

# THE TRI NGLE

No. 59

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

Aug/Sept 2020



Peacock Butterfly by Kieker, see page 2

Oct/Nov copy to Gill Baker, Birch Cottage, The Lawns, tel: 01653 628479 By **Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> Sept** at the very latest please (earlier is helpful), or e-mail: [thetriangle@slingsbyvillage.co.uk](mailto:thetriangle@slingsbyvillage.co.uk)

**Price to non-subscribers £1.50**

## The Big Leap 2020

Not many people can celebrate their 65<sup>th</sup> birthday and have a 21<sup>st</sup> in the same year! I will be 65 in July and will reach my 21<sup>st</sup> year in Slingsby in the same month. So I was trying to think of something special to mark the occasion and had a few crazy ideas but had nothing planned.

Late last year my niece was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis (MS). She is the third person I had heard of with this disease after my partner's niece and a friend's wife. Anyway, early this year my niece's husband died suddenly and I thought maybe I could help in some way by raising some money for MS.



I decided to try for a skydive! I've never done anything like this before, but if I can help raise a bit of money for MS I will. I was originally given the opportunity on 30<sup>th</sup> May at Bridlington but this was postponed as all airfields were closed due to Covid-19. I am now hoping to jump on the 1<sup>st</sup> August.

If anyone would like to sponsor me I have sponsor forms at home or there's a 'Justgiving' page on Facebook. Look for The Big Leap 2020 in my name John Hatfield. Alternatively, you can phone me on 01653 628701.

Thank you in anticipation. *John Hatfield.*

## Cover photo - Peacock Butterfly

The Peacock Butterfly is a common garden visitor around Slingsby, Fryton and South Holme. Its bold eye-spots, designed to deter predators, help give this butterfly its name, and make it easy to identify.

Adults usually emerge from hibernation in March but it is July when it is most abundant. The adult butterflies are attracted to garden plants, particularly Buddleia, to feed on nectar. Around Slingsby this is probably the most abundant butterfly.

## Covid-19 outbreak - A Parish Council thankyou

Dear Residents,

As we move carefully out of lockdown, I wanted to thank you all for following the guidelines, which ensured the parish remained a safe place.

A huge thank you to Kate Giles and Geoff Bishop who set up and implemented the street co-ordinators system. Thank you also to all the volunteers who came forward to help.

The system will stay in place for the foreseeable future and therefore you are still able to access assistance if required.

With very best wishes

*Fiona Farnell*  
on behalf of the Parish Council

## Slingsby Ladies Group

To all our members, we hope that you are keeping well. It seems a long time since we all met back in March and little did we know then of the world we now find ourselves in. But hopefully we shall meet again soon and enjoy our time together. At the time of writing this, it is not possible to say whether we shall see each other in September, but we shall contact you all nearer the time to let you know how things stand. In the meantime, keep safe and enjoy the summer.

*Liz Senior*

## Smiling is Infectious!

Smiling is infectious,  
You catch it like the flu,  
When someone smiled at me today,  
I started smiling too.

I passed around the corner  
And someone saw my grin.  
When he smiled, I realised  
I'd passed it on to him.

I thought about that smile,  
Then realised its worth.  
One single smile, just like mine,  
Could travel round the earth.

So, if you feel a smile begin,  
Don't leave it undetected.  
Let's start an epidemic, quick,  
And get the world infected!

*If you can't guess who wrote this see page 14*

## Aren't we lucky!

They say that the heart of any village lies in the shop and the pub. Slingsby is fortunate to have both.

So I'm sure I can speak for a lot of villagers when I say a big "thank you" to Tony for keeping his shop open every day and keeping us supplied with the basics and lovely home-made cakes too. Also to Catharine and Leigh at The Grapes for their delicious takeaway meals and pizzas.

The above have been such a bonus during these unprecedented and strange four months.

*A grateful resident*

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*This Triangle was compiled in mid July, two weeks before distribution, as usual. As we are all aware, the situation regarding Coronavirus precautions is changing daily, so please make sure that the event you are considering is actually running or that the advertiser is actually open before travelling or relying on the information contained. **Due to the many cancellations there is no PINK with this issue.***

## 2020 Triangle subscriptions

**Dear subscriber,**

We have taken the decision that, due to recent relaxation in some of the lockdown rules, we will be collecting subscriptions with this current issue.

We would like to thank you for your patience with this and hope that you already had your money ready to hand when your deliverer dropped off this issue.

All of our deliverers are volunteers and we would appreciate that, in this current situation, they do not need to make repeated calls for any outstanding subs, so your quick payment would be much appreciated.

*Jo Breckon, distribution and advertising*

## 2020 Triangle advertising

**Dear advertiser,**

Here at the Triangle newsletter we are aware that the coronavirus outbreak is putting a major strain on many small businesses' cash flow.

As a volunteer-run small village newsletter, we are aware that receipt and payment of invoices can be very important and can have an impact on cash flow. We rely not only on subscriptions but your custom as an advertiser to keep this magazine going. We appreciate your loyalty to us over the past years and would not like to see you leave, so if you are struggling with costs please get back to me.

We would like to do as much as we can to ease the burden of this by offering you:

- the option to settle your outstanding advertising invoice in two repayments over the next few months. This will hopefully help you with your finances while getting your business up and running again.
- If you need to alter your advert in any way to reflect changes to your business such as opening hours or scope of your business then we would be happy to update your current advert if you send us a new one.
- If you need to inform your customers of any changes we can put in a paragraph in the newsletter and on our website.

*Jo Breckon, distribution and advertising*

## Walking through a ghost

Miss Pickett, of The Lawns, Slingsby had been staying in Nunnington at her uncle's. She decided to go out for a walk down Nunnington Avenue in the direction of Ness and it was while making this walk that she noticed a figure walking towards her. As the woman got nearer Miss Pickett thought "How silly – we're going to walk into each other." So she stepped one pace to her side, but so did the approaching woman, as if she was deliberately trying to collide with Miss Pickett. At the last moment Miss Pickett put up her hands to stop the other woman but then, to her amazement, she walked right through her! Miss Pickett turned around and made her way back to her uncle's, very shaken by the experience but otherwise fine.

On arriving back at her temporary home she mentioned the tale to her uncle's family, however no one was surprised. They simply said "Oh, it will be old Catherine Stamper from Nunnington Hall." Apparently, according to her aunt there was a figure that walked about the hall, wringing her hands as if in anguish.

There are many tales about ghosts at Nunnington Hall. Could this be yet another?

*The above event was originally written by Ursula Lascelles of Slingsby Heights in 1934 in one of her journals.*

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## Nunnington book store

Many thanks for the books people have brought round to me for Nunnington Hall second hand book shop, following my appeal two Triangle issues ago. Last year the sale of second-hand books raised some £6,000 towards the upkeep of the hall and gardens.

Although the gardens are open (note that booking in advance is necessary, you cannot just turn up and expect to get in) the Hall is still closed due to the Covid-19 virus. It is not known at the moment when the hall will reopen.

*Carol Thornley*

## Slingsby Play Area update

As the Summer rolls on and holidays appear on the horizon, many residents and visitors are asking when we might re-open the play area. The answer is that we don't yet know but that we are checking the guidance carefully and will do so as soon as possible. Unfortunately, the guidance currently states that we would need to ensure that social distancing is observed and that equipment is cleaned after each use . . . no easy task for a small village and volunteer community!

However, we are using the time to get things organised for re-opening. A small and carefully-coordinated/socially-distanced group are gradually building up the ramp between the pathway and the play area surface, as requested by several parents last summer. We were given funding by the parish council towards some turf covering for this, so hope that it will have time to settle before we re-open and will provide a safer environment - and some new seating for parents at the same time. We were also given funding towards a new fence and gate, which would allow the lawnmower to get into and onto the area for cutting the grass. Richard Hindby has been very generous with his time and it looks splendid.

Our next task is to find funding to pay off the remaining £1000 to the Sports Club, who have been very patient with us, and for a new birdhide/shelter to replace the demolished shed. We'll be roping off this area when the play area re-opens, again with an eye on safety.

Thanks as ever to Geoff Bishop for keeping us all going, to Richard Hindby and several Dads who have moved earth diligently over lockdown and to Warwick Helme for his hedge-cutting. We will update you as soon as we can with a re-opening date.

*Kate Giles*

## Contact points

Want your news or event on the Village website?  
Please email [admin@slingsbyvillage.co.uk](mailto:admin@slingsbyvillage.co.uk)

Want to see your item in The Triangle?  
Please email [thetriangle@slingsbyvillage.co.uk](mailto:thetriangle@slingsbyvillage.co.uk)

Want to be published in both? Please email **BOTH!**

## Slingsby Chapel News

Like most of society, we have been very restricted in what we could do over the past 3 months. We have had services via Zoom technology - quite a new experience - and we have also done Soupa-lunch home delivery and fish & chips home delivery, which were well received and much appreciated. These have ceased for the time being but we hope to begin again in some form in the autumn.

Our big project now is to renew the roof of the main chapel. We were put on the "At Risk Register" by English Heritage as they felt the roof was deteriorating and in need of improvement. It will obviously be a big expense and we certainly have not got the funds for it at the moment. We are applying for grants and will have some fund-raising events when we are allowed to do so. If anyone feels able to help by making a donation in the meantime please do get in touch with me on 01653 628277.

*Stephen Prest*

### **. . . and reflections from Rev. Ken**

I've heard so many comments recently, reminding us that while our churches are closed, we are the church, not the building! That is true of course, we are indeed the church, the body of Christ as followers of Jesus. However, just as the body is made up of many parts, its functions best when joined up and working together. Our churches may simply be bricks and mortar but they are much more than that! Our churches are sacred spaces, sanctified and set apart for the body of believers to gather together and worship our amazing God.

How long can a dismembered body live and function healthily? The body is dismembered all week in its work, life and mission, so how excited should we be when the body comes together again for our sabbath worship on the Lord's day, joining together again for worship? As we set foot over the threshold of our sacred spaces, should our hearts not skip a beat with excitement, eager to hear what God will say to His faithful, and what impact our prayers collectively will have on our communities over the next week?

Our churches are more than buildings, they are sacred spaces, houses of prayer-soaked stonework. Built with

sacrifice and passion by those who went before us, so we are able to meet together and be the witness Jesus is calling us to be in our generation. How good it will be when we can meet together again in a house of prayer, the sacred space in Slingsby. When we gather to worship God, we hear from the sacred writings, which are as relevant today as when they were first penned. We are reminded, as we break bread together in Holy Communion, we are one body because we share in the one bread, remembering all that Jesus has done for us. No wonder the Psalmist writes,

"Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere; I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked". (Psalm 84)

Jesus invites us to seek Him, and when we seek him with all our heart, we will find him. When we knock he promises to open the door for us. What a wonderful opportunity we have been given, to come to Jesus all who are heavy laden and wearied and He will give us rest. Churches are not simply buildings; churches are sacred spaces, filled with God's people. Meeting together to be spiritually fed. Hear from His holy word, and loved. If you know there is a missing piece in your heart, a void which gnaws at you, and no matter what, you can't find satisfaction! If you long for more than this world can give you and you know that there is something in this world that you are supposed to be doing, which will give your life meaning, direction and a sense of purpose, then seek God and you will find the answers your soul longs for, then give your heart to Him who promises to care for your soul for an eternity. Then you will find rest, contentment and peace you so long yearn for.

*Rev. Ken Gouland*

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### **Surplus items, free to a good home**

I have a number of surplus items available free of charge, as seen. These are: a pair of 15inch Sony speakers, a pair of 13inch Monitor speakers with stands, a 17inch JVC TV, and a D-Link DSM-320 Wireless Media Player.

If you are interested in any of these please contact me on 01653 628625. They are available on a first come first served basis for each item.

*Brian Clarke*

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## Slingsby CC and The Feversham League

The Feversham Cricket League's history goes back almost one hundred years. Despite encountering many difficulties along the way, it's no exaggeration to state that in recent times its very existence has been seriously threatened. It still carries on in a positive fashion thanks to the dedication of the officials of the present five member clubs - Slingsby (John Hatfield, Secretary; Ben Corner, Captain), Glaisdale, High Farndale, Lockton and Rosedale Abbey.

Originally, matches were played on a Saturday afternoon, but a change was made to evenings it is thought in the late 1930's. Examination of the Minutes book of the 1940's and 1950's reveals participating clubs now consigned to local cricket history, such as Baxtons, Beadlam, Gilling, Hawnby, Low Farndale, Normanby, Nunnington, Pockley, Rievaulx, Sproxton and Wombledon.

Slingsby are relative latecomers to the League, only joining the then eight other clubs at the start of the 1992 season. They left in 2001, resumed in 2002, left again in 2003, resuming again in 2004. The League itself suffered a serious blow in 2003 with the onset of the foot and mouth disease which left only three clubs. Matters improved thereafter as clubs rejoined, but another crisis occurred in 2017 with a significant number of postponed matches due to a combination of bad weather coupled with a degree of indifference; in fact only five League matches were played. Salvation came with the unexpected and welcome addition of Rosedale Abbey, supplemented by a re-formed Lockton joining the following year. Sadly, Spout House, whose historic ground became known nationally, were forced to resign owing to a lack of players at the start of the 2019 season. However, remarkably their place was taken by Glaisdale. Although the proverbial 'as the crow flies' distance between Slingsby and Glaisdale is 22 miles, quite a journey to make for an evening match, both sides were willing to travel and did so. Thus things appeared very positive for the League with all five clubs pledging to continue in 2020.

As we now know, Covid-19 has put everything on hold for some considerable time. Whilst there were at first unduly optimistic suggestions that local evening cricket might start in July, the Chairman, Secretary and representatives of the five clubs unanimously agreed in mid-June that because of Government safety restrictions there was no realistic alternative but to cancel the 2020 League season and the associated Cup competitions. It is, therefore, incumbent on the five clubs to ensure they remain motivated to resume again in 2021



*Photo of the team that won the Countess of Feversham Cup in 2018. (photo courtesy of Paul Hogarth)*

*Back row (L to R). Richie Reynolds, Jack Corner, Sam Megginson, Ben Corner (c), Paul Hogarth, John Hatfield, Jack Stockdale, Eddy Rounthwaite*

*Front row (L to R): Alex Machin (w), Stephen Beal*

Slingsby C.C. as a club hasn't done too badly in the League, and individuals have also won awards on occasions. The list of successes is as follows: -

**1993** Slingsby won the League winning thirteen of sixteen matches played, and the Top Four Play-offs.

**1994** C Hind won best bowling cup taking 6 wickets for 8 runs Slingsby v Rievaulx.

**1997** Peter Stark won best bowling cup taking 6 wickets for 7 runs Slingsby v Spout House.

**2007** Slingsby won the Supplementary Cup. Alistair Raper won the best bowling cup taking 4 wickets for 9 runs Slingsby v Spout House.

**2008** Slingsby won the League

**2009** Slingsby won the Countess of Feversham Cup and the Top Four Play-offs. Wayne Fawcett won the best bowling cup, taking 5 wickets for 7 runs Slingsby v Gillamoor.

**2010** Slingsby won the League and the Countess of Feversham Cup

**2011** Tom Harrison won the batting cup scoring 88 not out Slingsby v Spout House.

**2012** Slingsby shared the Top Four Play-offs with Gillamoor. John Hatfield won the best bowling cup taking 5 wickets for 15 runs Slingsby v Gillamoor

**2013** Slingsby won the Top Four Play-offs

**2014** Slingsby won the Top Four Play-offs.

**2016** Slingsby won the Supplementary Cup

**2018** Slingsby won the Top Four Play-offs and the Supplementary Cup

**2019** Richard Reynolds won the batting cup scoring 76 not out Slingsby v Rosedale Abbey

*Charles Allenby*

## Life at Holme Lea Farm in the late 1950's.

I was born and bred in Whitby; my granddad Gair was a baker and granddad Stainthorpe was a stonemason. My father was an insurance agent so "Why did I get interested in agriculture?" you might ask.

It seems that some of the family had roots in farming and did have a farm on the east side of Whitby, so maybe that was the part which stuck in the genes. Also Dad's brother lived and worked a farm near my home so my holidays and weekends were spent there. On leaving school I took a job lasting a few months on a dairy farm near home. During this time some discussion took place with my parents and dad's boss about a scheme called 'A Farming Apprenticeship'. This involved signing up for three years, following a probationary period, to a nominated farmer who had been accepted by the apprenticeship board to learn aspects of general farming, including some day release at college. It also involved living away from home if the location was too far to travel daily.

So one day dad and his boss (the only one with the car) and I set off to find Mr & Mrs Robert Smith at Holme Lea Farm, Green Dyke Lane, Slingsby (sometimes called Cemetery Lane in those days). I had a short interview for them to assess my suitability and their suitability for me. This went without a hitch so I moved to Slingsby as a 16 year old boy to learn farming theory and practice, a daunting step for a young man to move from the seaside to the countryside, amongst total strangers.

It was round about spring 1959 when I moved in with Robert and Mary Smith, to a mixed farm of 50 acres, tenanted by them but owned by Willy Baker ('Mossy'). Just before my arrival the Smiths had purchased Wyville Farm, a 100 acre mixed farm, so that was another reason for my being there. Harry Smith had also started with them at the same time. He lived with his family at Wyville Farm.

Living at Holme Lea was very comfortable and the food was hearty and plentiful. This small farm was a hive of activity with pigs, cattle, hens and sheep but of course most jobs were manual, not mechanised then.

My day would start with a wake-up call from Bob, stating that it was not a holiday home and it was time to be up! So with a rush to please I started the first job of the day, which was to milk three or four cows by

hand to produce milk for the house, butter and cream making for selling on. The remaining skim was fed to the pigs. All this produce was to be sold at Bob's weekly Saturday market stall in York. There were also potatoes, flowers, gooseberries, raspberries and even some lilac sprigs on one occasion when there was space in the van! I remember asking for some cream for my apple pie, only to be told it was too expensive to have at home, so make do with milk!



After milking it was breakfast, comprising cereals, home cured fried ham, followed by bread and marmalade. Then it was off to start a variety of jobs, depending on the time of year and seasonable requirements. Not all jobs were interesting, I may add; the most distasteful being emptying the bucket toilet system! Bearing in mind I had come from a flushing toilet system in Whitby, this was a bit of a shock! However it became part of life at Holme Lea, being quite normal for country living, as I remembered from my gran's at Fylingthorpe.

Bob Smith was a very busy man, seemingly involved in many things besides farming, including a taxi service for children from outlying farms to the village morning and evening, civil defence person, parish councillor etc. This would leave me to care for things while he was away, something which gave me a lot of pride in the job. However Bob was a hard taskmaster who had many sayings, one being "If you drop some hay in the stockyard, pick it up as it will bed a hen's box". Another, after the mid-day meal, would be "Have you finished? Go back to work, and when it's wet you can have a longer dinner hour". I never saw one!

Soon I had become settled and enjoyed my new life. I enjoyed the freedom to enjoy what was happening round about, so purchased a small motorbike, a BSA Bantam 125cc, which allowed me to visit home on occasions, and explore the area around Slingsby.

The job at Holme Lea was 5½ days, plus feeding/milking on Saturdays and Sunday mornings and evenings unless I was away. Social time in those days was often sitting at the top of The Balk in summer, with many others from the village. Evenings offered many village dances, held weekly and again, when the weather was better, one could thumb a ride to Malton for Sunday night entertainment.

With the purchase of Wyville Farm our total farm became 150 acres. Not much these days but as the work then was mostly manual we needed more seasonal help. Locals Herbert Allen, Charlie Boocock and Arthur Petch were three retired stalwarts of the land who came with both energy and camaraderie!

Some cottages in the village at the time kept a pig for breeding. When it came to the point of serving the sow most people relied on Bob Smith to supply the services of his boar, which he would instruct me to deliver to the appropriate cottage in Slingsby. The boar, being used to this exercise, did not have to be asked twice, so armed with a flat stick to guide him, off we went at double time! I drove him into the pen in the back garden to meet the sow. On getting them together the cottager gets down on his knees in front of both pigs. "What are you doing?" I asked. "You don't know?" came the reply. "Well" the cottager says "I'm watching how many times he blinks, 'cos that's how many piglets she'll have!".

On a smaller unit like Holme Lea there was a multitude of tasks to learn and carry out, something you may not experience on a larger farm. Another job I have not mentioned was digging graves, the cemetery being just a short distance from Holme Lea. This was a further means of income for Bob Smith. Harry Smith and I would dig the graves, followed by Bob inspecting them and making any final trimming. I must say the finished graves were a treat to behold, if a grave ever can be considered so!

Potato picking was helped by Jim Petch and his horse and cart for leading off the field, which was much easier than tractors and trailers. Jim was farm-hind to the Stark family, who farmed at Brickyard Farm, just north of Slingsby. Potatoes were tipped from the carts

to form a pie, covered in straw and soil for protection from the frost, to be uncovered and sold later.

Sugar beet harvesting involved pulling, laying out and topping with a spade, followed by loading onto a cart for delivery to Slingsby Station for transferring onto rail wagons. On the closure of the railway we had to load from the trailer onto a road truck, sometimes doing this in the evening by the light of a Tilley Lamp on Cemetery Lane roadside. The trailer would be on the grass verge to gain height advantage, and then transported to the York factory by Henry Richardson Transport of Slingsby. Our farm tractors at the time were a Standard Fordson, David Brown or Ferguson TE20D.

Cereals were cut with a binder, stooked, then stacked in the yard and threshed later. Combine harvesters came along later and made the job much easier.

The subject of the 'Apprenticeship Scheme' had now come to the point of signing up for three years. With the thought of being tied up for what seemed a long time I decided to decline. I hoped I could find a vacancy on a larger unit, which would broaden my experience. Fortunately I was successful.

Living on a farm had many advantages and some disadvantages but overall my experience covered all aspects of it. Although very hard work at times, Bob and Mary Smith treated me well. I was fortunate. Not all were so lucky.

*Malcolm Stainthorpe*



*Unfortunately we have no photographs of Bob Smith and his wife, Mary, together. Mary died first and Bob got married again. The picture below shows an older Bob at his second wedding outside All Saints Church - Ed.*

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## Slingsby CP School

It has certainly been an unprecedented and challenging time for everyone and none more so than for Slingsby School.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> of March, just prior to lockdown, Ofsted undertook a one day inspection of school and we were awarded the best possible rating under the new framework of GOOD. We were all delighted by the outcome and were very pleased to receive a letter from Judith Kirk, Assistant Director of Education and Skills at North Yorkshire County Council where she has said, "Receiving a GOOD outcome, especially under this challenging framework, is a significant achievement and I am really pleased for you, the staff, governors and children. The report was an absolute pleasure to read and really captures the team ethos and pride felt by everyone in your school 'a small school with a big heart'. The outcome is a clear reflection of the determinedness of you and your team, 'a school in which all staff are very loyal and proud to belong', to pull together to ensure that the pupils in your care always continue to 'get a good deal' in all aspects of their education and wellbeing."

Sadly, shortly after this on the 20<sup>th</sup> March the school closed in accordance with the Government and Local Authority advice due to COVID-19. Our key worker children were placed in the local Hub school where Slingsby School teachers went in to teach, whilst providing all the children at home with Home Learning Packs and online resources on a weekly basis. We have loved hearing about all the different adventures and experiences from the 'home schools' and have been really proud of all the children for adapting to the huge change in routine.

On Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June the school re-opened its doors to priority groups and Mrs Metcalfe and her team worked hard to ensure new systems were in place to maintain the safety of the children, staff and whole community. You may have noticed 2 metre markers for parents to follow outside school and signs for the one-way system for entrances and exits. Inside, the children have been a safe 2m apart and split into small groups with staggered play times and regular hand washing. There are many new 'normals' to navigate, often with very little notice, and we have all been learning all the time!

Mrs Metcalfe and all the staff have been busy planning for a full return in September in accordance with the ever changing Covid-19 Government and Local Authority guidance. The focus will be on balancing the new health and safety rules with a happy and quality educational experience for all our children.

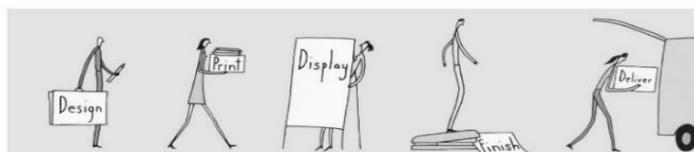
We have been very sorry that our Year 6 children have not been able to enjoy the highlights of their final year with us but we wish them all the very best for secondary school. They are a credit to Slingsby School and will be greatly missed for their sense of humour, kindness, hard work, sportsmanship and friendships.

We very much look forward to a fresh start in September and to welcoming our new Reception children.

*Slingsby CP School admin*

### Your Triangle delivery volunteers

<b>FRYTON:</b>	Mick Singleton
<b>SOUTH HOLME:</b>	Fiona Farnell
<b>SLINGSBY:</b>	
Aspen Way & Green Dyke Lane Balksyde Cavendish Court Church Lane & High Street Malton Road Porch Farm Close Railway St. (West) Railway St. (East) Railway St. (East) Sycamore Close The Green The Green Crescent The Lawns	Rita Hardy Sandra Dagleish Jo Plaskitt John Breckon Marcus Hodgson Linda Chapman Angela Hindby John Clayton (north) Pat Thompson (south) Philip Jackson Maurag Carmichael Nancy Coates Nick Witt
<b>POSTAL DELIVERY:</b>	Jo Breckon



The illustration shows a sequence of five figures representing the printing process: 1. A figure holding a sign labeled 'Design'. 2. A figure carrying a box labeled 'Print'. 3. A figure standing next to a sign labeled 'Display'. 4. A figure standing on a box labeled 'Finish'. 5. A figure pushing a cart labeled 'Deliver'.

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## Stephen's Farming Column.

What a funny old year it is turning out to be, with floods in February & March, drought and record high temperatures in April and May. Then in June and July we have reverted to a typical British summer with a lot of cloud, showers and cool winds. The rains came just in time to save many of our crops with wheat and potatoes looking very well but winter and spring barleys not so good.

In amongst all this we have all had to cope with the pandemic, which has led to a lot of stress and worry to so many people, especially the elderly. It has shown the value of homegrown and locally produced food, especially when panic buying set in. Whilst many local shops have had a hard time, local grocers, butchers and farm shops have been extremely busy. Let's hope people will continue to support local shops and buy great value British food.

One sad effect of the Coronavirus is that there are no Agricultural Shows this year, which is really sad as they are a great opportunity for country folk to get together and have a bit of fun and also talk and share their experiences.

These are very lonely times for many people. Those living and working in the countryside are often on their own for long periods of time, which can lead to serious worry and mental health problems.



Photo by Stephen Prest

On the wildlife side, it was great to see in one Barn Owl box down the fields a pair of Kestrels rear a clutch of young ones. After they left, a pair of Barn Owls have taken up residence, but I don't know yet if they are breeding. There were two litters of fox

cubs in the castle and it was so quiet down there that the cubs would come out and play along the old moat. Both the fox families have now moved on.

*Stephen Prest*

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## Allotment News

The allotment site looks better than it has ever looked. It is thriving with almost everyone's plot looking productive and well cared for. On ours we have started quite a bit of harvesting. Our tomatoes survived a few cold nights in April but are now nearly up to the greenhouse roof and we are picking a few every day and looking forward to a bumper crop.

My experiment of growing peppers as cordons looks as though it might work out and I have pruned each to 2 stems. At each flower position the stem divides into two. If left unpruned this means the number of stems increases exponentially. It's interesting how listening to the news about coronavirus transmission allows a mathematical understanding of growth patterns in peppers. Chris Whitty or Sir Patrick Vallance would have said the plant has a natural R rate of 2! I'm trying to keep its R rate to 1 so that there is no increase in the number of stems.

In the orchard area our morello cherry might have won itself a reprieve, since this is the first year we've managed to get a reasonable crop from it. We've enjoyed boiling up the fruit with a little sugar and then eating them with some plain yogurt. One time while picking them I was joined by a couple of thrushes who were equally keen to have their share.

In the fruit cage I'm definitely going to replace the raspberries with a couple of sweet cherries and will try and grow them as fans in place of the raspberries.

Elsewhere on the plot most things are growing well since the rain started again and we're looking forward to being more or less self-sufficient in vegetables for a couple of months at least.

If you're interested in a plot please contact our chairman Brian Clarke 628625.

*Terry Baker*

## All Saints' Church

What's going on at All Saints' Church? Well, we are finally open (a bit!) We have followed all the guidance, done our risk assessments, and roped off every other pew, moved all the hymn books, papers (even George the Dragon) into storage. But you can go and sit for a while (usually on a Wednesday) and enjoy the peace and quiet, and just 'be'. We held our first communion service on Sunday and although it was very different, it was lovely to see friends from Hovingham and Coneysthorpe, including our centenarian Joy, whose 100<sup>th</sup> birthday fell in lockdown, and to listen to the wonderful sound of the organ, played by Philip Moore once again (even if we're not allowed to sing along at the moment).

Gathering together was a moment to remember some dear church friends we have lost in lockdown, and others known to us who are suffering as a result of COVID-19, or on the front line in our hospitals, police force, shops and restaurants.

We have also bid goodbye to Philip Roberts, our faithful former organist, who has been house-bound in Slingsby for some time now, but has finally been able to relocate to Scarborough near his daughter.

I have been looking much harder at one of the corbels in the church during lockdown. It is on the north side of the chancel arch and shows a lady with a mask over her mouth. Although it's a Victorian carving, by the carver Mr John Raddis of Birmingham, it is a copy of a medieval design. I've often been asked about it and have always presumed it was a kind of warning against gossip in church. However, it's hard now not to see it as a medieval face mask (even if it doesn't cover her nose!)

Normally at this time of year we would be appealing for help with our August Big Church Clean, or churchyard market in September, as part of the Yorkshire Historic Churches Trust Ride & Stride event. However, all these activities are on hold, due to ongoing restrictions. Sadly, we have lost most of our income this year, so we are doubly grateful that we were able to complete the church roof project before lockdown commenced.

Please do wander through the churchyard and experience our wildflower meadow, where new species have flourished thanks to our Autumn planting. We aim to cut the meadow in August, but

thanks again to Warwick and John for all their hard work keeping the paths mown, edges cut and yew trees trimmed over the Summer.

*Kate Giles*



*Photos courtesy of Kate Giles*



## Ryedale Festival Online

While our concert by the Consone Quartet in All Saints' church, scheduled for 22<sup>nd</sup> July, was a casualty of coronavirus, along with all the other 50 or so other Festival events, we at least managed 8 free online concerts. You missed them? You can catch any or all of them at your leisure until 16<sup>th</sup> August at [www.ryedalefestival.com/ryestream](http://www.ryedalefestival.com/ryestream)

*Jon Boots*

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**Note new opening times :**

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**Wed & Thurs - 5 - 9pm**

**Fri & Sat - 12 - 9pm**

**Sundays 12 - 6pm**

**Reduced menu**

From Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July the pub moved round the back. This enables us to provide more seating that is socially distanced and a safer environment for all our customers and staff. We would appreciate it if you would all respect the new government guidelines.

Entry will be via the gate at the side of the pub where you will be greeted and seated. We will be operating on a first come first serve basis so please note we will NOT be taking any bookings. It will mean our food offering will be much simpler but we hope you will enjoy alfresco dining with us at The Grapes Inn and we are very much looking forward to welcoming you all back.

*Catharine and Leigh*

## **Congratulations!**

Our congratulations go to Robin and Sue Carpenter who will celebrate their golden wedding anniversary (50 years) on September 12<sup>th</sup> 2020.

*From all at 'The Triangle'*

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Covid-19 isn't the only thing that is infectious – smiling is too!  
The poem on page three is by Spike Milligan.

## **An amazing coincidence!**

Eva Violet Ventress was my grandmother. She died when I was only 3 years old and I have no recollection of her. My dad's father was Arthur Metcalfe Ventress. He left my dad and his 4 older siblings when my dad was 3 years old, and my dad never spoke of him. I grew up hearing the story of how Arthur had sold his wife for £1 and/or a pint of beer in Slingsby pub.

Here comes the coincidence! After leaving school in 1981 I went to work for a local building firm. One day we were sent to an isolated farm at Riseborough, near Pickering, to lay new floors in the farmhouses. The farm was run by two brothers who had inherited it from their parents many years earlier. One day one of the brothers got chatting to me and asked me where I lived, I told him I lived at Slingsby. Then he asked my surname and I said "Ventress, but you will not have heard of us". To my surprise, he then said "Just wait a minute, I have a picture of your Grandad". I replied "I don't think so, because my dad has no pictures of his father".

A few minutes later he came back with a large black and white picture of a dozen farmhands, all standing in front of a threshing machine at the end of harvest. I took one look at the picture and pointed to a man who looked the spit of my dad. The brother said "Yes that is your grandad, Arthur Metcalfe Ventress". I was amazed. "What are the chances of that?" I said.

He then went on to tell me the story of when his parents owned the farm where my Grandad lived and worked. Apparently the local policeman would visit the farm and ask if they had enough work for Arthur. If they replied yes, they had, they would give part of Arthurs wages to the policeman, as maintenance payment to Eva. If they had no work for Arthur the police would take him away and, I believe, lock him up! As all this was going on, Arthur was adamant that he did not owe maintenance to Eva Violet Ventress, as he had sold her in Slingsby pub to John Fox (Jack) who by then had his own children by her.

Eva Violet Ventress had 14 children between 1914 and 1938! I do not know anything more about Arthur, except that he died in Hull in 1951, aged 71 years.

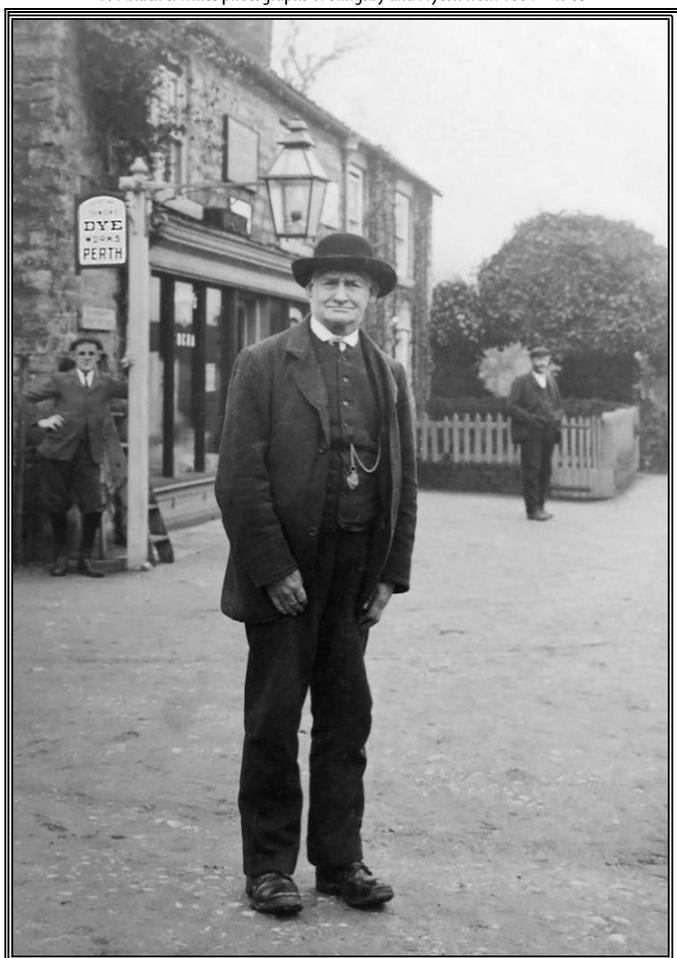
*Paul Ventress*

## 101 photographs, 101 years

On behalf of the three parish villages, Slingsby Local History Group (SLHG) keeps a large collection of several thousand local photographs, spanning about 150 years. These are at present stored on our various computers, suitably backed up of course, but the aim is eventually to keep them stored in the new Local History Group Archive in all Saints' Church. This beautifully made archive cabinet, made by John Apps, has been ready to fill for a couple of months but lockdown restrictions due to Covid19 have prevented us from doing so.

### 101 photographs, 101 years

101 black & white photographs of Slingsby and Fryton from 1864 – 1965



Produced by Slingsby Local History Group

You will recall that SLHG has produced three books over the last six years. Apart from just a handful of remaining copies of Book 3 – “Slingsby, A Miscellany” – these are all sold out. Well, we have not been idle during the confinement period since mid-March. We have been working on a fourth book, to complement the other three!

In the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century it was fashionable to send postcards home when you went on holiday and there were many taken of the Slingsby area. Although a lot of these postcards survived the last hundred years or so, they are often in a poor condition, being faded, creased and ripped etc. So SLHG decided last October that it would be a good idea to put them all in a book, and that is what we have done. They have all been Photoshopped to bring them back to life, restored the fading black and white, repair the creases and tears, removing mould spots etc. so that they appear almost as they were when new all those years ago. This process is very time consuming, so the lockdown period has proved to be the perfect opportunity to tackle it!

See inside! Sample page below:



Delivery of logs, showing three carts and six horses, waiting outside Southcott Slingsby Station and level crossing



Book 4 is entitled “101 photographs, 101 years”. It contains 100 old black and white photographs, plus one on the cover, taken from 1864 to 1965. All have been digitally restored and if you have never seen the difference digital restoration can make, you will be amazed. It is on sale at Tony's shop, or from an SLHG member or from David Thornley on 01653 627210 at the price of £9. Please note that all proceeds go to SLHG and are then ploughed back into village projects. *Margaret Mackinder*

## Brickyard Bulletin

It's safe to say that 2020 is about as far away from normal as it's possible to get, what with a global pandemic doing the rounds, and weather extremes of a kind that I fear we will have to get used to in the future. Mercifully, Covid-19 hasn't affected us too badly on the farm. We've had to adopt practical measures regarding staff safety, operating a 'one man, one tractor' policy as far as possible, and plan further ahead to get supplies here on time, but that's nothing compared to the pain that some have had to suffer recently. As farmers, we're used to being semi-isolated anyway!

Since I last wrote, things in fields have changed quite a bit. We sucked the standing water off low parts of fields that we'd harvested potatoes from back in February using the vacuum tanker, and drilled them with a crop of Canyon spring oats, grown on a seed contract. We then had to irrigate them a few weeks later to get them to grow! It does seem to have been worthwhile though; they look a promising crop now.

The spring barley varies from very good to quite poor. This is mostly down to soil type affecting seedbed quality and therefore germination, particularly in the later sown, heavier fields. Our home-built tine bar attachment on the drill worked very well, and allowed a lot of the barley (and beans) to be direct drilled, conserving the moisture underneath while the sun baked overhead. It was notable that the fields that had grown a cover crop over winter established much better than those that were rain beaten stubble.

In my last article, I mentioned vernalization (the cold needed for a winter crop to produce a seed). The wheat we gambled with in early March has bitten us somewhat. The variety Costello, used to finish a field south of Slingsby at 200 feet above sea level is absolutely fine, but seed from the same lot sown at home (100 feet) hasn't hardly vernalized at all. There is plenty of leaf, and some stems bearing a head, so not a complete disaster. In hindsight I should have sourced seed of a different variety, better suited to later sowing, but you live and learn – who knew 100 feet of altitude would make such a difference! Evolution wheat sown the same day in the same field is just fine.

*Evolution on the left, Costello on the right, a noticeable difference even on this black and white picture.*



Beet is very variable this year – as fields fall, a higher proportion of this year's beet crop is on heavier ground, which hasn't been a good thing, given the weather extremes that we have experienced. We have irrigated it though, and those fields have filled in nicely. They will provide cover for wildlife over winter and will be harvested between November and February. Unirrigated beet is a bit behind, but is slowly catching up after the recent rain.

As Stephen Prest mentioned in his article last time, potato planting this year went very well indeed, and a mixture of rain and irrigation since then has helped produce some great canopies, with tubers forming nicely underneath. However blight pressure this year is significant, and its potential consequences are as devastating as ever. Blight strains are much more aggressive these days too, so harder to control. If you think you might have blight in your potatoes in your garden or allotment, please do give me a call and I'll come and help you identify it (at a distance!) – there are lots of potato ailments that look like blight, but fortunately aren't. The key thing to look for is concentric rings on the underside of the leaf – a bit like a thumb print, usually with a mouldy looking white furry residue evident too.

We have recently been cleaning our stores ready for harvest, and preparing potato stores for life now that CIPC fog, that has provided sprout suppression for over fifty years, has been banned. CIPC (Chlorpropham) was widely used on stored potatoes.

**. . . continued on page 24**

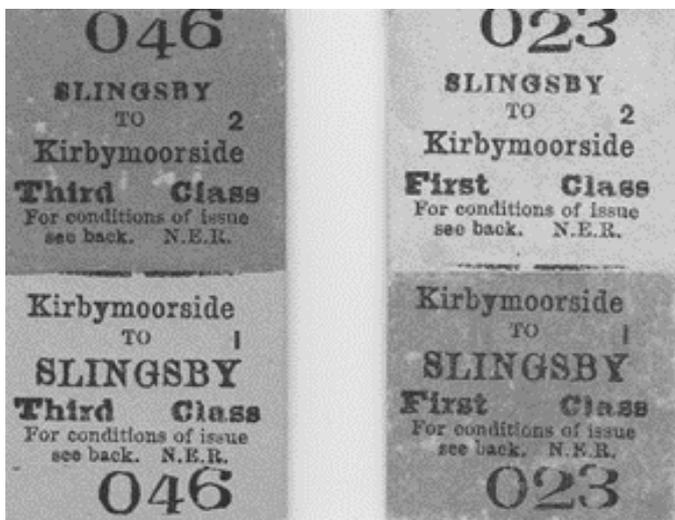
## Slingsby to Kirbymoorside railway tickets

(note the railway spelling without the 'k')

From the 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1953 Kirbymoorside station was closed to regular passengers upon the withdrawal of the York - Pickering via Gilling service. Freight facilities, plus the very occasional charter trains, remained for another eleven years.

The railway auditors quickly descended on Kirbymoorside in order to withdraw the remaining ticket stock. Whilst in the process of removing the now redundant drawers which held the unused tickets, they discovered to their amazement in a completely forgotten about corner, a significant number of tickets that had clearly been provided by the North Eastern Railway for use at the time of the station opening in 1874. There were at least a dozen different types, mainly for travel to local stations. Pictured are two examples to/from Slingsby.

Prior to 1931 passengers had a choice of routes, either via Gilling (change) - a total distance of 17 miles, or via Pickering (change) and Malton (change) a total distance of 26 miles. Given the distance by road is just eight and a half miles, it's little wonder that upon the advent of the car few would make this journey by train.



Normally NER tickets are rare and quite valuable, and are much sought after by collectors, but because of the relatively large volume in circulation of these particular tickets, one example can be purchased for as little as £5. Nevertheless, they are worth having, given that they were printed almost one hundred and fifty years ago.

*Charles Allenby*

## FOSS

Well it's hard to believe that we have made it through to the end of the school year in what has been a challenge for each and every family, but here we are! And we haven't let the time pass by sitting idly, with our committee members coming up with two fantastic virtual fundraisers to see out the school year.

Our first was our Decorate-A-Duck competition, a nod to our annual Duck Race, where we received some amazing entries which obviously made Mrs Metcalfe's job as judge incredibly difficult. However, after much deliberation, Freddie Massey was named the well-deserved winner and received a £10 Book Voucher. Well done Freddie!

Our second fundraiser threw down the gauntlet to our families, encouraging them to Walk 24k Steps in 24 Hours, or Reading 7 Books in 7 Days... whatever Sponsored Challenge they wanted to take on with all the money raised to be donated to FOSS and the highest fundraiser receiving a £30 Peagreen Pottery voucher. The winner of the challenge walked an amazing 20 Miles in only 10 Days and raised a staggering £522 by doing so. Well done Poppy Cooke (and little brother Bear) and thank you to everyone who raised money or those of you who donated funds as collectively both fundraisers raised a mammoth £1,366 for school.

And finally, thank you to those in the village who brought their bags of unwanted clothing to our Bags2School collection and a big thank you to the Slingsby Sports Field for allowing us to use the field on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July, where we were able to raise another £110.

We are incredibly proud to say that despite not being able to run our two biggest fundraisers this year we have been able to donate £2,500 to school – something we couldn't have done without the generosity of our families and supporters in the village. We look forward to your continued support in the new school year. And be prepared for some different fundraisers as we embark on the new and interesting world of virtual fundraising.

*Sonja Sedran*

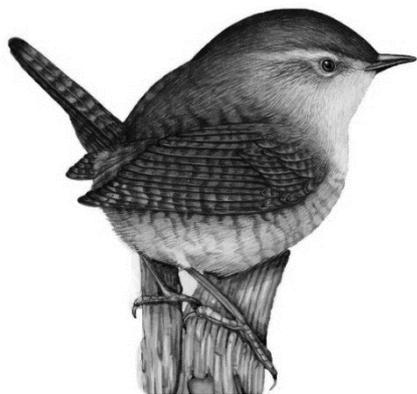
for Friends of Slingsby School

## Slingsby Ornithologists and the origins of the Slingsby Feast.

The Local History Group hopes to resume activities later in the year. Meanwhile here is something from the archives, of interest we hope to those whose highlight of the day this spring has been a local walk, enjoying the traffic-free peace.

Past historians and naturalists have left us lists of local Slingsby wildlife they saw on their ramblings. In 1845, the Revd. William Walker in his *Brief Account of Slingsby* notes the lack of rare birds, but records what he calls the *Golden Crested Wren*, and visits from the *Crossbill*, the *Bohemian Chatterer* and occasional visits from the *Bittern*. Away to the south east of the village towards Hildenley the

*Nightingale* could be heard.



Sixty years later, in 1904 the Revd. Arthur St. Clair Brooke recorded a village rich in wildlife in his book *Slingsby and Slingsby Castle*. He counted 103 bird

species, 20 of which we would not expect to see now. In 1996 Dr. Michael Thompson, then a Slingsby resident, made sightings of 65 of them. There were once many water birds, including the *Avocet*, the *Slavonian Grebe* and the *Water Rail* which Mr Brooke would have seen on the wetland carrs to the north east of the village. These had been drained by the Second World War. Michael identified a further 17 seen now, that Mr Brooke would not have seen, including the *Buzzard*, the *Kingfisher*, the *Collared Dove* and the *Little Owl*. *Canada Geese*, *Marsh tits* and *Siskins* were also not listed in 1904.

The list of all birds seen in both 1904 and 1996 is on the Slingsby Village website in the Local history Section, with Michael Thompson's extra list. Your additions to the list are always welcome so please email us at [slingsbybirdwatch@gmail.com](mailto:slingsbybirdwatch@gmail.com) telling us what you have seen and where.

William Walker also describes the ancient Slingsby Feast, still carried on in his time on Old Mayday in the 1840's. Garlands of flowers and birds' eggs, (and we are not talking poultry here) were hung out around the village. Old Mayday came later in the month than we are used to, when the May Blossom flowered. The highlight of the event was '*bounteous supplies of cheesecakes and tarts made of preserved fruits, enveloped in rich pastry*'. He describes this regular '*season of rural gaiety*' as continuing for two or three days. What they drank to keep all this going is not recorded!

*Margaret Mackinder.*

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## Malton Museum

The Trustees of Malton Museum have reluctantly decided that in the current situation it will not be possible to open to the public during 2020.

This is a disappointing decision but the limitations of our premises in Yorkersgate plus the cost of installation prohibit us from setting up a socially distancing system to allow our volunteers, visitors and friends to visit in a safe environment.

However, work continues behind the scenes, our volunteer teams continue to work on several projects, currently we have a Living History Research project ongoing and although we will be unable to hold children's workshops this summer, there are several activities for children and adults using our on line presence through facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Activities include virtual town tours, museum tours, and for children "Lucius' Challenge" and Word Searches - to access - click 'virtual tour' on our website [www.maltonmuseum.co.uk](http://www.maltonmuseum.co.uk)

We look forward to welcoming volunteers, friends and visitors back at Easter 2021. Our re-opening date will be widely publicised. Meanwhile keep in touch and see what we are doing on social media:  
Facebook: MaltonMuseum  
Twitter: @MaltonMuseum  
Instagram: @malton\_museum  
or email us: [enquiries.maltonmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:enquiries.maltonmuseum@gmail.com)

*Maurag Carmichael*

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## Slingsby Sports Club

Like so much of the country, life at the Sports Club has very much been on hold over the last few months due to the restrictions imposed as a result of lockdown.

We fully appreciate the importance of the loss of social connection for our members due to the closure of the Sports Club and we will endeavour to reopen at the earliest opportunity. We are hoping to have everything in place to reopen the club early in August. We are however, taking this opportunity to embark on an exciting revamp of the club which is including a complete redecoration of all areas of the club including the lounge, changing rooms, toilets and bar area. We are also enhancing the range of drinks on offer and have also had a chance to review the costs associated with the drinks offered. Consequently we are delighted to announce that we will be in a position to reduce the price of the majority of the drinks when we re-open.

The dedicated volunteer ground staff have continued to do an excellent job maintaining the field and the ground, despite the lockdown and it continues to look fantastic thanks to their work.

From a sporting perspective the decision was made earlier in the year to postpone the Feversham Cricket League in 2020 but the relaxation in the rules regarding team sports have made it possible for the team to play friendlies matches. They have had the first of these on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July against local (friendly) rivals Farndale. The Cricket Club have invested money and time in improving the cricket wicket this year and we are hopeful that we will be able to get a match played at home safely at an appropriate time when the club is open following the Social Distancing Guidelines.

We are continuing to keep under review the position regarding Car Boot Sales and although we do not have any dates planned currently, we will assess the practicality of holding them on a regular basis.

As I write this we are hoping that the restrictions on the playing of Tennis will have eased and we can recommence the Wednesday Slingsby Tennis Evenings from the 22<sup>nd</sup> July. We are running these in conjunction with Hovingham Tennis club and they will commence at 6pm. Feel free to turn up or get in touch with Geoff Bishop on 628055. It is open for everyone over 16.

We are also continuing to review opening the play area as soon as we can. However, there are a large number of rules and criteria associated with opening outdoor play areas and we will only do so if we are able to ensure that it is safe. We are looking forward to reopening the newly refurbished club with excitement and look forward to seeing old and new members very soon in a

safe and socially distanced manner. In the meantime stay safe.

*Paul Hogarth*

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## Yorkshire Arboretum

What a pleasure it was to reopen the arboretum on 8<sup>th</sup> June! And even more pleasurable has been the chance to talk to so many members and visitors emerging after their strange hibernation; someone even said 'Happy New Year!' to me the other day, which seemed very appropriate. What has also been very nice are the many compliments we've received on how well the site is looking, despite everything, and this is a tribute to the hard work put in by Neil and Ben throughout lockdown. To their great relief volunteering has restarted, there has been a lot of catching up to do with friends as well as on the backlog of tasks.

That we offer a beautiful, safe site is clearly appreciated too, and we warmly welcome the many members who have joined in the past month, hoping that you will enjoy getting to know the 'arb' through the seasons and over the years. The arrangements we had to put into place for Covid security are working well, and the booking system has (so far) had no glitches. Thank you all for being so accepting of the changes we have to make, and for observing guidance on social distancing.

The Covid-19 crisis has affected the arboretum's finances, as it has all similar organisations, and we face difficult times ahead. We appreciate that membership benefits have been reduced during the closed period and an option to extend your membership is available, but we would be extremely grateful if you could regard this lost time as a donation, supporting our mission to preserve and develop the site and fulfil our aims of Inspiration, Education, Conservation long into the future.

It gave us great pleasure to announce the reopening of the Arboretum Café on 17<sup>th</sup> June. We know how much it is valued and enjoyed by very many people, and Katy and Ellie are really looking forward to seeing you again soon. During July the café will only be open on Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays, extending to Thursdays and Mondays in August.

In order to follow government guidance and maintain social distancing, seating capacity will be reduced and tables rearranged. Café customers should follow the signage to access the café from the rear of the Visitor Centre, where a queuing system will be in place. A member of staff will . . .

(contd) show you to an available seat (ensuring that the table has been recently cleaned) and then orders can be placed at the counter. The café will be operating revised hours, from 11am-4pm. Members are still entitled to 10% discount off all food and drink, and loyalty cards remain valid.

Our staff will be serving a reduced menu to help them maintain social distancing, increase cleaning routines and ensure all Covid-19 measures are adhered to for everyone's safety. Café-only customers do not need to pay for admission or book in advance

Following a review of our Covid-19 measures, Visit England has declared the Yorkshire Arboretum holds an Industry Standard 'Good to Go' mark.



This mark means that we have followed government and industry Covid-19 guidelines, ensuring processes are in place to maintain cleanliness and social distancing.

*John Grimshaw*  
Director

## Castle Howard's Skelfe Island re-opens

Castle Howard's Skelfe Island, the ingenious tree-top adventure playground has reopened, following the latest government guidance. 'Skelfe and Safety' measures are in place to ensure that all visitors have space to play whilst adhering to social distancing guidelines.



The island has just celebrated its first birthday and the marketing campaign has been shortlisted for the prestigious Museum and Heritage Awards.

The Castle Howard Gardens reopened to the public on 8<sup>th</sup> June and visitors have since been enjoying the

spacious grounds, with acres of meandering woodland paths, lakeside terraces, temples and fountains. **All visitors are required to pre-book tickets online via the Castle Howard website, for capacity management purposes.**

The gardens are open daily 10am – 6pm and entry to Skelfe Island is included within the standard garden admission ticket. The house and seated catering outlets remain closed. The garden centre and farm shop are open daily.

*Sophie Allanby*

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## NHS Track and Trace scam conversation

*"Good morning Sir, I'm calling from the NHS Track and Trace service. According to our system, you are likely to have been in close proximity to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. This means that you now need to self-isolate for 7 days and take a COVID-19 test."*

*"OK. Can you tell me who that person was?"*

*"I'm not able to tell you that. That is confidential information."*

*"Right. Erm... so ..."*

*"But you do need to be tested within the next 72 hours. So can I just get the best mailing address so that we can send a kit to you?"*

*"Ok" (caught off-guard, so gives address)*

*"Thank you Sir- and I just need to take a card number so that we can send the kit to you."*

*"Sorry - a payment card? I thought this was all free?"*

*"No - I'm afraid not, Sir. The Track and Trace service is free but there is a one-off fee of £50 for the kit and test results. Could you read off the long card number for me, please, when you're ready."*

*"Erm, no – that can't be right, if this is part of the NHS there should be no charge."*

*"I'm afraid there is, Sir. Can you give me the card number please - this is extremely important, and there are penalties for not complying."*

## **Put the phone down**

This is how scammers work. This is the actual conversation, it seems very plausible and you're caught off-guard. A vulnerable person will fall for it, every minute of every day. **Make sure you're not one of them! Scumbag scammers will stop at nothing to steal your money.**

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## A tribute to Mike Coates.

Mike was a loyal Yorkshire man who wore his Yorkshire tie with pride. He was a loving husband, father of three boys, a proud grandfather and a friend to so many people in Ryedale and beyond. He loved people, could talk to anyone and this skill stood out in all areas of his life and work.

He worked for the Co-op for 52 years, firstly in Coneysthorpe, in the days when that little community was a buzzing place with its own shop and post office. Badminton and dancing took place in the village hall with Mike and Nancy regular attendees. They started their married life living above the shop in Coneysthorpe, moving to Beech House when the three boys arrived. Mike's job was to go round the farms collecting orders – this meant a chat over a cup of tea and piece of cake at every farm. Mike loved his food, but at Christmas time he did have to hide a few pieces of Christmas cake in his wellies!

During his time with the Co-op Mike became manager and moved around to Terrington, Slingsby and then Malton; times when the Co-op was one of the main shops in the area, selling just about everything. He could handle all the needs of the customers with kindness and efficiency.

After his retirement, Mike found a part-time job at Eden Camp, where again his ability to chat to folk helped. He had done his National service in the R.A.F. and retained his interest in that organisation, so could use that knowledge to help the visitors.

Mike loved cricket, playing for Castle Howard as a young man. He and Nancy followed Yorkshire to Headingley and even Lords. Mike kept his interest in sport throughout his life, following national (mostly Yorkshire) and local teams. When their boys started playing both cricket and football he and Nancy would stand on the touch-lines shouting their boys on.

When Mike and Nancy moved to Slingsby they both quickly became part of the village scene. Mike joined the gang who went round collecting wood for the bonfire, and they both helped with the BBQ there and at the car-boot sales on the sports field.

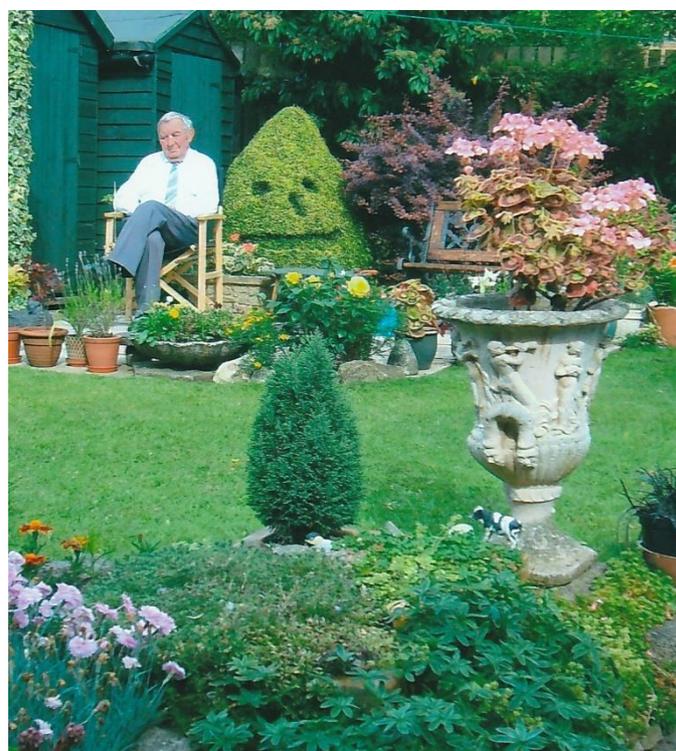
Mike was proud of his boys and took an active interest in their lives, particularly his grandson, George, who spent many holidays with his grandparents here in Slingsby. Nancy and Mike travelled across the country

to be present at family gatherings, not letting increasing age stand in their way. Last Christmas, Nancy planned carefully how to get the two of them to Stotfold in Hertfordshire for a family wedding – all by public transport. Together they had travelled widely in Europe, often through the Yorkshire Countrywomen's Organisation, of which Nancy was an active member. On these trips Mike revelled in the company of so many women.

Mike lived for 90 years, 56 of them happily married to Nancy, during which village life has changed so much, yet he retained his sense of fun and enjoyment in life all around him. Sadly, due to the pandemic, we, the people of Slingsby and Mike's many friends were not able to crowd into the church to pay our last respects to a man whom we had known and loved for so many years.

Nancy and family would like to thank everyone for the many cards, letters, flowers, sympathy and acts of kindness shown during Mike's illness and passing, as well as those who have shared so many happy memories of Mike with her and the family. They were all much appreciated.

*Pat Thompson*



*Nancy provided the Triangle with this photograph. Nancy says "Mike loved to sit and watch me working in the garden! He appears to have nodded off on this occasion"*

## Slingsby Produce Show 2020

At the committee meeting recently, the committee reluctantly decided that this year's Produce Show **could not go ahead**, due to Covid-19 restrictions.

**However**, there will be a display of the largest marrows and pumpkins on The Green on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September. We will also measure the tallest sunflower in your garden in Slingsby. No entry fees & no prizes, just the satisfaction of taking part! If interested contact Stephen Prest (628277) or Ken Ety or Pat Thompson in the week prior and we will be in touch.

**Would all holders of cups and trophies please ensure these are returned to Trudy Carr by the end of August? Trudy's address is Mowbray Rise, Green Dyke Lane, Slingsby (almost opposite Tony's shop). Many thanks.**

Picture shows our committee meeting – surely the strangest we have ever held!

*Stephen Prest*



Photo by Emma Massey

## Brickyard Bulletin continued . . .

Our cereal harvest this year will be a bit later than normal, due to not having any winter barley to combine, but we have plenty to keep us busy! We have some countryside stewardship areas of bird cover to plant, some hay to make, concrete to lay, machinery to service, and pigs to muck out before then! (and we've just recommenced irrigating.....)

Next year's cropping plan has been written, and features a few tweaks, partly due to market demand. Seed oats will replace spring barley after sugar beet, which will be followed by wheat instead of winter barley. Cover crops will continue,

particularly before a spring crop, and I am looking for a species to plant between beet rows that will attract beneficial insects (like ladybirds) to eat the aphids that attack my beet, increasing the risk of virus yellows (the beet equivalent of potato blight). The current favourite is Berseem clover. As ever, there is always a better way of doing everything!

I will close with the same line as my last article:

Where there are problems, there are solutions, and where there is challenge, there is often satisfaction – I remain optimistic (just!) for a reasonable harvest.

Keep safe everybody.

*Andrew Wilson*

## The Slingsby Tennis Courts

After lockdown in March, the tennis courts are now open again for anyone to use but under strict conditions to comply with Government guidelines about social distancing and sanitation. The full version of the guidelines is on the court notice board.

Just to remind you that there is a booking system at the court entrance but most of the time at least one court is available so why not go along, with suitable shoes, and see if you can rekindle that long lost love for tennis.

Starting on 22<sup>nd</sup> July from 6 to 9 pm every Wednesday there will be a joint tennis evening with Hovingham Tennis Club at the Slingsby courts for anyone age 16 and over. All standards are welcome and the tennis will be fun.

For more information ring Geoff Bishop on 01653 628055

*Geoff Bishop*



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