be interested in exhibiting your work please get in touch with Kathryn for further details.

You can catch up with Kathryn in person at local libraries at the following times:

Kirkbymoorside, the second Wednesday of each month 10:30am – 12noon.

Helmsley – third Friday 10:30am – 12noon

Alternatively she can be contacted on 01904 777

777 or 07388 946 840, or by email:

Kathryn.Craven@stleonardshospice.nhs.uk



Photo by Duncan Lomax

A Thank You

A kind person found a watch somewhere near the church gate on Wednesday 7th March, and left it nearby on the wall for the owner.

I am grateful to that person because I was that careless owner, hurrying off to work after adjusting the church clock. There are not many essential tools for that job, but that is one of them! And in case anyone is wondering, it was from Argos, not Rolex.

Nick Witt

Yorkshire Arboretum

With over 100 events including talks and walks, wildlife encounters, exhibitions, crafts, children's activities and more I hope that you will find much of interest to you and your family. New this year is a series of Sunday morning 'Meetings with Trees' walks. These walks will use different specimens in the arboretum to illustrate particular aspects of the life of trees. They are pilot activities in preparation for our second round Heritage Lottery Fund application. Further events will be added to the website as details become available.

Many events are included with the standard admission price and don't forget our annual FREE ENTRY days (11th & 12th May) for all who have a 'YO' postcode. Your feedback on the events you attend and suggestions for future ones is always welcome, as are photos shared on our social media channels. We look forward to welcoming you very soon and thank you for your support.

John Grimshaw. Director

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Proceeds in aid of Hall Funds

All Saints' Church, Slingsby news HLF - permission to start !

We have finally received permission to start the development phase of our Heritage Lottery Fund project to replace the roof of All Saints with theft-proof materials and create a local history resource in the north aisle.

In the next few months we will be appointing a lead architect and commissioning reports on ecology (bats!), archaeology, drainage and glazing, to inform the next phase of our funding bid for Stage 2 and the delivery of the work. This involves further form-filling for Kate and the team, but also funding applications to major charities who we hope will be persuaded to support us.

In the meantime, thank you to everyone who has generously offered time and ideas for fundraising to us. Do watch out for upcoming roof repairs events as well as our general fundraising which is essential to keeping the church going on a day to day basis.

Annual Parochial Council meeting 7pm 20th April in the Methodist Chapel Schoolroom

On 20th April we will hold our annual Parochial Council meeting, where we will elect our

churchwardens and revise the electoral roll. The APCM is open to all and will start at 7pm. Being on the electoral roll enables you to vote on church matters and we would warmly welcome new members. If you'd like to be added to it, just email kate.giles@york.ac.uk

Kate Giles

Sports Field - Successful application !

We're pleased to say that just before the Triangle deadline we received notification that we have been awarded £20,000 towards the replacement of the play equipment, using Section 106 funding.

We're slightly less pleased that, rather than just giving us the money, it is conditional on us raising a further 25% towards these costs. This condition has also been applied to Geoff's application to Section 106 funding for the resurfacing of the tennis courts. Having spoken to Ryedale to find out why this is the case, we've been told that this is based on the decision of committee members, who feel that asking us to make further applications will be beneficial in making the funding 'go further'! This is frustrating, since this funding is directly related to development at Cavendish Court, and because the community is already being very generous in supporting many other fundraising initiatives.

Having reflected on this challenge, we hope to work with Gail Cook on a further application to the 'Awards for All' Scheme to meet the shortfall. If successful we can then move forward with plans for new swings, roundabout, and tower/slide. We're really grateful to Gail for this support and hope to have further updates to share with you shortly.

It is important to note that this means that there is still £5000 available under the Slingsby Section 106 funding scheme for anyone to apply for. However, this can only be used for projects which meet the Section 106 criteria. We would be pleased to share our forms/experience with anyone interested in applying.

Geoff Brooks, Geoff Bishop and Kate Giles

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Please see our events calendar online for what’s going on in 2018
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False claims of Telephone Preference Service

Fraudsters are cold-calling victims, falsely stating that they are calling from one of the well-known UK telecommunication service providers. They claim to provide a 'Telephone Preference Service' - an enhanced call-barring service, which includes barring international call centres. The victims are asked to confirm/provide their bank account details, for a *one-off* charge for the service. Victims instead see *monthly* debits deducted from their accounts, which they have not authorised. The fraudsters often target elderly victims.

In all instances, direct debits are set up without following proper procedure. The *real* service is actually free to set up but a monthly fee is payable.

When victims attempted to call back, the telephone number provided by the fraudster was either unavailable or the victim's direct debit cancellation request was refused.

If you have been affected by fraud phone the National Fraud and Cyber Crime Reporting Centre on 0300 123 2040.

Horse owners be aware

North Yorkshire Police are asking for horse owners to be vigilant, it has been reported that horses have been having their mane or tail braided by persons other than the owner. This can be an indicator of the animal being marked by criminals to be stolen.

Theft of dogs

For many of us dogs are members of the family and if they're stolen the impact can be devastating. A staggering total of 1,800 dogs were stolen in 2016!

Neighbourhood Watch has teamed up with Dogs Trust in a new campaign to prevent beloved pets being stolen.

Keep your dog safe by securing your property and garden, by keeping them in sight and trained to return. Know what steps you should take if your pet goes missing.

Neighbourhood Watch Team

Slingsby C.C. Supplementary cup winners 2017.

After much uncertainty about the future of the Feversham League I am very pleased to reveal that the league is going ahead. We are also welcoming a team from Rosedale Abbey into the 2018 season.

This year's fixtures have been arranged and we start the season at Rosedale Abbey on the 18th May. Any new players will be welcome to join us, please ring 01653 628701 and leave a message if no one is able to take your call.

Last season was a disaster as far as getting the games played due to lack of players and bad weather as well but we did manage to finish by winning our 1st cup for a few years. Hopefully a good season awaits us and the inclusion of a new team could bring interest from other teams.



Back row L-R: Sam Newton, Derek Chivers, Ally Whitbourn-Hammond, Stuart Whatmore, John Hatfield, Rich Reynolds.

Front row L-R: Ryan Chapman, Steve Beale, Dan Grimmins, Jack Rushworth.

Fixture list 2018:

May 18th Rosedale Abbey Away

May 25th Spout House Home

June 8th Farndale Away

June 15th Rosedale Abbey Home

June 29th Spout House Away

July 13th Farndale Home

Also Tuesday 10th July - Countess of Feversham Cup - Spout House Away

Fri 20th July.- Suppl Cup Spout House Home

Look forward to seeing people coming to enjoy the cricket and a bite to eat and a beer or two.

John Hatfield

Stephen's Farming Column



Above: female ostrich and chicks

Farming birds – feathered ones of course and big ones at that! We have just returned from a trip to South Africa and one of the interesting visits we made was to an ostrich farm not far from Mossel Bay. It was in the Klein Karoo region, a semi desert area near the town of Oudtshorn and is known as the Ostrich capital of the world. The farm had hundreds of ostriches of all sizes from the little chicks recently hatched to the huge fully grown males which were over 6 feet tall and quite menacing. Ostrich eggs are quite large with very strong shells and we were able to stand on one without it breaking.

Up to the First World War ostriches were farmed for their feathers which were very valuable, in fact a kilo of ostrich feathers was worth more than a kilo of gold. That market collapsed in the early 1900's and now ostriches are kept mainly for their meat which is very healthy, with little fat. Much of the ostrich meat is exported to Europe. The skins produce high quality leather goods at high prices! Ostrich feathers still have many uses. In the wild ostriches protect themselves with a powerful kick. They can also run very fast for long distances. They have very big eyes but a very small brain, so perhaps that's why they are said to bury their heads in the sand at the approach of danger!

Ostrich farming has been tried in this country but has never caught on big time. The photo shows Rachel demonstrating one use for ostrich feathers!

Stephen Prest



Useless ostrich fact from the editor – apparently it takes an hour to soft-boil an ostrich egg.

Slingsby Ladies Group

The AGM was held in February when positions on the committee were voted on, followed by a supper provided by members. The meeting in March was a film show given by Fiona and Michael Bennett. In 2016 they joined a flotilla of boats to sail across the Atlantic with a crew of five, made up of their two sons and a cousin. Enough provisions had to be taken for the three week journey which was supplemented by catching fish. For most of the time they never saw the rest of the flotilla and took turns to do night watch. On arriving at Martinique, Fiona left the boat to fly home to see their new granddaughter, born during the crossing. The rest of the family carried on, leaving the boat eventually in Baltimore before flying home. This was an adventure they had all enjoyed, and although prepared for all eventualities everything had gone to plan with no problems.

In April there is a visit to Stanbrook Abbey.

The meeting on 8th May in the Methodist schoolroom will be a demonstration by Binnington Blooms. New ladies would be most welcome.

Shelagh Richards

Florrie Elizabeth Wall



Thomas, Rosie and Hector would like to announce the birth of our daughter, Florrie Elizabeth Wall, born 11th Jan 2018. We would both like to thank friends and family for cards and gifts received for Florrie.

Thomas and Rosie

Amelia (Millie) Grace Jean Shipley



Gemma, James and William would like to announce the birth of our daughter, Amelia (Millie) Grace Jean Shipley, who was born on 30th January 2018. We are all settling into family life as a foursome and would like to thank everyone for their well wishes.

Gemma and James



A photo taken at Cherrygarth Farm, Fryton of sisters Shirley Wright and Sue Carr, hanging on to two pairs of twin pedigree Friesian calves. The calves' mother was 'Fryton Ademas Rosette' owned by Mr. W Prest. Sue reckons it must have been taken in the late 1960's when perms were in fashion!