

THE TRIANGLE

serving South Holme, Fryton & Slingsby

No. 51

www.slingsbyvillage.co.uk

April/May 2019



Raising the current Maypole on Mayday 1993.

Primroses nestling by the wall in the Churchyard and curious lambs down The Lawns, both taken this spring.

T&G Photos

Jun/Jul copy to David Thornley, The Dower House, The Balk, Slingsby, tel: 01653 627210 by **Saturday 18th May at the latest please** (but earlier helps the editor) or e-mail: thetriangle@slingsbyvillage.co.uk **Non subscribers £1.50**

Mayday 2019 – 6th May



The poster is titled 'May Day' in a green, bubbly font at the top left. Below it, the date '6th MAY 2019' and time '11AM TO 3PM' are listed. The main title 'Slingsby Village Green' is in a large, black, serif font. Below this, the word 'featuring' is written in a smaller font. The activities listed are: Swinton Brass Band, Minster Strays, Charity Brass Band, Maypole Dancing, Scarecrow Trail, Tea, coffee & cakes, Pulled Pork Sandwiches, Raffle, Crafts, Tombola, and Children's Corner. Each activity is accompanied by a small illustration. At the bottom, the organizers are listed as 'Slingsby Fryton & South Holme CIC'.

Mayday is on Monday May 6th this year. The school children start practising their maypole dances after half-term. Other groups are getting ready too. People are making things to sell - all preparing for a super Mayday. It is good to think that preparations like these have been going on for centuries, all leading up to the celebrations of Mayday.

Our maypole, one of the few remaining poles in Yorkshire, stands proudly on the green. The children learn how a simple larch tree is transformed into a tall, painted, crowned maypole. Along with this they hear the stories of the history of 'their' pole – the dordums* of 1708, the timber wagon used in 1895 to drag the log to the green, the lightning strike of 1974, right up to the present pole raised in 1993. Hopefully these lessons will help to keep these stories alive and the dances passed on to future generations.

We would like to form an archive of stories about our maypole – photos, newspaper cuttings, stories and experiences. If you have anything to contribute please let Pat know (01653 628620 or Croft Dene).

After all the preparations Mayday arrives as the climax of a full weekend of activity, forming a great Slingsby festival. FOSS (Friends of Slingsby School) will be organising the scarecrow trail starting at 12 noon on Saturday May 4th and continuing on Sunday May 5th. There will be refreshments in the Methodist school room on the green, with stalls of pre-loved clothes, and toys. On Monday the festivities continue on the green from 11.00am – 3.00pm. The programme is as follows:

11.00 am – Swinton Brass band
12.00 noon – children from Slingsby school dancing round the maypole
1.00 pm - Minster Stray dancers
1.30 pm – Charity Brass Band
2.00 pm – Minster Stray dancers
2.30 pm – Charity Brass Band
3.00 pm – Raffle

There will be stalls all around the village green and in the village hall (follow the signs). The ice-cream van will be on the green. Teas will be available in the Methodist Church school room and in the village hall. There will be an exhibition in the Methodist Church itself of photos of old Slingsby – well worth a visit. Pulled pork sandwiches will be available from 11.30 am. on the green by the school. There will be a raffle with great prizes. The scarecrows will still be standing in the gardens and on the green. Parking will be available on the sport's field near the church.

Let's hope the weather will be kind to Slingsby and make the whole weekend a happy and successful occasion – a tribute to the hard work of all who have practised and I know will perform wonderfully; and to others who will help or take part too. We will always welcome more helpers on the day – 'many hands make light work'.

Pat Thompson

Maypole dancers – Mayday 1992



*Co-editors note: 'the dordums of 1708' was when the puritans tried to stop villagers dancing round the maypole and there were scuffles with noise and fighting!

THE TRIANGLE TEAM

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Articles and submission of copy

We are always looking for new articles and information to share with our readers. Please feel free to post it/deliver it/e-mail it/telephone it to one of the co-editors at the address on the front cover, or any member of the Triangle team. We will do our best to include it in the next edition, space permitting. Ideas for features also welcome.

e-mail:

thetriangle@slingsbyvillage.co.uk

Triangle Subscriptions

This issue marks the start of a new subscription year. Many thanks to all of you who have continued to support the newsletter over the past years. Your distributor will shortly be asking you for this year's subscription of £6. Please help them by having it ready when they call and remember we do accept payment by cheque made payable to **Slingsby Website and Newsletter Group**.

Please remember all distributors are volunteers and fit this in around their own busy lives and therefore it can be inconvenient for them to make numerous attempts to collect monies. If they miss you when they call perhaps you could drop it through their letter box marked with your name and address or you could put it through my letter box at Hardwick House, Malton Road.

We will assume if payment is not received by the following issue in June that you no longer wish to continue with your subscription. We hope you **will** stay with us for many years to come and enjoy this local community newsletter.

Jo Breckon - Distribution and Advertising

A big thank you to Keith Bardon, who retires from our delivery team after this edition. Keith has been delivering to Sycamore Close ever since the first issue – 51 issues!

We are very pleased to welcome Mark Fairweather to the team as Keith's replacement. It is great that we have villagers willing to volunteer and do their bit to help keep our magazine on the go. Thank you to everyone!

For Sale / Wanted

- 5/6ft Salex 'Mat' Tartuosa (Curly Willow) – 3 available. Tel: Nancy on 01653 628865
Proceeds for Maypole Funds
- Thermostatic radiator valve – boxed and new – Drayton RT212. Tel: Gill on 01653 628479
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Food is available for you at the following times:

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Friday, Saturday

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Sunday: 12-3pm

**Visit www.thegrapesinnslingsby.co.uk
for all information on special events**

Stephen's Farming Column



After one of the mildest and driest winters I can remember March seems to be trying to redress the balance with some much-needed rain and slightly cooler weather. There was an old saying in farming circles that "February fill dyke, March muck em out." In other words, rain and melting snow in February would fill up the dykes and gutters with water and then in March it was the time to clean them out by scything, cutting the sides off and digging out the bottoms with spades.



Picture shows digging out ditches at Castle Farm in the 1960's.

A lot of spring sowing was done in February before the wet weather arrived including spring barley and spring beans so they should get off to a good start. Many farmers are busy with lambing time, always a critical time for sheep farmers and the success or otherwise of lambing determines what sort of a year they will have. Farmers are desperately hoping for a satisfactory outcome to the Brexit negotiations because if we leave the EU without a good agreement, the future, particularly for sheep farmers, looks a bit grim. At present a lot of our lamb is exported to Europe free of all tariffs and we need that to continue post Brexit.

Stephen Prest

Slingsby Chapel News

Easter is undoubtedly the most important event in the Christian calendar, it is the very foundation of our faith. The crucifixion of Jesus all those years ago

was the means by which we can be put right with God, for He paid the price so that our sins are forgiven and we can become true friends of God. The resurrection of Jesus from the dead means that Jesus is alive, and in the world today and he wants to form a real friendship with us, each one of us. Jesus said "I have come that you might have life, life in all its fullness."

Let Jesus lead you into that full life this Easter time.

Stephen Prest

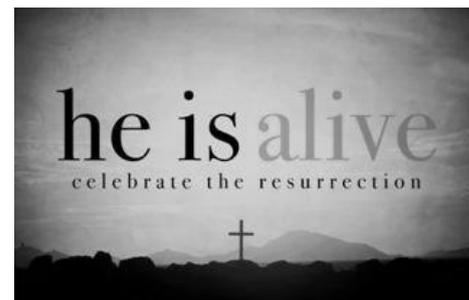
Easter Events

Sun. 14th April 10.30am

- Palm Sunday Procession around Hovingham village

Sun. 21st April - EASTER DAY

- 9.00am Easter Breakfast in the Chapel Schoolroom
- 10-30am Easter Service



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All Saints Church, Slingsby – news and activities

This is a very busy time for the church as we head through Lent and Easter. Do watch out for details of our special services such as the Easter vigil, Easter Sunday sunrise service (8am at Coneysthorpe) and main Easter service at 10.30am in Slingsby this year. Further details are on the noticeboard or Street Benefice worship website:

<http://www.thestreetparishes.org.uk/worship.html>

Thank you to everyone who renewed or signed up to our parochial electoral roll this year. The annual parochial church council meeting will take place on Wednesday 10th April at 7pm in the chapel. All are welcome to attend (but in no way obliged!).

Spring Cleaning in the Churchyard: Saturday 13th

April from 10am As Spring tentatively arrives, we are planning our first Spring Churchyard tidy morning. This will provide a great opportunity to tidy things up before Summer events, activities and weddings, so please do join us on Saturday 13th April, from 10am-12pm for a couple of hours work. There will be tasks suitable for all, old or young, big or small and it will be a great opportunity to see some of the wildflowers beginning to emerge in our conservation area, thanks to John and Warwick's wonderful efforts. As always, tea, coffee and cake will be served, but additional equipment (gloves, secateurs etc) welcomed.

If you would like a bag (or several!) of leaf mulch, please help yourself from the compound at the back of the church.

Monday 6th May - May Day Celebrations

All Saints Church will, as usual, be providing the refreshments on May Day in the Methodist Church Schoolroom. We are grateful to the Methodist Church for the use of the schoolroom.

Donations of cakes and/or savouries for our refreshment stall would be very much appreciated, these can be left in the Schoolroom from 9.00 a.m. 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 fundraising efforts contribute to the maintenance and upkeep of the church building.

Love Your Burial Ground Week - event in Slingsby Churchyard on Thursday 13th June

The Beautiful Burial Ground Project is an initiative of the conservation charity Caring for God's Acre. Funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund the Beautiful Burial Ground Project aims to inspire and support people to learn more about burial grounds, their wildlife, social and built heritage.

Slingsby Church is hosting a workshop day on 13th June. We will be running two sessions in the churchyard on 13th June as part of Love Your Burial Ground Week:

- A wild flower and plant identification for adults who would like to learn some wildflower and plant identification or brush up on existing skills. This will be led by plant expert John O'Reilly from 11-2pm (please bring a packed lunch). To book a place on this session please contact George
george@cfga.org.uk or tel: 01588 673041.
- An after school drop-in session for children and their parents and carers to explore the wildlife of the churchyard. This will run from 3.30 – 4.30, anyone is welcome to come along whether they are of school age or not. Refreshments will be provided, drinks snacks and a slice of pizza from The Grapes

Both sessions are free to take part in.

If you would like to know more about the Caring for God's Acre and the Beautiful Burial Ground Project please visit www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk

Further local information contact Margaret Mackinder 01653 697010.

Saturday 29th June - A Summer Concert by Terrington Village Choir in All Saints Church - details later.

All Saints PCC

Slingsby Ladies Group

The AGM was held in February. The committee was re-elected and members then enjoyed a delicious supper.

The speaker in March was Ryedale Auctioneer Angus Ashworth from Kirkbymoorside. He was a very interesting speaker who told us his life story from leaving school at 16 years old to joining the territorial army, and doing stints in Iraq and Afghanistan at the same time setting up his present business, getting married and having three children. He also told us how the filming of Antiques Road Trip is organised and the rules and stipulations that the BBC place on it.

There is always a welcome to new members so come along to the next meeting on Tuesday 9th April when the speaker will talk about Cardboard furniture. At the meeting on 14th May we will be joined by author Jane Lovering.

Shelagh

Solar Panels and Roof Lights

Slingsby is in a 'conservation area' for planning purposes and this means tighter planning regulations and less permitted development. Permitted development is where you don't need to apply for permission, although you can apply for 'certificate of lawful development' which can be helpful if you wish to sell your property later. Generally, rooflights are considered to be permitted development but solar panels which are fixed on top of the tiles need to have permission. However, you can set the solar panels into the roof, removing the tiles first, and then they are then considered to be permitted development.



As always with development it can be advisable to contact the planning department at Ryedale District Council for advice – this is usually via a form explaining what you want to do and paying a small fee.

Co-Editor

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Anyone for tennis...



The tennis courts on the Sport Field are newly refurbished

Now that we have put the clocks forward, the additional light and summer sun hopefully makes many mindful of fun exercise in a beautiful environment.

The tennis courts can be used anytime between **9am and 9pm and are free.**



There is a booking sheet by the court gates or you can just turn up. To all users please be mindful of others by not using a court for more than an hour if someone is waiting. Priority is for those who have booked. **Also, the school uses the courts from 9am to 12 noon on a Monday during school terms.**

If you haven't played tennis for a long time and would like to give it a go then the courts are for you. I hope to organise coaching for beginners of all ages if there is a demand.



There is also a net for children (and older people) which goes across a court and with a light short-handled racquet and sponge ball can be used like table tennis and is great fun.

Sorry no skate boards, scooters, bikes, 5 a-side football (adults) and non-trainer shoes simply because the surface isn't designed for heavy use and will break up if abused.

The courts belong to the village so please use them and report to me any concerns you may have.

Geoff Bishop 01653 628055

Sports & Social Club contact details:

Paul Hogarth – Tel: 01653 628219



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Daffodils along the base of Perrys Yard wall

Home Library Service

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But did you know that you are also eligible for the service if you are a carer?

The library can supply books in ordinary or large print and audio books on CD or cassette. Books are selected at the library and delivered once a fortnight by volunteers. Books and audio books can also be requested free of charge.

Books and a regular visit from friendly volunteers can make a real difference to the lives of people who are ill or disabled and those who are caring for them. In a recent survey one of our customers described her books as 'a lifeline'; another said they 'helped her stay sane during the long lonely days.'

If you would like to know more about receiving the service or volunteering to deliver the service please contact:

The Home Library Service:
Telephone: **01609 533800**
Or email: libraries@northyorks.gov.uk

If you don't need home delivery, the Library service is in Slingsby approximately twice a month on Fridays and stops on the Green adjacent to Porch House. Check the Slingsby website or NYCC website for dates and times.

Slingsby Oil Buying Group

For all orders please email

Geoff4.bishop4@outlook.com or phone 628055 by
1st April; 1st June; 1st Sept; 1st Nov; 1st Dec

Delivery is the 2nd week of the month

Geoff (Bishop)

One from the Album....

Willie Baker in 1988



Willie was a Member of the Parish Council for 44 years, many of them as Chairman. He retired from the Council in 1987 and this bench, at the bottom of the Balk is dedicated to him.

Don't forget if you have an old photo that you think others would like to see let one of The Triangle Co-Editors get it copied for you.



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Village Hall Bookings

If you would like to book Slingsby Village Hall, please contact Trudy Carr on 01653 628302 or email: mowbrayrise@gmail.com

Slingsby Produce show

The Produce Show AGM was held last January and the following appointments were made.

- Chairman: Stephen Prest
- Secretary: Trudy Carr
- Treasurer: Carol Thornley
- Other committee members are: Ken ETTY, Pat Thompson, Emma Massey, Cherrill Lange and David Thornley.

Sincere thanks were expressed to all those who helped to make the last show a great success with increased entries in many of the classes. Details of the next show are below.

The Slingsby Produce Show this year will be held on Saturday **14th September** in The Village Hall. We do encourage you to support the show and now is the time to be sowing and planting crops to have them ready for showing.

We have introduced several new classes including the tallest sunflower, measured in your garden.



In the agricultural section as well as the samples of grain we are having classes for 6 ears of barley and 6 ears of wheat with 6 inch stalks.

The Handicrafts have been put in a separate section and a class for Work of Art introduced.

In the children's section there is a class for potato carving and also heaviest marrow and pumpkin for under 16 years of age. We are working with the school so that many of the children will be able to plant marrow or pumpkin seeds as part of a school project and look after them as they grow, which we hope will result in many entries for the show.

In the photography section there is a class for a domestic animal (includes pets) and a new class for a photo of a single flower.

Lots of things to work towards and enjoy.

Stephen Prest

Slingsby's pub

We are lucky in Slingsby to have a pub that invariably has good food, a warm welcome and usually something going on. In case you missed it in the local newspaper, the Spooner family who run the pub, won the Best Family Business award at the annual Ryedale Business Awards in January. In addition, son Alfie won Young Entrepreneur with his business 'Upcycled Bottles' set up to raise funds for his trip to Costa Rica with Camps International! Catherine said that they felt very honoured. Here they are with the family award.



Co-Editor

Coming up at The Grapes in April and May

- Sunday 7th April – Music Night at 8pm
- Sunday 21st April – Quiz Night at 8pm
- Sunday 5th May – Music Night at 8pm
- Sunday 19th May – Quiz Night at 8pm
- Saturday 25th + Sunday 26th May (from 12 noon) – 'MINIFEST' (In support of York against Cancer and The Alzheimer's Association), with
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 - Guest Beers
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FOSS (Friends of Slingsby School)

As mentioned in the last edition of The Triangle, we have already begun our fundraising plans for 2019 with our Curry & Quiz Night which was held at the Slingsby Village Hall on Friday 29th March. Up next is our Annual Scarecrow Weekend, details below, including an extract from the publicity information written by FOSS Committee Member, Samantha Maw.

“Slingsby Scarecrow Weekend takes place over the May Day weekend running from Saturday 4th May through to Monday 6th 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, the Robin Hood Caravan Park or the Village Shop. Our 'pop up' cafe will be serving refreshments and home-made cakes and savouries and will run alongside our 'pre loved' children's stall.

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.”

Samantha Maw



Fundraisers coming up are:

- The Bags2School collection at the School from 8 o'clock on the morning of Thursday 9th May. Bags will be distributed to School families and the Village community. Remember the money raised is dependent on the weight of the bags collected with the details of what they will accept outlined on the packet containing the bag. Additional bags will be available from the School office so please feel free to ask for more. Spring Clean here we come!
- The Annual Slingsby Duck Race to be held on the Slingsby Sports Field on Saturday the 13th July from 11am to 3pm. More details to follow.

We look forward to seeing you at or participating in one or all of our events to support our wonderful School.

Sonja Sedran, FOSS Treasurer

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ALL SAINTS' CHURCH SLINGSBY TO HOST RYEDALE FESTIVAL CONCERT

The Ryedale Festival's Spring Launch Weekend took place on 15th-17th March, with a string quartet in Helmsley, "Come and Sing with John Rutter" in Norton, big name jazz in York and a concluding concert (with cake!) at Birdsall House. The Festival's full summer programme brochure has been published and we now know that the Festival will return to Slingsby this July.

At the launch concert in Helmsley on 15th March, Artistic Director Christopher Glynn revealed that a coffee concert is to be held in **Slingsby Church on Monday, 15th July** featuring pianist Jonathan Plowright who will play a programme of Brahms pieces, combining elements of folk-song, waltz and melancholy. *Gramophone* magazine described Jonathan as "one of the finest living pianists".



The concert will be preceded by a talk by Festival (and BBC radio) regular Katy Hamilton, who will explore the public and private faces of Brahms - "Behind the Beard". Katy is an entertaining and knowledgeable speaker who excels at bringing out the qualities of the music she describes.

Booking for these (and all the other Festival events) opens on 10th April by post to Ryedale Festival Box Office, The Memorial Hall, Potter Hill, Pickering, YO18 8AA or by phone on 01751 475777, or online at www.ryedalefestival.com.

News from Castle Howard

Castle Howard has become a must-see place for Chinese visitors to the UK. York University student, Jiaying, currently working with the Castle Howard marketing team on an internship, explains why the house and garden have become so popular.

"Jay Chou, nicknamed the 'New King of Asian Pop', caused a frenzy after posting photos of his marriage to model Hannah Quinlivan on his Facebook page at England's **Castle Howard in Yorkshire**. His wedding has boosted tourism in Yorkshire. Superfans from all over the world have been flocking to Castle Howard, the 300-year-old castle where he got

married. Most of these tourists are Asia-based groups and they are Asian students who are already living in the UK but they have come from as far away as Edinburgh and Glasgow. Over past four years, Castle Howard has developed close relationship with Chinese tourists and made several changes to cater to tourists from Asia, including hiring Mandarin speaking staff to improve the quality and quantity of communication on Chinese social media and website platforms and producing visitor information in Mandarin that can be used both online and in a handout for visitors on site."

Close links with Chinese garden - In 2018 a photographic exhibition was held in the city of Suzhou in China marking the beginning of a relationship between two of the world's most important gardens open to the public: The Humble Administrator's Garden in Suzhou, begun in 1509, and Castle Howard's famous 18th-century landscape in Yorkshire.

In the same way as Castle Howard's dramatic landscape was a revelation to Chinese visitors to the exhibition, so it is hoped these spectacular images of the UNESCO-listed Humble Administrator's Garden will excite and enchant viewers in Yorkshire. While drawing on different traditions and techniques, both gardens exhibit the craft of making landscape, architecture, flowers, trees, and water work in harmony. Celebrated for their design as well as for their evolution over the centuries, Castle Howard and the Humble Administrator's Garden share a surprising number of things in common, and this exhibition will be part of a York school's art project where pupils are asked to draw inspiration from east and west.

Jiaying said: "I am really glad to work in Castle Howard as marketing intern. This is an excellent experience for me to gain a deep understanding of digital marketing in one of the UK's leading visitor attractions and historic houses. In addition, I am able to access tours of the House and Gardens to learn about the history and setting of Castle Howard."





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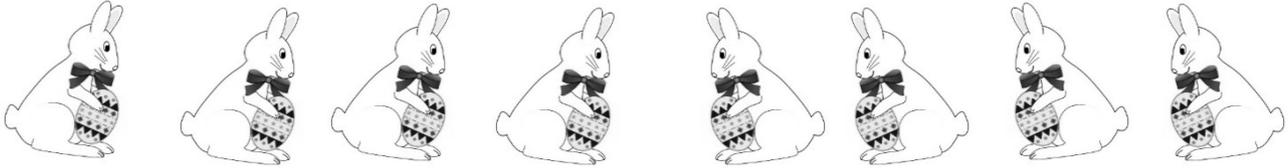
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In the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years.

Abraham Lincoln

Easter funnies



Q: What do you call a bunny with a large brain?	A: An egghead.
Q: Why shouldn't you tell an Easter egg a joke?	A: It might crack up!
Q: What do you call a rabbit that tells good jokes?	A: A funny bunny!
Q: Why didn't the bunny hop?	A: No bunny knows.
Q: What do you get if you pour boiling hot water down a rabbit hole?	A: Hot cross bunnies.
Q: How does the Easter Bunny paint all the Easter eggs?	A: He hires Santa's elves during the off season.
Q: What kind of music do bunnies like?	A: Hip Hop.
Q: What do you get if you cross a bee and a bunny?	A: A honey bunny!

Did you know?...



- Britons love chocolate. In world rankings they come 5th behind Ireland, Germany, Austria and Switzerland.
- On average, each person in Britain eats approx. 7.6kg of chocolate per year.
- The first solid chocolate bars developed by J.S. Fry and Sons (1847) and Cadbury Brothers (1849) would have been dark chocolate.
- Milk chocolate was developed by a Swiss chocolatier in 1875.
- The Ivory Coast in West Africa is the largest producer of cocoa beans.
- Thorntons made the world's largest chocolate bar to celebrate its 100th birthday. It weighed 6 tonnes! Equivalent to 75,000 normal bars.
- Decorating and colouring hen, duck or goose eggs for Easter was the custom in England during the Middle Ages. The accounts for Edward 1, for the year 1290, record a cost of 18 pennies for 450 eggs to be gold-leafed and coloured as gifts.
- The first chocolate Easter egg was produced by Fry's in 1873
- Over 500 million Cadbury Creme Eggs are made every year with about two thirds of that number being enjoyed in the UK. That is 3.5 Cadbury Creme Eggs for every person in this country to enjoy.
- Easter chocolate sales make up 10% of Britain's annual spending on chocolate.

Jo Breckon

Dingbats anyone...?

1.

~~LEAST~~

2.

TUNE TUNE
FAME TUNE TUNE

3.

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MUST GET HERE
MUST GET HERE



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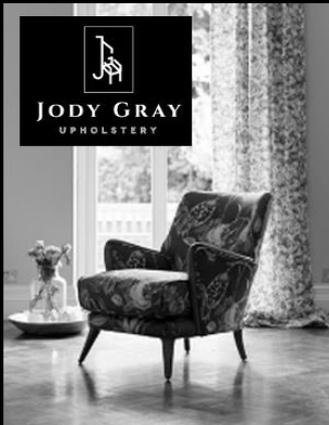


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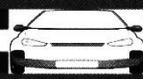



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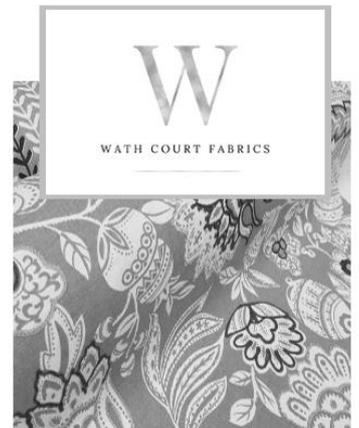
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Smart Meters

What do you know about them and do you want one?

The Government requires all the energy suppliers to offer their customers a smart meter. Triangle reader Mitzi wrote to us about her experience to share with others.



"... my electricity supplier, nPower, had contacted me about this. But Smart meters are not a legal requirement - it is not compulsory to have a smart meter installed. Nevertheless, someone had decided they would come and fit one in my home! They suggested I should get in touch with the power organisation if I wanted to change the time or date, but required me to call them within the next 5 days to do so. It was not clear that I could decline the offer.

I tried to telephone the company but was put 'on hold' along with canned 'musak', so after a while I rang off. An attempt to decline online was similarly unsuccessful. Finally, I sent an email complaint. Later that day I received an email telling me 'the smart refusal has been added to your account, however we are unable to confirm the date that this was added to your records. This will prevent any further correspondence being issued for smart meters. Due to the level of service you have received and for the inconvenience this has caused you, I have arranged for a goodwill gesture of £10.00 to be credited to your account.' This merely added to my frustration and distrust about the whole business. I wanted to stop what I believed to be sharp practice. The Ofgem website informed me that it did not get involved in disputes and offered links to the Citizens Advice Bureau and the Ombudsman, but advised taking the issue to one's energy supplier first.

Apparently, people are still having problems with Smart meters, and these include being unable to have the meter removed: 'consumers do not currently have an automatic right to have a smart meter removed and it is up to the individual energy suppliers to decide what they want to do.'

<https://www.thisismoney.co.uk/money/bills/article-6565209/The-problems-people-dont-want-smart-meters-encountering.html>

The consumer organisation, Which? has much useful information about Smart meters on its website:

[https://www.which.co.uk/consumer-rights/advice/do-i-have-to-accept-a-smart-meter.](https://www.which.co.uk/consumer-rights/advice/do-i-have-to-accept-a-smart-meter)"

Mitzi's letter provides helpful advice and websites to look at and here are a few facts and questions you might ask when/if you are offered a smart meter.

Facts

- You are likely to be offered a smart meter – it is current government policy
- You don't have to have a smart meter installed
- A smart meter won't save you electricity, but it may give you information that makes you use less
- You don't have to pay when a smart meter is installed. The cost isn't covered by the Government either. It is shared out among all electricity users.

Questions to ask before deciding to have a smart meter fitted

- Will the smart meter work with Economy 7?
- If I change electricity supplier will the smart meter still work?
- Will it work if there is no mobile phone signal?
- Will it work if I don't have wi-fi?
- Do I already know which things in my home use the most electricity?
- Can I have the meter removed if I change my mind?

Co-Editor with thanks to Mitzi Blennerhassett

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How about an evening of storytelling and music and in a good cause too as all profits will be donated to Malton Museum and Ryedale Special Families.



"The Goddess of Spring"
A Seasonal, mystical tale
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and Tunes from Local Folk
Bands, The Fine
Companions and Malarkey

Fund Raising Performance, Saturday 13th April
Hovingham Village Hall, 7.30 p.m. (Doors 7.00p.m.)

This original short story combines ancient myth with modern day realism. Carefully chosen, beautiful tunes and songs from the folk genre weave through the magical tale, which is narrated by the author, Brenda Stott, and local playwright, Libby Pearson.

The audience will hear how the old guard of Gods and Goddesses are defunct and have been replaced by four Goddesses, one for each season. The vengeful, cruel Goddess of Winter currently reigns supreme, but her rule is coming to an end and it is time for gentle, nurturing Spring to take command. However, Winter will not give in without a fight and the battle which ensues takes deities and mortals to the brink of destruction.

Tickets, £9, (£5 under 16) are available by phone on 01653 690212. They are also on sale at Hovingham Village Store and will be available to purchase at the Hovingham Village Market being held on Saturday 6th April.

Glenn Stott

Sowers and Growers

The Group had a lovely post-Christmas get together at The Grapes in February and held the AGM in March. Before the formal business we welcomed



Pickering Hedgehog Rescue who presented a slide show and gave a most informative talk. These native creatures need much help as

gardens get smaller and tidier and the seasons are ever more unpredictable.

You can easily help by making a 4inch gap through to next door's garden as hedgehogs need to travel nearly a mile each night, and water at ground level. For more tips on making your garden hedgehog friendly visit: pickeringhedgehogrescue.btck.co.uk

I found 3 small abandoned hedgehogs in my garden last autumn. They were weak and in no condition for winter hibernation. The Hedgehog Rescue people christened them 'snap, crackle and pop' and marked their bristles with different coloured nail varnish so they could tell them apart! After receiving expert care at the rescue centre, they are now thriving and plans are in hand for them to be returned to my garden this spring.



Sowers and Growers is a lively and very informal group. We usually meet on the first Tuesday of the month. On 2nd April a talk is planned and in May we visit a nursery and can make hanging baskets. If you want to join us phone Janet on 628625 for details of when and where.

Gill Baker



Alex and Cherrill Lange from South Holme would like to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter Harriet Eliza Rose Lange born 21st January 2019 at 10.09am weighing 6lb 8oz.

Alex and Cherrill thank everybody for their good wishes.



Slingsby Allotment News

What an amazing February with hardly any rain and spring like temperatures, though March has started completely differently and perhaps winter is back with us. The allotment site is the driest I remember in winter since we started. There is no need to wade through water to get onto our plot and I would be able to dig it over if I could find the time (or inclination) to do it. Dry warm weather also has its drawbacks with the lack of frost encouraging the proliferation of insect pests. Picking our sprouts and sprouting broccoli means having to contend with clouds of whitefly and emerging looking as though you've got a bad case of dandruff – not something I usually suffer from any more. Slug damage isn't really a problem on these two brassicas unlike cabbage and cauliflower, though if you use slug pellets containing metaldehyde you might like to know that these are being withdrawn from sale after June this year. Any you have are supposed to be used by summer



2020. You might expect that this is an EU directive but that's not the case here as it will still be authorised in mainland Europe and the ruling only applies to the UK. The Royal Horticultural Society recommends pellets based on Ferric Phosphate as an alternative.

I've managed to dig up one of the two large apple trees planted by mistake a few years back, but the Bramley is determined to remain where it is and I'll have to spend quite a bit more time to dig it out. In the meantime, the warm weather means the rootstocks I'm planning to use to replant are at least a month ahead of where they would normally be at this time of year. I bought 10 dwarfing rootstocks last year and have grown them on in pots and they look as though they are growing away and so ready for grafting. I have chosen M9 which will produce a tree that will not grow bigger than about 6 feet tall and crops very early in life. I have a few one-year old branches that I pruned earlier in winter and kept in the fridge to hold them back until the rootstocks were ready. There are a variety of grafts that can be used, but the most successful for me is the "whip and tongue"



because it gives a large contact area between the rootstock and variety. It's a simple case of making the cuts, putting rootstock and variety together and then binding the two tightly together with

grafting tape. I use the plastic bags from loaves of Thomas' bread cut into 1" strips and then keep fingers crossed that they'll join together.

I've got potatoes chitting at home waiting until I dare put them in the ground. Also tomatoes and peppers are sown hopefully germinating in a propagator on a window sill. Usually the first thing I'll plant will be onion sets which will be in the ground sometime in mid/late March.

We freeze quite a lot of surplus produce in summer and are still enjoying courgettes, sweet peppers, green beans and tomatoes (which we roast in the bottom of the aga before freezing). As well as blackberries, raspberries and black and redcurrants. There are still bramley apples stored in the garage, though some are going bad others cook up a treat and still have a great flavour.

Terry Baker

Dingbat answers

1. Last but not least; 2. Fame and fortune;
3. The Three Musketeers

Hope you are liking these - *Co-Editor*

We were sad to hear of the death of former village resident **Laurie Gibbon** who lived on The Green. He moved to Scotland to be near his daughter approximately 3 years ago, but many will remember him.

Ryedale Community Messaging

Coming soon - a free system that lets you register to receive up-to-date community news tailored to where you live or work. The service has been designed to allow people to get information when they want, and how they want it. Users can tailor preferences for the type of the message they receive and the locations that matter to them.

Messages may include:

- Emergency incidents such as flooding
- Waste and recycling services
- Voting and election information
- Community news and events

Users can even choose to register multiple locations, not just a home address – ideal if you want to know more about where your children go to school, where family members live, places to socialise and around your place of work.

Registering is safe, secure and easy, and takes less than five minutes. Just visit Ryedale Council's Ryedale Community Messaging sign up page on a smartphone or PC to get started.

Easter Joke

As John was coming out of church one Easter day, the vicar shook his hand and said, "John you need to join the Army of the Lord".

John explained, "I'm already in the Army of the Lord, vicar."

"How come I don't see you in Church except at Christmas and Easter then?"

John said, "I'm in the secret service."



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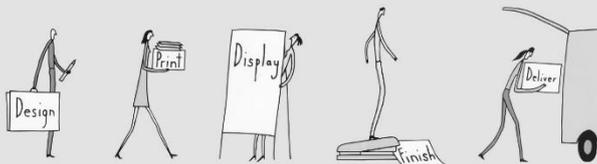
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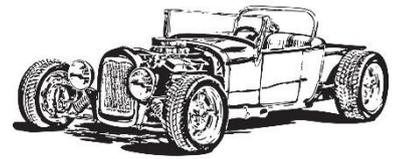
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More Castle Howard news

Fathers Day Classic Car & Motor Show - Sunday 16th June 2019

After a fantastic first-time event under Classic Shows ownership in 2018, Castle Howard announces that they have signed a multi-year agreement with leading classic vehicle events organiser, Classic Shows, to run the Father's Day Classic Car & Motor Show at Castle Howard. This will ensure that this popular and family friendly event will run for years to come and in doing so, will cement the Father's Day Classic Car & Motor Show at Castle Howard as one of the largest classic vehicle events in the North of England.



In 2018 the event attracted in excess of 5,000 visitors and has since been extended into a second field to accommodate additional demand from vehicle exhibitors and trade stands. A number of new content items have also been announced including a new vintage, classic and modern classic club vehicle section, a full modern vehicle / dealership zone including displays of the latest models and with knowledgeable staff on hand to answer queries and arrange test drives, a craft tent and even rumours of an original London double decker bus!

Ticket prices for the Motor Show have been held at the 2018 levels and reflect the standard Castle Howard admission price of just £11.95 per adult, £11.00 per senior, £7.95 per child (4-16) and parking is free. For this price visitors have access to the event plus the full Castle Howard grounds, formal gardens and courtyard and for a small additional fee, access internally inside Castle Howard itself.

Purchase tickets on arrival at the event or in advance via the Classic Shows website – www.classicshows.org/events

Fraud Alert – Continue to be vigilant!

North Yorkshire Police have recently received a number of calls from residents in relation to a scam call, claiming to be from BT, with various stories to persuade you to give your bank account details or to download something to your PC.

North Yorkshire Police advise

- Do not press 1
- Hang up
- Contact your phone provider on the customer services number from your bill.
- Before calling make sure that you have a dialling tone before ringing.

BT have created a webpage on their site to offer advice - www.bt.com/scams



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A little poetry to appreciate spring....

“...daffodils,
That come before the swallow dares, and take
The winds of March with beauty; violets dim,
But sweeter than the lids of Juno's eyes
Or Cytherea's breath; pale primroses
That die unmarried, ere they can behold
Bright Phoebus in his strength”

From 'The Winters Tale' (Shakespeare)

V.I.P. Corner - Alf Holmes



Slingsby School Football Team appx 1943

A Holmes, M Hodgson, A Stearman, J Wilson, A Wales, P Smithson, M Sleightholme
Seated: R Martin, P Turner, J Lawri, T Johnson

A lovely picture from schooldays showing Alf on the far left

The first thing Alf confirmed with me was his love of, and dedication to, Bowling. Having been a member of the Slingsby Bowling Club for 40 years, Greenkeeper for 39 years and Treasurer for 37 years, it was the saddest day when the Bowling Club closed for good. I am happy to report, however, that he is now playing Indoor Bowls at Norton, a sport he can enjoy all year. He also plays Short Mat Bowls at Slingsby Village Hall, which has been going for over 30 years.

In his early teens, Alf played for Slingsby in both their Cricket and Football Teams. Another role he has held, for 22 years, is that of Treasurer to Slingsby Sports and Social Club. Alf will retire from that role this year, and looks forward to enjoying a bit of gardening. When asked what he dislikes, he thought hard and answered 'the decline in village life, as there is not as much 'mixing' as there once was.'

Alf was born in Butterwick, in 1936 the youngest of a family of 7. He was a baby of 3 months when he came to live in Slingsby, but tragically, his mother had passed away. It is a salutary reminder of how far we have come in this country, when age expectancy has increased vastly over the years. In those days, life was so precarious for both mothers and their children. Alf was christened over the kitchen sink, as

he was not expected to live. Fortunately, Alf was blessed with an older sister who happily sacrificed quite a lot in order to care for him. They quickly settled in Brookside, Railway Street. Alf's father was a farm labourer, and survived a pioneering operation performed by a Dr. Lowe in Malton, to remove half his stomach. It was truly miraculous. The operation put an end to dad's job, but being a resourceful man intent on providing as much as he could for his family, he grew a lot of food himself.

Alf was a schoolboy when during the second world war Evacuees arrived in Slingsby, along with three extra teachers in tow. There were over 100 children at the school!

A highlight of the year for Alf was the opportunity to go potato picking - two extra weeks off school as well as getting paid - what a win! It was pointed out to me, though, that any money earned went into the family pot and was not frittered away.

On leaving school, he obtained work at Prest's Farm, helping with poultry to begin with. In 1954, he volunteered for the Army, and was given the duty of Driver. In all, he spent three years as a Regular and four years as a Reservist. After he left training in Aldershot, he drove through Italy for 35 days. Alf remembers seeing working donkeys at that time, when in England there were combine harvesters. The journey ended up in the American side of Germany, where he left the vehicle and returned by train. One year was spent in the UK and one year in Cyprus. Just as I was saying 'Jammy Dodger' I was corrected about the conditions at that time. There were heightened tensions, so much so that no

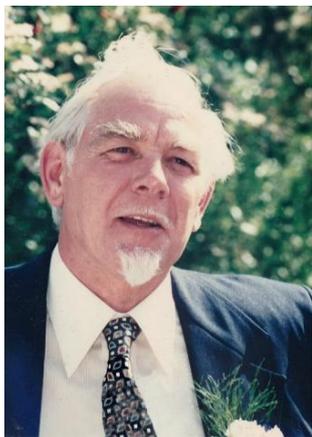


soldiers were allowed off base. Luckily for Alf he was permitted to visit his corporal's married quarters, but life there resembled a prison camp, only the ability to swim in the Mediterranean saved his sanity, and that of his fellow soldiers.

Picture of Alf taken on manoeuvre in the Lake District in 1954.

continued....

V.I.P. Corner continued...



Alf then found himself caught up in the Suez Crisis, and spent some considerable time anchored at sea - with ammunition. Not the best position to be in, what bravery. Once he left the Army, Alf couldn't find work as a Driver because due to the Suez Crisis there was fuel rationing.

The position of Gravedigger was taken and Alf had the honour of digging the very last grave in Slingsby churchyard. He then became an HGV Driver for Wath Quarry, delivering approximately 300 tonnes of limestone a day to Malton Station, destined for Teesside Steelworks. Who would have known that a little village like Slingsby could have such a big part to play in steel manufacturing, a vital industry at that time?

Alf moved on and became a labourer for a construction company in York, but in 1963 he went to work for H.M. Richardson transport. Having spent four years as a driver, he was promoted to the role of Transport Manager, until his retirement in 2002. This was one of the first companies to get Volvo lorries into Britain.

Somewhere along the way, Alf found lasting love in the form of his wife, Barbara. They have been married for 49 years, and have two daughters, Fiona and Nichola, two grandsons and three great grandchildren. When I arrived the beautiful aroma of freshly baked date and walnut cake permeated the house, so I think he is rather spoiled! The thing Alf most likes about Slingsby is that he has a lot of friends.

The little infant held over the sink 80 years ago has made his mark on at least two historical events and had a long and healthy life, as well as making a major contribution to the village, so in my view a resounding 'Thank You' is in order.

Kay Hill

Sports Club update: Playing Field and Section 106 funding

Many families in the village (as well as the Sports Club Committee) are anxiously awaiting news from Ryedale Council about our application for the remaining Section 106 funding from Cavendish Court to create a new play area on the site of the former Bowls Club. The Committee is meeting as we write this article and we hope to be able to share good news via the website shortly. If we receive this funding, we will be able to go ahead with the scheme created by our fantastic colleagues at Streetscape. This will have new pieces of play equipment in a much safer, enclosed environment, away from cars and other traffic.



A visualisation of the area is shown above

One very positive aspect of the Sports Club's generous offer is that the current play equipment can remain whilst work progresses, but that Streetscape will also help us dismantle the existing area, freeing it up for future applications, for example adult gym equipment, and allowing our volunteers to focus on maintaining the play area itself. We also hope to apply for Lottery funding for a zip-wire beyond the tennis courts, once appropriate advice and permissions have been secured. Watch the website for further news!

Slingsby Sports Club and Slingsby Play Area Group

Slingsby Castle (Part II)

In the last article we considered Robert Smythson's designs for Charles Cavendish (I)'s Slingsby Castle (I), a building that was never built. In this article we'll consider the castle built by John Smithson (1535-1614), the son of Robert, for Charles Cavendish II (c.1595-1654), the youngest son of Charles Cavendish I, of Welbeck Abbey (Notts).

Charles Cavendish II was physically unimpressive. Contemporaries described him as short or dwarf-like, with a crooked back. But he was a brilliant mathematician and studied astronomers like Galileo and subjects ranging from psychology to optics, ethics and poetics. He sponsored many other scientists, and had a particular interest in developing telescopic lenses. When Civil War broke out, Charles and his brother William fought for the king, Charles I. Following the defeat at the battle of Marston Moor, they fled to Scarborough Castle and then to the Continent. Charles returned to England in 1651 to recover the family estates of Welbeck and Bolsover but died soon after, in 1654. This has



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encouraged some writers to suggest that work on the castle, presumed to have started in the 1630s, was interrupted by the civic war and thus, that the building was 'never completed'. It was certainly in ruins by 1749, as Reverend Brooke notes (1845, 146-7).

However, more recent analysis of the designs for Slingsby Castle by Lucy Worsley suggests it was built between 1629-1634, and was therefore completed before the outbreak of civil war. Evidence that it was also inhabited comes from a petition by a Barbara Stanley which noted that she, her husband and family had been hired in 1643 to live in the house 'for the better securing of the said building leads and good therein'. Although the castle does *not* appear to have been attacked or slighted in the civil war, Mr Stanley was forcibly removed from the building and died later from his injuries! Thus, by 1643 the building was clearly roofed, semi-furnished and lived in, even if not by Charles.

Several drawings in the RIBA collection and one still held at Hovingham Hall can be put together with the surviving evidence of the castle, earlier surveys made by English Heritage, and Antiquarian drawings such as those of the Reverend William Walker made in 1845 to reconstruct Slingsby Castle II. The building had a basement floor, which may have re-used stone from the medieval castle but was designed to support a piano nobile or main first and second floor above. The façade had glazed mullioned and transomed windows, over which there were alternating triangular and segmental-pediments, traces of which survive today. The house had corner turrets, a projecting balcony. It was surrounded by a boundary wall with corner pavilions, which appears, from the sections now exposed around the castle, to have made extensive use of reused medieval stone, surrounded by the moat. It appears that an earlier building, possibly a former gatehouse, was also retained in this design, perhaps as a conscious reference to the medieval castle on the site. Beth's reconstructions (photos to left) provide a fascinating glimpse of this impressive building and how it might have appeared as it was approached from High Street. It is possible that although the house was completed, its gardens and wider designed landscape were never fully realised.

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