

10 year anniversary
TRI▲**NGLE**



serving Slingsby, South Holme & Fryton

www.slingsbyvillage.co.uk

No. 61

Dec 2020/Jan 2021

“Oh no, it isn’t”. “Oh, yes it is!” (see page 12)



Feb/March copy to Gill Baker **by Saturday 16th Jan at the latest please** (but earlier helps the editor) or e-mail:
thetriangle@slingsbyvillage.co.uk

Non subscribers £1.50

Slingsby Methodist Chapel

The pandemic and lockdown are giving space and time in which to think about what we value, and Advent is also a good time to reflect upon God's gift of Jesus to the world. The Poet Laureate John Betjeman, in his marvellous poem called 'Christmas', ends with the following verse :-

And is it true? For if it is.....

*No love that in a family dwells,
No carolling in frosty air,
Nor all the steeple shaking bells
Can with this single Truth compare -
That God was man in Palestine
And lives today in Bread and Wine.*

At the time of writing, nobody knows the rules by which we can plan a Chapel Christmas. However we have been able to collect money for the **Shoebox charity** which sends millions of Christmas shoebox gifts to needy children all over the world (see photograph below). **Soupa lunch at home** will have a Christmas flavour and the popular **Zoom digital services** will take place if chapel/church are closed down. However, church is not about buildings but followers of Jesus who serve and support their local communities, so there are plenty of things to do!



Our hope and faith is being able to bring Christ into Christmas and we can all pray that the new vaccine will do its job successfully and take us into a new world of unselfishness and Christian values, which help us to live and serve each other better.

Geoff and Karen Bishop

Festive Soupa Lunch



To senior citizens and those living alone . . .

we invite you to share our festive Soupa Lunch - soup, sandwiches and a pudding delivered to your door on Wednesday 16th December between 12 noon and 12:30pm.

A Christmas Treat and it's all free !

To book your special treat contact Rachel & Stephen Prest on 01653 628277

Rachel & Stephen Prest

Slingsby School vacancy

Slingsby Community Primary School is seeking to appoint an enthusiastic and motivated Midday Supervisor to join our dedicated team of friendly staff at lunch times. The successful applicant will assist with playground or dining hall supervision during the lunchtime break to ensure a safe and happy environment for the children, providing support and encouragement and dealing with any minor first aid incidents that occur. Our Acting Head Teacher will carry out the induction where the successful candidate will meet our school family, be given a tour of the building and outdoor spaces and will receive all relevant training and guidance. For any enquiries or to request an application pack, please contact the school office by either telephoning 01653 628370 or emailing admin@slingsby.n-yorks.sch.uk. We look forward to hearing from you.

Many thanks.

Miss Hope & Mrs Massey,

School Business Managers
Slingsby C P School. Tel: 01653 628370

Important notice

If you were someone who collected your Triangle copy from Slingsby village shop and you manage to see this message somehow, please contact either Jo Breckon on 01653 628459 or David Thornley on 01653 627210 to arrange delivery of your Triangle, if you haven't already done so.

We have at least four shop unknown subscribers: Can anyone help identify R. Naylor, M. Burns, B. Rigby, I. Carmichael please?

Village Hall committee suggestion

In these gloomy times the Village Hall Committee is inviting everyone to give the village a bit of Christmas sparkle by having a star on your gate or door!



It can be illuminated or simply made out of tinsel, or whatever you can aspire to.

Let's cheer the village up with some great creations!

The V H Committee

YOUR TRIANGLE DELIVERY CREW VOLUNTEERS

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SOUTH HOLME:	Fiona Farnell
SLINGSBY:	
Aspen Way/Green Dyke Ln	Rita Hardy
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POSTAL DELIVERY:	Jo Breckon

If you want to place an article in the Triangle please email thetriangle@slingsbyvillage.co.uk (NOT the two co-editors' personal emails please!).

If you want to place an article on the website please email admin@slingsbyvillage.co.uk

If you want to place an article in both the above, please email both addresses. Or, you can phone, or even write any article you want published, or even just speak to a member of the team.

Slingsby Support group

At the time of writing we are again in lockdown 2 and the COVID-19 village response team (aka the Slingsby Support Group) is still in place. If you are struggling with any part of your daily life from shopping, prescriptions, help or a chat, please contact your neighbourhood first responder, or alternatively one of the coordinators, Geoff Bishop 628055 Kate Giles 628739 or Fiona Farnell 628285. They will be happy to help.

The Triangle Team wishes all our readers and advertisers a very Happy Christmas. 2020 has been one of the most difficult years most of us can remember. We hope that 2021 will once again bring joy and happiness!

Slingsby Ladies' Group

Dear Ladies

By the time you receive this copy of The Triangle, we shall hopefully be emerging from Lockdown number two. We hope that it has not been too difficult a time for you and that you have all been keeping well and occupied...maybe you have finished all of your Christmas shopping (online, of course), or maybe you have finished knitting that blanket you have been looking at for two years, or maybe you have worked your way through every Nigella cookbook?

Those of you with access to email should have received the SLG update last month, and for those of you who haven't seen it, unfortunately, we have no plans to resume our monthly meetings in the foreseeable future. We still have a table booked for lunch at The Worsley Arms in January and they are happy for us to confirm or cancel nearer the time. It would be lovely to think that we can get together in the not too distant future. We shall, of course, let you know as soon as possible when things change.

In the meantime, we wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

Please look after yourselves, and let us know if we can help in any way. Stay safe.

Liz Senior

Newsletter Number 1

Ten years ago, this December, the first effort to produce a village newsletter hit the streets in the buzzing metropolises of Slingsby, Fryton and South Holme.

How did this come about?

The Parish Council, under the chairmanship of the late Chris Wilson, was planning the future Parish Plan document, to be presented to North Yorkshire County Council. It was decided that a questionnaire would go to every household in the parish and the results would be analysed and tabulated. The document was then distributed, 213 interested residents filled them in (over 66%) and then they were gathered back up and the results sorted and published.

A future meeting for all villagers was organised in the village hall. Off we all went and results were discussed. Pat Smurthwaite got the job of Chief Wrangler and organised us into groups of likeminded souls. I shuffled to those with website and newsletter interests, with a view to perhaps learning something about websites. After chatting about the overall concept, we agreed to hold a more detailed planning meeting in October. This was held at Sawpit Cottage on The Green. By November the team had become established as George Dudzinski, Richard Flint, Jon Boots and little old me.



Jon Boots, George Dudzinski, Keith Buck and Richard Flint, celebrating the issue of the first newsletter ten years ago. Seems like only yesterday!

The conversation moved onto the business of the newsletter, which had received a lot of mentions on the questionnaire. I offered to phone Pat Smurthwaite to see what was happening. I did and somehow, when I put the phone down, I had magically become the editor.

That night I lay in bed and pondered what to do. My technical knowledge was zero, and finances were zero. I was very fortunate that help was on hand, George Dudzinski knows more about 'Word' than Mister Microsoft and helped me no end in getting to grips with those 'computery things'. He was incredibly patient with my endless questions.

I was also able to contact the then editor of the Hovingham newsletter, Gwyn Green, who proved invaluable with not only techy knowhow but putting me in contact with a reliable printer.

The Parish Council kindly agreed to bankroll issue one until 'Your Local Tidings' (as it was temporarily called) finances were sorted.

Pat Thompson contacted the Slingsby School Headmistress, Mrs Vickers, to see if they would ask the children to draw a black and white A4 picture for the cover of what would be a Christmas issue. Natalie Bradley's picture was chosen by the judging panel of Pat and I.

Lots of people 'volunteered' for distribution duties and the slow job of collecting the first subscriptions.

I had planned that the first issue would consist of three parts: the newsletter, the Pink Pages (what's on) and the annual Yellow Pages village directory. With my learning curve not being quite steep enough I only managed to produce the 6-page newsletter. Anyway, this was emailed to the printer on Sunday 21st November 2010 and issue 1 was delivered around the parish of Slingsby, Fryton and South Holme (which is why it became called 'The Triangle') on Tuesday, 30th November 2010.

It's amazing that it is ten years ago and I'm delighted that The Triangle is still produced today.

Keith Buck

Items included in newsletter 1

Inside there were articles about the formation of the Triangle and village website. Also, stories such as the Sportsfield Association pie-and-pea supper, which raised money for the Yorkshire Air Ambulance, formation of the new Pins and Needles handicraft group, the planned Village Hall kitchen revamp and new events at the chapel. There was also a notice about the possible start of the allotment site at the north end of the village – now full of thriving plots - FOSS 'Family Favourites' recipe book launch, the poor state of the wall surrounding All Saints Church.

The local plan from Ryedale Council was in consultation phase at the time. One of the changes being considered was redevelopment of Henry Richardson's former haulage business site. Now Cavendish Court is all finished and beginning to mature into its surroundings.



The newsletter's first advertisers were five local businesses, namely Mintwood Family Research, Martin Saywood computer repairs, Richard Flint Photography, Richard Hindby fencing and Garden maintenance and finally Tony Hodgson at the Village shop.

Natalie Bradley, 10 years on . . .

Longstanding Triangle subscribers might remember the very first Triangle, when it was called 'Your Local Tidings' simply because the newly formed Slingsby Website and Newsletter Group hadn't yet thought of a suitable name and there was no website either! Triangle no. 1 was distributed in December 2010 and the front cover was drawn by 10 year old Natalie Bradley from Slingsby Primary School after Mrs. Vickers, the Head, had organised a drawing competition. So we thought it might be interesting to talk to Natalie about what has happened to her in the last ten years, and fortunately Natalie agreed.

After leaving Slingsby School Natalie transferred to Malton School, where she then passed 11 GCSE's! She went on to pass Photography, Sociology and Business Studies in sixth form in 2018, after which she left school.

Natalie is temporarily working at Hovingham Bakery three days a week. When not working she still likes to draw and also helps her Mum with the garden. Natalie also keeps in touch with two of her Primary School friends, namely Eloise Conyers and Lauren Holliday.

A year touring Australia or maybe Thailand also appeals to Natalie, as she particularly enjoys travelling. When she was 16 she went to Peru on a school-organised working trip, where she helped build houses for the locals.

At the moment Natalie is unsure what career she wants to pursue. She is considering applying to universities, although due to the Covid-19 situation now isn't the best time. If she does go to university, she would probably like to study either Interior Design or Architecture.

Whatever the future holds in store for Natalie we wish her good luck and thank her for agreeing to talk to The Triangle.

Above picture shows Natalie's drawing for newsletter one, in 2010.

Triangle 10th anniversary – my recollections



It is hard to believe that it is 10 years since the Triangle came into being, from a suggestion in the village plan. I had experienced such a village newspaper when my parents moved to Sheriff Hutton in the seventies when they used the paper to learn about their new environment. I was therefore keen to help establish a Slingsby version. Luckily Keith Buck took on the mantle of 'editor' with a small group of us helping with ideas and distribution. Keith worked so hard finding sponsors, advertisers, a publisher, and gathering ideas from the community about a name for the new newsletter. He cycled round Ryedale, never missing an opportunity to promote The Triangle, as it had become known. As the readership grew, so did the number of deliverers, organised into areas by Keith. The number of contributions grew; colour was introduced firstly for the Christmas edition, then regularly; the number of pages increased; digital editions came into being; costs increased; but our annual subscription is still amazingly good value.

We were aware of the amount of work this entailed, especially the bi-monthly assembly of the newsletter, but few of us had the computer skills to help out. I remember well the day Keith came to me at Burwood to ask if I would take on the co-editor's task to help him out. Oh dear, how my heart sank – learn such things as 'fonts'? I said I would think about it, knowing someone had to help Keith. I went for a walk to think and met a couple fairly new to the village. We stopped to talk and so I met David and Carol Thornley and in conversation found our new co-editor to work with Keith.

And what an excellent editor he has been and thankfully still is, now with Gill Baker's help. Keith and Carol Buck moved south to be nearer to their family but thanks to them The Triangle is thriving, going out to most households in the village and to others who have since moved away. It brings together all aspects of our village life, the Slingsby people past and present and, when the Covid problem is solved, the events involving school, churches, village hall, sports' club, pub, village show, mayday celebrations – in fact a busy village life.

May The Triangle continue for another 10 years.

Pat Thompson

The birth of the Triangle

My first recollection? Keith Buck standing up at a parish assembly in 2009 and suggesting that the village ought to set up a website (yes). I was one of a small number who murmured approval.

Later that year, questionnaires were coming back showing that a majority of residents were in favour of a website and, for new residents, an information pack. (The vast majority of folk at that time would get their information from the Church newsletter or by word of mouth.) However, by the time the findings came to be enshrined in the Parish Plan, published in 2010, it had been realised that a new village newsletter would also be needed as many residents did not have internet access.

What we expected to be the website team met at Keith's house to make initial plans. It would be important to keep in touch with the person(s) planning the newsletter – but who were they? It was then that Keith made the fateful telephone call, as he relates elsewhere in this issue, and found at the end of the call that HE was the editor. It was serendipity!

Keith took on the role with great energy, built a small team of helpers and never let obstacles get in his way. He was great at rustling up support from advertisers to fund printing costs and getting out to welcome newcomers and give them the Yellow Pages (i.e. the information pack).

But this success story could have been so different. If that first meeting had been in my house, and I had made the fateful call, heaven knows where we might have ended up!

Jon Boots

Cuckoos

With winter looming you might like to hear of three RSPB-tagged UK cuckoos, which are now arriving at their wintering grounds in central Africa. Over the last few days one has made it to his wintering area in northern Angola. Another is in eastern Gabon and a third has just flown from Nigeria to Gabon.

With luck, they will fly all the way back to the UK in Spring. Think about that – it's amazing!



Arboretum and Castle grounds remain open

Castle Howard's gardens, grounds and play area, and also the **Yorkshire Arboretum** are to remain open during the second lockdown. Public gardens can remain open during the English lockdown period, acknowledging the physical and mental benefits everyone gains from being outside in green spaces. Castle Howard gift shops and Arboretum visitor centre will be closed (although the Garden Centre gift shop is open). Bookings must be made in advance, as before.

'Wish Upon a Frozen Star' Castle Howard's Christmas event, which had been scheduled to start on 28th November, regrettably had to be cancelled. If you have booked for the Light Trail, a refund will be credited to the card used to make the booking or your Paypal account respectively.



Close to home and open for visitors

Castle Howard Gardens, Skelf Island Adventure Playground, Garden Centre and Farm Shop are all now open to visitors. Explore 1,000 acres of parkland, woodland and gardens. Burn off steam at Skelf Island, with ingenious treetop nest structures connected by rope bridges, slides, nets and climbing equipment. Our Farm Shop offers tasty, locally-sourced treats and staples and our Garden Centre is full of quality plants, furniture, tools and accessories – both are open 10am-5pm daily and deliver to neighbouring villages.

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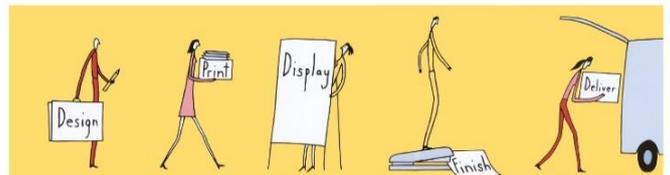
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Tony Hodgson

A personal thank you from the editor

People in Slingsby, Fryton and South Holme were shocked and saddened to hear the tragic news that Tony Hodgson, of Slingsby village shop, had died suddenly on Monday 12th October.

In the last issue, The Triangle featured an article about Tony and the shop, but Gill Baker, the editor of that issue, had no idea of course how timely it would turn out to be.

Tony was a great help to The Triangle over the past ten years. He would often tip off the editors about births, forthcoming marriages or deaths and would occasionally provide snippets of the background of people unknown to a relative newcomer to Slingsby, like me. He also sold the four books for Slingsby Local History Group since 2014, from which he gained nothing financially, but loved to do. He was also a very helpful neighbour and to me, personally, he will be sadly missed.

I have included below a photograph, taken three months ago by Gill for the previous Triangle.

David Thornley



Malton Museum 2021



Heritage organisations and museums will be providing more outdoor activities next year. Most popular this year, open air will still be the favoured 2021 location. Our museum needs income to survive and needs to keep in the public eye, so we are planning for this now.

We are creating more tours and outdoor activities for when the museum opens its season in spring. We are ahead of many other towns in doing outdoor tours, but intend to do more and are planning new tours and local outings now. To make these happen we need more tour guides (leaders) and tour helpers, and volunteers who would like to help us on the practical side with outside events.

Please come and join our team of outdoor volunteers. To help with the tours you don't need to have any detailed knowledge about Malton history - just an interest in the past in this area, where we live. **Full training will be given.** We also need non-speaking helpers to help guide the tours.

The course is free and open to all who would like join. Joining it does not commit you if you are unsure, but might hopefully inspire you. Contact us by email at maltonmuseumoffice@gmail.com

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Thank you Ken



Congratulations and a big 'thank you' to Ken Eddy who has delivered newspapers to Slingsby and Fryton for 50 years!

Ken started delivering papers in 1970 when he left school. In all that time he has only missed 3 weeks when he was unwell. On that occasion his brother-in-law and Peter Smithson stepped into the breach, under Ken's instruction of course!

Rachel Prest

Slingsby School

It was absolutely wonderful to open the school doors to all our families in September after such a difficult summer term last academic year. We had to very quickly adapt to daily changes in Government guidance and learn a whole new approach to teaching - whilst being acutely aware of, and sensitive to, the health and wellbeing of our families and staff during the pandemic. It was a huge challenge for us all and a lot of valuable lessons were learnt!

Much time was spent preparing new Covid-19 safe systems over the summer holidays (in accordance with the Department of Education and North Yorkshire County Council guidance) to ensure a successful re-opening in September. This included working out new

classroom layouts, class bubbles, timetables to allow for staggered start and finish times, staggered break times, hand sanitising stations, single bubble toilet facilities and deep cleaning regimes between lessons and after school - to name but a few! We have been really pleased with the success of these changes which have now become the 'new normal' in school and the children have all adapted well to new ways of working.

We were immensely proud of our new Reception Starters who enjoyed a week of settling-in sessions before joining us full time; and all the children returned full to the brim with enthusiasm and clearly thrilled to be reunited with their friends. It has been heart-warming to witness and the teachers have been so impressed with their attitude to learning and their adaptability to change. They comment that it is a great pleasure to be back teaching children who are so keen to learn. I think it is safe to say we all felt a new-found appreciation for our amazing school and our dedicated teachers: the children included!

We were fortunate enough to get through the whole of the first autumn half term without any coronavirus cases in school. Unfortunately, the first week back after the half term break, we had two positive coronavirus cases in school. This meant that two classes had to isolate (along with staff who had been in contact) for fourteen days, and in turn led to the number of staff being insufficient to stay safely open in accordance with safeguarding requirements. We therefore took the decision together with Public Health England and the Local Authority to close for two weeks and move to Home Schooling for that time where teachers regularly uploaded worksheets to the school website. All the children (and parents!) have worked so hard to support home learning and it has felt like a great team effort. The temporary closure also gave the opportunity for a deep clean of school to limit the spread of coronavirus.

It is incredibly difficult to know what the future holds but what we do know is that our children are our future and we will continue to do all we possibly can to support their happiness, wellbeing and education through these uncertain times. Christmas will not be the same this year, but the teachers will be using new innovative ways to celebrate with the children and their focus is going to be on acts of kindness to others and being thankful for all that we are so lucky to have.

Wishing everyone in the community a happy and safe Christmas.

The Slingsby School Governors



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Railway Level Crossings

There were two public level crossings either side of Slingsby station. 1270 yards to the east was Slingsby Gates (as it was known), the track leading to Carr House Farm, whilst 1100 yards to the west was Fryton, the track leading to Fryton Grange. Like similar locations on the Pilmoor - Malton branch the crossing had gates opening away from the railway.

At the start of the working day it was the duty of the crossing keeper to close both gates to road, and then operate what was known as a gate board signal, which consisted of a red target fitted to the top of the pole revolved by hand so the red target faced the road. When a vehicle wished to cross the line the target board had first to be revolved so it faced the railway and the gates could then be opened. The two were not interlocked. There were no telephone or indicators; crossing keepers only became aware of trains by the ringing of a bell located both inside and outside the crossing keeper's house, operated by means of a code on the Tyer's No. 6 tablet machine depicting the type of approaching train by the adjoining porter-signalmen.

Slingsby Gates was in the Amotherby - Slingsby block section, whilst Fryton was in the Slingsby - Hovingham Spa block section. The porter-signalmen were instructed to ring the bells slowly so the crossing-keepers could fully recognise what type of train was on its way. It is said that Fred Wright at Slingsby, a known law unto himself, didn't always comply, rattling out the bell signals quickly, much to the annoyance of his colleague Eric Hartley at Hovingham Spa who liked everything done in prim and proper fashion. Needless to say the two didn't get on !

Charles Allenby

OIL consortium dates for 2021



**Last dates for ordering.
Delivery appx 2 weeks later**
1st February 2021
1st April 2021
1st June 2021
15th Sept (note change) 2021
1st November 2021
1st December 2021

East Ness Bridge

Everyone living in Slingsby, Fryton and South Holme will have seen the 'Road Ahead Closed' signs at the top of The Balk, referring to East Ness bridge, on the minor road to Kirkbymoorside.

Some might not know exactly which East Ness Bridge is. Well, it is the hump-back bridge, at Ness, which has zero visibility for oncoming traffic and where there have been several accidents. Half of the bridge wall on the east side collapsed (or was knocked down) some weeks ago. The council has erected a temporary Bailey Bridge so that the local farmer can get to his land on both sides of the bridge, but that temporary bridge is locked off and not available to general traffic. Apparently the bridge is listed and it is likely to be closed for safety reasons for some considerable time, perhaps a year. It is of course very inconvenient for anyone living in South Holme and Ness in particular, requiring a long detour to get to Kirkbymoorside.

Pictures below show the damaged wall and the temporary Bailey Bridge (for the farm vehicles only)



Mothers' Union pantos in Slingsby

In 1963 All Saints' the Rev. Basil Pegman began a large fundraising appeal to fix the Church roof, which had dry rot. Part of this appeal, which was very successful, was to stage a pantomime, namely 'Aladdin', which had been performed by the Bowling Club members in 1931.

In 1979 for the Mothers' Union Christmas party, the ladies put on a short play called 'Mad Hatters in Mayfair'. This was such a success that the following year they produced a half hour sketch called 'Cinderella'. Its success led on to a full length pantomime the following year, namely **Robin Hood and his Merry Men, in 1982**. This included many surprises for the audience, including the mixing of a bubbling potion, which frothed up and over the container, a realistic rat crawling over the stage to be caught by the 'cat' after frightening the cook, kitchen maid, housekeeper and French maid, and clowns which threw water at the audience and custard pies at each other. In the final scene, a real boar's head glared at the audience from the banquet table! Kathleen Lange allowed use of her attic for storing props and costumes and rehearsals. The production raised £94 in total.

In 1983 the Mothers' Union produced what was to become their annual panto, this year entitled '**Woodland Fantasy**'. The costumes were colourful and, judging by comments, very effective. There was a variety of animals, including walrus, caterpillar, turtle, crab, mouse, cat, fish and badger to name a few. There were playing-card characters Queen of Hearts, King, Knave and lowly 2, 5 and 7 of Hearts. Things seem to fly around the stage quite a lot. The frog and fish seemed to get knocked over frequently and The Duchess became a dab hand at throwing her baby to Alice. It really was a fantasy indeed, with the frequent cry from The Queen "Chop off their heads!" The audience joined in at every available moment with songs and competitions to see who could sing the loudest.

The Sleeping Beauty pantomime, held in 1984 was a great success. The hall was full on both nights and the children helped boost the cast by joining in the singing and

actions. The local community was a great encouragement, together with members of both Malton and Old Malton Mothers' Unions. Once again Kathleen and Gordon Lange were pivotal in its production, using their attic for rehearsals and storage.

In 1985 the panto was **Aladdin and Cinderella** in 1986. In **Jack and the Beanstalk** in 1987 the new Vicar of Slingsby found the jokes were on him when he attended the Slingsby Mothers' Union Pantomime but the Rev. John Richardson did not take umbrage at the jokes. Church Warden Gordon Lange helped with scenery and his wife, Kathleen again provided the rehearsal facilities in their attic.

The 1988 pantomime was **Sing A Song Of Sixpence**. This was a series of sketches, held together by a simple plot. Many of the characters had long parts but the prompter was hardly ever needed. This was followed in 1989 by **Babes In The Wood**, 1989, the tenth Mothers' Union pantomime. Many of the cast were original members of that first show and the cast also included daughters and granddaughters of the cast as a troupe of dancers.

In 1990 **The Pied Piper** (see picture below) was played. The women borrowed the Pied Piper script from the Public Library and used that as the basis for adding the spice of local jokes and humour. The proceeds from the panto, approximately £500, helped with the upkeep of the Parish Church.





Previous page shows from left: Gladys Hammond, Flora Dixon, Ann Bayes and June Rushworth.

The Mothers' Union 1991 pantomime was **Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs**. "Mirror, Mirror on the wall....." Etc. Flora Dixon reappeared in Slingsby's favourite panto in a role she first claimed more than 10 years ago. The sight of the dwarfs, some of them in their sixties, doing the 'Hi Ho March' up and down the aisles brought the house down.

1992 featured a re-run of **Aladdin**, with **Goody Two Shoes** in 1993, **The Princess and the Pea** in 1994 and **Goldilocks and the Three Bears** in 1995. The full cast is featured above, with all the children holding teddybears. There was no pantomime in 1996 due to Village Hall roof repairs. The final pantomime occurred in 1997, namely Cinderella.

In order to obtain a performing licence, conditions are quite severe. All scenery, props and curtains must be flame-resistant. Electrical wiring must be in good working order and the roof in good condition.



174 seats only were allowed with gangways either side. It was also decided that the audience must refrain from smoking. After every pantomime, on both evenings, people moved to the sides of the hall, trestle tables were erected and a supper was served, all in the admission price!

Kathleen and Gordon Lange were usually the driving force behind the panto, with Gordon helping with the preparation and storage of all the props in the Langes' attic.

The picture shows Kathleen Lange on the left, Nancy Stroughair in the middle and Flora Dixon on the right



There is no doubt that everyone had great fun doing the rehearsals but nearing opening night, the ladies' commitment became longer and longer as panic set in! Eventually the whole thing became too demanding and some husbands complained, so the last panto was in 1997. Hiss, boo...!

with thanks to Julia Snowball for providing panto information from her late Mum, Kathleen Lange

Our front cover photograph shows Margaret Roberts as the fairy, Nancy Coates as Nick, Angela Rushworth as Rob, Flora Dixon as Goody, Kathleen Miller as Squire in a pose from **Goody Two Shoes**, 1993.

All Saints' Church

The present restrictions make it difficult to predict what we shall be able to do at Christmas, so details of church services at All Saints' are as yet to be finalised. Information about these will be put on the Street Parishes website and Slingsby Village website.



We are planning an event for Christmas Eve, possibly outdoors, to make sure that our regular family candle-light gathering takes place, perhaps in a slightly different form, as it gets dark at around 4pm. Further details will again be posted nearer the time on the Slingsby Village website, and on the church noticeboard. At the time of writing we do not know whether any kind of carol services or outdoor carol singing in the village will be possible, but again we shall put updates on the websites and church noticeboard when we know more.

The church will be open for socially distanced visits and private prayers on some days of the week, in accordance with current government guidance. Please see the church notice boards for further details.

In the meantime, in spite of the restrictions, the church's appointed architects, Ferrey & Mennim, are continuing with the planning and design work, leading soon it is hoped to the replacement of the very ancient heating system in the church and the installation of a new kitchen and toilet. Their help in guiding the PCC through the grant aided tower repair works and the more recent re-roofing project has been invaluable.

The PCC met for its Annual General Meeting in October, six months later than normal. It was very pleased to welcome four new members. Chrysa Apps has taken over as PCC Secretary from Kate Giles. Very grateful thanks to those who have supported the building by cleaning and maintaining it and those who have spent many hours keeping the churchyard looking so attractive over the last year. It has been a much-valued open space this year.

Margaret Mackinder

Please note that The Triangle is completed on 21st Nov, when the lockdown is still in force. It is not yet known what will happen after Dec. 2nd so please check with The Grapes and other businesses.

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Slingsby Local History Group

Current government guidance clearly prohibits any sort of group activity at the time of writing, however we shall be planning a further get-together of regular members as soon as restrictions are lifted.

Next year's activities are likely to be based mainly outdoors, with some organised visits and outdoor activities in the village. We also hope to continue the gravestone survey in the churchyard, with Professor Harold Mytum aiming to return to help us.

We wish all our regular members a Happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you as early as possible in 2021.

Kate Giles and Margaret Mackinder.

May Day – 3rd May 2021 and The Maypolers



On a dull damp November day in lock-down it is good to have something to look forward to – and we are looking forward to May 3rd 2021, May Day in Slingsby. With the May Day celebrations of 2020 cancelled, and the end of the C.I.C. we have been planning our next move to keep this tradition alive.

We hope to put together a committee of interested people called the Slingsby Maypolers. We have opened a bank account in that name, with the money transferred from the C.I.C as a reserve. We have had offers of help from people with new ideas for the day and others willing to help with the dancing in school and on the day. The bands were getting back to practising before this last lock-down. John Breckon is still working on the plan to purchase a P.A. system and we thank the many organisations in the village which have contributed to the cost of this system. John intends to make the music of the day flood out around the village.

This is all exciting and we hope to be able to get together in the new year to begin planning in more detail. As a new team we are open to suggestions regarding May Day and we do welcome anyone in the village who would like to help in any way possible to join us. We hope to make the May Day of 2021 a great day of celebration if at all possible. Please put the date of Monday May 3rd 2021 on your calendar.

Maybe the sun will shine on us with just a gentle breeze so that the ribbons on the maypole do not get tangled! I know that the children will dance as well as ever and make us all proud of them and our village and its traditional May Day celebrations.

Pat Thompson

Slingsby Pumpkin Trail 2020

Thank you to each and every one of you who made this pumpkin trail a success, whether it was by displaying a pumpkin, walking the trail or donating to the Slingsby Play Area fund. It was heartening to hear that so many people enjoyed the activity and had fun on the trail, as a socially distanced alternative to trick or treating - despite the terrible weather.

It just goes to show how wonderfully supportive our local village community is and that our community spirit is certainly alive and well. We're overwhelmed by the very generous donations that have been made, which now total a huge £375! Thank you! If you didn't get chance to donate but would like to do so, the JustGiving page is still open <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/zeta>

There are plans afoot for a Christmas trail, so get your thinking hats on as to what you might do. Watch this space for more info!

From The Pumpkin Trail Team:

Joanna Plaskitt; Charlotte George; Jayne Goldsmith; Nicola Buchan



P.S. from the Play Area team - The Pumpkin Trail was such a good idea and the money raised like gold dust as we struggle to fundraise ourselves in these difficult times. Our grateful thanks go to the Pumpkin Trail team for all their innovation and hard work and also to the village community for your generosity.

The Play Area Team:

Anita Brewer (chair); Barbara Jameson; Kate Giles; Geoff Bishop; Geoff Brooks and Paul Hogarth (Sports and Social Club chairman)



We have had a successful start to the year, despite the need to adopt a very different approach to fundraising and events.

Thanks to generous assistance from the school staff we were able to facilitate Halloween parties in class groups before half term. The children had a wonderful time and the event raised over £370 for the school. Many of the children took part in the pumpkin carving competition, emailing their entries in advance to be judged by Mr Smith. Thank you to all involved in organising and hosting the occasion. We hope to arrange a similar event for Christmas.

The latest Bag2School collection raised an additional £70.

Our AGM has been held online, and this year sees some changes within the committee. After 2 years as chairperson and many more within the committee, Liz Wilson has stepped down handing her role to Sonja Sedran. We are immensely grateful to Liz for her years of hard work and the knowledge she has passed on. Kathryn Fairweather takes over the role of Secretary from Mel Staley, and Lucy Pointing the role of treasurer from Sonja Sedran. We bid farewell to some valued members of the committee and are joined by 2 new members. Thank you to all involved for past and ongoing commitment and support.

This year we will be heavily reliant on events being held virtually and fundraising via online means such as the easyfundraising website, where FOSS can be selected to benefit from your normal online shopping.

Information regarding the FOSS Christmas raffle will be available on the village website shortly, and you can keep up to date with all our events and fundraising ideas including more information about easyfundraising by following the Friends of Slingsby School Facebook or Instagram pages.

Helen Mackinder

Waterholmes Farm, near Ness, was the home of Rose Dixon and her son, Ralph. It was a dark December night in 1912 and being late Sunday evening, they were relaxing by the roaring log fire. Outside it was pitch black as there was no electric lighting then, no naked flames on a farm of course, and no moonlight. The kind of darkness you could only get in Ryedale over a hundred years ago. Rose crocheted; Ralph just relaxed. They talked together intermittently about various subjects including the livestock situation, repairs which needed doing when the weather got better, aspirations, regrets, religion and their fears – their personal devils.

Ralph declared he did not believe there was such a thing as The Devil. He gradually grew bolder, daring The Devil to show himself, saying “If there is such a thing as The Devil, let him show himself, here and now”. Suddenly, as if to oblige, there was a loud, heavy scratching sound at the farmhouse door. Unnerved by that occurrence at that particular moment, Ralph gulped, picked up the poker to defend himself and carefully went to the door to listen. Hearing nothing but his own heart thumping he carefully opened the door slightly, Rose one step behind him. He shone his lamp out into the yard but could see nothing unusual, not even one of the dogs asking to come inside near the fire; nothing abnormal; weird.

Next morning, after a disturbed and restless night’s sleep Ralph and Rose examined the door carefully in daylight. They found two parallel scratch marks, too high to be made by a dog but very deep and several inches long. A mystery which troubled them for many years.

Let us consider this story. There was no bark from the dogs, no light from an unexpected visitor. So, was it just fanciful imagination, fuelled by talk of devils? What about the two scratches? They were real enough.

Unfortunately, Waterholmes Farm was pulled down in 1962, fifty years after the incident, so it was never explained. The above was adapted from Miss Lascelles’ ledgers, written in 1926. The story itself is original.

Lydia Broughton

John's Big Leap 2020

Regular readers of The Triangle might remember a short article in issue 59 at the end of July, in which we learnt that John Hatfield was planning an event to celebrate both his 65th birthday and his 21st year living in Slingsby. The plan was to do a tandem sky-dive to raise money for Multiple Sclerosis. Originally planned for May 30th it was unfortunately postponed due to Covid-19 closing the airfield, but was rescheduled for Yorkshire Day, August 1st 2020.

Did it happen this time? Yes, it certainly did and John raised £1,005 plus £47.50 gift aid for charity, through personal donations and donations through the 'justgiving' website. This is a fantastic sum, which exceeded John's expectations and will certainly be welcomed by the Multiple Sclerosis (MS) charity, with which John unfortunately has family connections. John reckons it would have been even more but for the restrictions imposed by Covid. He had planned to involve the Sports Club, a car boot sale, a quiz etc.



Picture shows John, back safely on dry land, holding his Certificate of Achievement

I spoke to John via the telephone due to Covid restrictions and asked him about the day. "We took off from near Bridlington in a small aeroplane after a good safety briefing, telling me what to do and more importantly, what *not* to do! Initially it seemed like we were just taking a short flight in a small aeroplane, no big deal these days. There were five of us in the plane, plus the pilot. I was firmly strapped to the expert parachutist behind me. It

was only when three of the solo jumpers disappeared out of the open door that the fear set in! I was next and I found myself sitting with my feet dangling out of the door, with about ten thousand feet of fresh air under me! I must be mad! Then 'whoosh' we were on our way, dropping at 120 miles an hour. This bit was extremely noisy."

"After a few seconds, which seemed like minutes, my instructor pulled the ripcord and I felt the sudden deceleration. At this point it became quiet and calm and I had plenty of time over the next few minutes to look around and take in exactly what I was doing. I really enjoyed this bit."

I asked John about the landing. "We landed very gently on our bottoms in a field outside Bridlington. After a few seconds I was able to stand up and take in what had happened. Naturally I was very relieved to be back on land, safely. The whole experience was fantastic and I thoroughly enjoyed it".

Finally, one question often asked is "Would you do it again?" John's reply was "Perhaps when I'm 70, my next 'big' birthday. The main thing is that my Big Leap raised over a thousand pounds for M.S. so people will benefit from all the donations I have received. My sincere thanks to everyone who contributed."

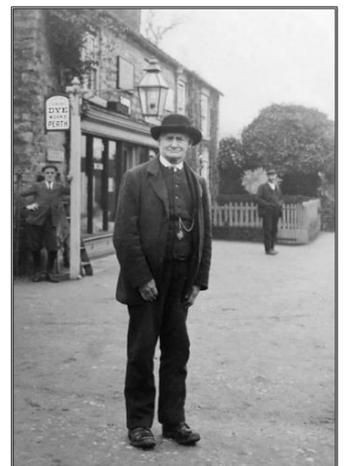
with thanks to *John Hatfield*

Got your Christmas copy yet?



Slingsby Local History Group's fourth book titled '101 Photographs, 101 Years' is still available to buy for an extra Christmas present. It contains 100 restored black & white photographs of Slingsby and Fryton, from 1864 to 1965.

It can be bought from David Thornley for £9, tel: 01653 627210, or via any Local History Group member.



Alternatively, it can be posted for an extra £2.

Please note that all proceeds help village projects, not the author.

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Presentation to Kate

The P.C.C. of Slingsby All Saints' Church and church members were fortunate and pleased to be able to gather together recently to present Dr. Kate Giles with an oak chest/coffee table as a token of gratitude for the many hours of form filling and negotiating, involved in steering the church re-roofing project through to its finalization. All this has been taking place in the three years since the lead was stolen from All Saints' roof.

Also present were members of Slingsby Local History group and the Children's Play Area committee, both of which Kate is very much involved with.

The joint collection made it possible for Mr. John Apps, bespoke woodworker, to produce a beautiful piece of furniture, which was given to Kate as a gesture of gratitude, from her many friends.

Maurag Carmichael was also presented with a small gift in recognition of her input to the considerable financial requirements of the grant applications.

Kate in her new home, with her new table.



Joe Brayshaw

The Triangle is sorry to report the death of Joe Brayshaw, of Railway Street on Sunday 1st November. Joe was a well-known Slingsby character for many years but lately his health had not been too good. He was found collapsed at home and sadly died the same day in hospital. Our condolences go to his son and daughter.

Ride and Stride

Hello, my name is Sarah, daughter of the late Alan Bulmer of The Balk.



For the last 5 years I have ridden my bike for the Historic Churches 'Ride and Stride'. My route is usually a circular one taking in all the churches on the way. I start at Malton, visiting Amotherby - Appleton-le Street - Slingsby (time for breakfast) - then onto Barton-Le-Street - Butterwick - Salton -Normanby (stopping at Willow Caravan site for a quick chat with a lovely lady and an ice cream) - Great Habton - Old Malton, ending up at Malton.



How did this all start? I moved to Slingsby from Aylesbury in 1995 to be near home and to further my nursing career. This was the first Ride and Stride with my Dad. Then, due to various circumstances I didn't do the ride again until after his death, so I do it in his memory each year (I try to get a bit of practice in before). Roll on the lighter nights!

I thoroughly enjoy the ride and the fact that I contribute to such a worthy cause. I have received generous sponsorship from a variety of people over the years.

Watch out for me next year 🚲 🚲 🚲 🚲 🚲 🚲

Sarah Brayshaw

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Ex-Forces support, North Yorkshire: Remembrance Project



On reading an article on the Slingsby Village Website about the above project, I realised my husband, Jimmy Hill, would be eligible to receive one of their commemorative 'boxes'. Normally, it is only veterans of the

services who are the focus of attention, however in this instance people who did National Service were eligible for a gift from Ex-Forces support North Yorkshire Project. I contacted the project to tell them he had served in Germany with the Royal Corps of Signals in the mid 50's.

Project Background

Born from the North Yorkshire Ex-Forces Support Project, which was a multi-partner project funded by the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust. It was led by 'Community First Yorkshire', and ran from April 2017 - March 2020. The project reached over 1,000 North Yorkshire Veterans age 65+, with a range of non-statutory activities such as:

- * Raising awareness of the issues faced by older and ex-members of the UK Armed Forces.
- * Aiming to support them to lead full, healthy lives.

How did it work?

By a collaboration between many organisations including: Age UK & District, Carers Resource, Citizens Advice, Groundwork, Just the Job Environmental Enterprise, North Yorkshire Sport, North Yorkshire Youth, Richmond Community Voluntary Action, Richmondshire District Council, Rural Arts, Saint Michael's Hospice, Scarborough Borough Council, Yorkshire Energy Doctor and Yorkshire Housing.

The above is a very diverse group of organisations and I was particularly impressed by the inclusion of North Yorkshire Youth, as it is educational for them to see the impact of old age. There were also close ties with NYCC's Living Well Team, as well as military charities including SSAFA (Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association) and the Royal British Legion.

This all served to widen existing support by providing person-centred, practical, financial and holistic support and raise awareness of issues faced by older and ex-members of the UK armed forces. These activities included:

- * Opportunities to take part in new activities or to revisit old hobbies.
- * Advice and practical support to keep warm, safe and well at home.
- * Befriending services and the opportunity to meet new people and connect to the local community.
- * Volunteering opportunities.
- * Basic home and garden maintenance.
- * Specialist advice and advocacy.
- * Support for carers.
- * Emergency grants.

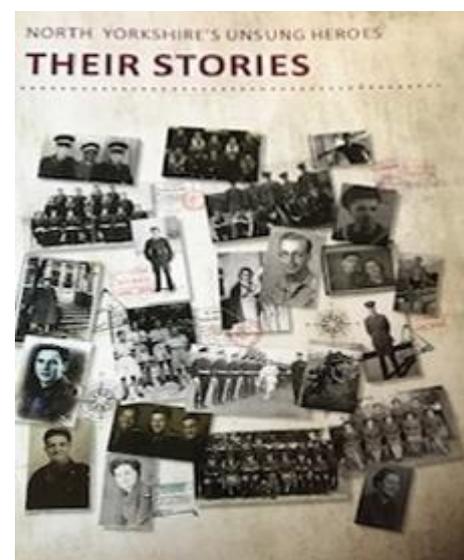
The Legacy

A number of groups have been set up to provide a regular opportunity for older ex-forces men and women to come together. These

groups continue to run across North Yorkshire and our nearest is at The Wentworth Arms, Malton. Lunch is every second Wednesday of the month 12:00 – 14:00 (COVID



restrictions permitting). Contact Shaun Brosnan on 07855 796354. Details of other services continuing in Ryedale can be found on the Community First Yorkshire website.



Continued

. . . As I said earlier, the funding was for a 3-year period only. **North Yorkshire Connect** is a free online community directory, providing information about the diverse range of community groups and services in the area. If you are a former veteran (of any age) and wish to volunteer your skills and experience for the good of your local community, you can register by emailing: volunteersupport@communityfirstyorkshire.org.uk or access the web page via a link in the Community First Yorkshire website.

For interest, the contents of the box were: Yorkshire shortbread and tea; poppies - clip on and key ring; booklet on Supporting the Armed Forces Family; Citizens Advice booklet on finances; Warm and Well leaflet about the practical support to help residents stay warm and well; gel hand warmer (this is heading to the golf course!); Ex Forces Support pen; Yorkshire Dales souvenir guide; Dalesman booklet; Rural Arts programme of events August - December 2020; SSAFA A5 notebook; wordsearch booklet. Also, a book called 'North Yorkshire Unsung Heroes', which is a book created through the project, sharing the experiences of ex-members of the Armed Forces. This is also available to download free from the Community First Yorkshire website: www.communityfirstyorkshire.org.uk

SSAFA is a charity that provides lifelong support to serving men and women as well as veterans. It was founded in 1885, so has vast experience. They can be contacted through their website www.ssafa.org.uk or by phone on either 01653 619368 or 01904 492562.

Kay Hill

Ryevitalise - Rye Reflections

If you have memories of living, working and playing in the Rye catchment, the Ryevitalise team would like to capture your memories of sights, sounds and species (and no doubt also your pictures).

Slingsby sits at the SE edge of the Ryevitalise area, and many of us will have walked along the banks of the Rye at places such as Butterwick, Nunnington and Helmsley. Could reflecting on those recollections be a lockdown project?

Please contact the Ryevitalise team to be part of this project on 01439 772 700 or ryevitalise@northyorkmoors.org.uk

Stephen's Farming Column

Harvest went pretty well this year with most corn crops gathered in under good conditions. Yields of cereals throughout the country have been disappointing and are thought to be down by around 40% but prices, particularly of wheat, have increased by around £30 per tonne, which helps to compensate quite a lot. There were some very good crops of potatoes and most would be lifted under good conditions. These are now in store waiting to be graded out over the winter months.

At this time of year a lot of maintenance work is being done, such as cutting hedges and ditching. We don't like to cut all our hedges every year as that destroys many of the lovely red berries that many species of birds depend on. Our own resident populations of small birds like thrush, blackbird etc. have their numbers swelled by large migrations of birds from northern Europe. There are thrushes, blackbirds, waxwings, fieldfares and many others, including lots of waterfowl arriving in their thousands. Last week some swans flew low over the village and across my fields down Slingsby Carr but I am not sure how far they had travelled.



Cleaning out the overgrown ponds with a large digger

About 20 years ago I created some ponds down Slingsby Carr but over the years they can get overgrown with bullrushes and other reeds and bushes. So recently Roger Carr came in with a big digger to clean the ponds out so we can actually see the water again.

Over the summer months I have been delighted to see a Kingfisher visiting the ponds and have seen it catching minnows there.

Stephen Prest

Brickyard Bulletin

The challenges of 2020 continue



The late grain harvest squashed jobs up a bit and meant a later than normal start to drilling the winter cereals, which in the most part went in well really. Establishment methods weren't quite what we initially planned – the plough was used more – but we're in a better position than this time last year, for sure.

Potato harvesting started on 22nd September (the day the monsoon started in 2019!) and even though it was a bit of a stop/start time due to the showery weather, we were all lifted by 20th October, which was pleasing. (and only 3 days after we combined the late wheat I mentioned in my last bulletin). Crop results varied, as they always do, with the irrigated ones performing best. Some crops were hit hard by the 30° heat that occurred in summer, and didn't recover very well at all. Some on lighter land struggled in the dry weather, but on average things aren't too bad. We've made a few changes to the operation in recent years – we upgraded the harvester in 2019, which has certainly proved its worth.

2020 saw us build a 12t charge hopper to feed our grader – this is basically a way of holding potatoes for the grader (a machine some may call a 'riddle' that removes soil and defective potatoes on the way into the store). This allows the trailers to get away back to the field for another load much quicker. It is controlled by an ultrasonic sensor and feeds the grader as it requires the potatoes. It works well and has saved us a tractor, trailer, driver and fuel for the season – something that is pleasing to my pocket and carbon footprint!

Carbon is an interesting one. It seems that farming may be the solution to balancing the activities of multinational companies, particularly regarding air travel – the air has apparently been much cleaner since the reduction in aeroplanes in the sky during the pandemic (livestock numbers remain the same.....). This will undoubtedly be connected in some way to ELMS (Environmental Land Management) - a system due to be launched in 2025

- and will be a multi-tiered and likely complicated affair. I was told on a Webinar this last week that it is being designed to 'Drive up performance or drive out of business' – which all sounds a bit scary!

As ever, where there is threat there is opportunity, and where there are problems there are solutions. It is likely that the environmental benefits of cover-crops and direct drilling will feature positively, and our experience so far with this should assist in preparing the way ahead. We've been involved with stewardship schemes for over 25yrs now so have a reasonable track record – the frustration is a lack of joined up thinking as one 'target' rolls into another, but so far so good.

Earlier this year the Government abolished Ecological Focus Areas – a requirement for 5% of a farm's area to be in environmental measures. We covered this with hedges, grass margins and cover-crops, and in my opinion it worked well. It's a shame that our ever-increasing area of cover-crops no longer 'ticks a box', but we will continue with them. The smell when one sniffs a spadeful of freshly-dug soil in a winter cover-crop and the presence of worms tells me that they are contributing more than they are costing, something backed up by us needing to cultivate much less, particularly for potatoes.

Our cover crop seed mixes vary a bit, but this year include oats, vetch, mustard and some radishes, designed to reduce harmful nematodes in the soil, something I hope to do more of.

Pic showing cover crop plants – Vetch nearest the camera (see the root nodules), mustard, mat, radish.



Next spring I'm planning on trialling Berseem clover as a companion crop in sugar beet. This will be sown between the rows of beet, and will hopefully attract ladybirds and other beneficial insects, which will eat the virus carrying aphids that have decimated beet crops nationwide this year. The situation is worse in the warmer areas further south, but as bad this year as I've seen it in my lifetime. Yields here are 40% down on normal for the time of year. We are paid on the sugar content, which thankfully, at 17.6%, is near normal for November. In East Anglia it's been as low as 14%, resulting in many growers not renewing their contracts. I have a week to decide the way forward for us. My gut feeling is that our contract will reduce, but not cease altogether.

Photo shows patches of Virus Yellows in our worst affected field. The virus has become a problem due to a very effective, targeted seed dressing being banned on UK crops (France can still use it though.....) The dressing prevented the virus-carrying aphids from attacking the crop, so without it, the beet is much more vulnerable. Yields in East Anglia, where there is more veg grown and it's warmer (so more aphids) are down by as much as 70% in some cases, which makes the crop unviable. Fortunately we're not as badly affected up here, but it's made a previously good crop into a marginal one.



We are currently outloading potatoes for McCain, harvesting beet and finishing drilling beans, while servicing machinery and preparing for 2021. In December we will be washing potatoes for delivery to Walkers and Seabrook crisp factories – something that seems not to be too affected by COVID-19. Walkers have asked us to be part of an initiative called 'Farm to Pack' – which means if you scan the

QR code on some Walkers crisps next autumn, you may see someone familiar!

The world is a challenging place for all right now. Zoom, Teams and webinar meetings have been frequent, but it's not the same as meeting people and learning from each other. It's important for all to stay well and talk to each other in these times, by whatever means possible.

Stay well everybody, and Merry Christmas!

Andrew Wilson



Beware of phishing when selling online

Online marketplace sellers have received a fake email that *appears* to be from PayPal, stating that someone has made a payment for an item. A follow up email requests the shipping tracking order reference, prompting the seller to dispatch the item. The fraudster relies on the seller not verifying that the payment has been received in their PayPal account, before shipping the item leaving the seller at a loss.

What you need to do

Verify the payment. If you're selling goods on an online marketplace, such as eBay, don't post the item to the buyer until you have verified, using the official app or website, that the payment is in your account.

Report suspicious emails: If you've received an email you're not quite sure about, you can report it by forwarding it to: report@phishing.gov.uk

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