

THE TRIANGLE

Serving Fryton, Slingsby & South Holme

www.slingsbyvillage.co.uk

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George and Shirley Wright

It was a pleasure to sit among the packing cases and talk to Shirley and George Wright about their lives in Slingsby.

Shirley and George both come from families of 5 children – Shirley the oldest followed by Judy, Sue, Charles, and Gill; while George was the baby with Arthur (93), Albert (91), the late Stan and Lily before him.

Although Shirley was born in Wrelton in 1938 and George in Fryton in 1932 they were both brought up in Fryton 5 houses apart. They both went to Slingsby school, leaving at 14 years of age. They both went to work for Mr. and Mrs. W. Prest at Cherry Garth Farm. They married in 1957 and moved into their first home – East View, 2 Railway Street, Slingsby – the home they are preparing to leave just now. Beverley was born in 1960 and Paul in 1962. These children followed on at Slingsby school, playing out in the fields in a Slingsby which looked very different from the village as we see it today. Shirley could see through to Fryton from her kitchen; Stanley's joiner shop was just over their fence before the houses on Green Crescent were built. The village shop was "Williamson's" when George called there for 1p. of goodies before school, then became Foy's, and then Wormald's. George worked on the farm firstly for William Prest and then with Stephen Prest. This was his life, partially retiring at 65 yrs. of age but always willing to help out until he reached 70 yrs. of age. The family then insisted he should retire fully.

Shirley worked in the house at Cherry Garth, taking her babies with her but also helped pick potatoes, helped Michael Bogg with his milk round, helped at The Hall with their guests, and also driving for Perry's – Shirley was one of the first female coach drivers. She then worked for her son-in-law at Inprint, leaving in 2002.

As the family grew up and grandchildren arrived (a son and daughter for Beverley and 2 daughters for Paul), Shirley and George played an important part in the lives of these grandchildren, helping with child care and collecting them from school. When Shirley was out working at Inprint it was up to

George to look after all 4 of them. This very close family found it hard when Paul and family decided in 2002 to emigrate to Australia. So Shirley and George became jet-setters spending at least 3 months in Australia with Paul and family every year. They admit that the life over there is right for Paul, Kate, Emma and Bekki but miss the daily contact. However, thanks to modern technology and Shirley's skill when using her i-pad they can keep in close touch. Shirley and George filled their days with bowls, playing regularly for Slingsby in league matches; and tending their garden. George also walked for miles around the area – 10 to 12 miles a day – usually with his brother Albert.



George and Shirley Wright

Shirley and George have seen so many changes in the village. Years ago everyone knew everyone else in the village as most people worked on local farms. Children played out in the street and fields coming in for their tea.

Things are different now and Shirley and George will miss all the Slingsby folks they have known for years. They wish to say a big thank you to all their friends and are so grateful for their 60 years of very happy life in Slingsby. We will miss them and how will we know when to plant out our tender plants without watching for George's fantastic display in the front garden of East View, Railway Street? We wish them a happy and healthy future in their new home.

Pat Thompson

Triangle matters

Triangle Developments

From 1st April 2018 (the start of the new financial year), the annual subscription cost for six copies of The Triangle will be priced at £6. The cost of individual copies of the newsletter will remain the same at £1.50.

This change in pricing was agreed by vote at the AGM meeting in November due to the increase in print costs and that there is now an increased number of colour pages in The Triangle which enhances the articles that are included adding value to articles such as reviews of the Flower Festival and the May Day festival.

Postal Copies. The price of editions of The Triangle that are posted out has also seen an increase from £10 to £12 to cover the increase in print and postage costs.

Advertising. Thanks to all our advertisers across North Yorkshire from Scarborough to York and to our new advertiser for logs, James Avison, in Barton le Street. Support them all when you can. They account for 42% of our income.

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Articles and submission of copy

We are always looking for new articles and information to share with our readers. Feel free to send it through to us using any of the contact methods below, we will definitely take a look and do our best to include it in the next edition.

If you want to submit an article to The Triangle please send it to thetriangle@slingsbyvillage.co.uk

Alternatively, if you wish to submit an article to the website please send it to admin@slingsbyvillage.co.uk

If you want it published in both, please send it to both addresses. Or just post your article to the editor at the address on the front of the issue!

Website Team

As things get busier with updating the website and social media, we are now looking for an extra pair of capable hands to help out with the workload. If you are interested please let us know at:

admin@slingsbyvillage.co.uk

Slingsby Bowl's Club

We are desperate for new members, and anyone even remotely interested in playing flat green bowls would be more than welcome. It doesn't matter if you are a complete beginner or are more experienced, please come and meet us, perhaps have a practice when we would give you all the help you would ever need. We are a small but friendly club and would be delighted to see you.

Please 'phone either:

- Doreen Bardon 01653 628509, or
- Alf Holmes 01653 628107

We also appeal for anyone who can help us with the maintenance of the bowling green in whatever capacity.

Peter Cornick

New Arrivals

Hello Liz and John Senior, who have arrived at Park House who relocated from Weybridge in Surrey to be near family, two daughters and one son. They both enjoy food and wine. Liz likes to cook and John likes to keep fit and used to be a keen runner.

Jo Breckon

Slingsby Ladies' Group

The December meeting was a musical evening when Karen Bishop, a Slingsby resident, brought her guitar and entertained us with Christmas songs, carols, stories and poems, some of which members joined in with. To help make it a festive evening members were served warm mince pies, nibbles and drinks. The evening finished with an exchange of presents.



The December Ladies' Group: festivities, carol singing and poems.

In January members enjoyed an excellent New Year lunch at the Worsley Arms. Sadly we had to bid farewell to Carol Buck who is moving to be closer to family in the south. Carol has been a member since moving into Slingsby thirty five years ago. The group was then a branch of the WI until the Yorkshire Country Women's Association was formed. For many years Carol has been an excellent treasurer keeping us up to date with modern banking, keeping us solvent and she was very involved in the decision to leave the YCA and form the Slingsby Ladies Group. It was felt that we would get better value for our subscriptions but still have the same quality of educational speakers, outings and of course friendships which we all enjoy. We will miss Carol very much and send her our best wishes for the future.

The next meeting will be the AGM on Tuesday 13th February followed by supper provided by members.

Shelagh Richards

The Hovingham Bakery



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Please see our events calendar online for what’s going on in 2018
www.sledmerehouse.com or phone 01377 236637
e-mail: info@sledmerehouse.com

Section 106 Funding: Sports Field and Playing Area

Slingsby sports field Tennis Courts and Play Area

Ryedale District Council, through the Section 106 funding from the Cavendish Court housing estate development, has awarded monies to resurface the existing derelict sports field tennis courts so that multi sports can be played on an all-weather surface.

Work will hopefully start in the early Spring and will finish in time for use in early summer. It is envisaged that the courts will be marked for not only tennis but netball and basketball. The facility will be free and open for anyone to use although a simple booking system will be necessary to accommodate use by the Primary School and to avoid double bookings.

The new sports area will come under the overall management of the Sports and Social Club which has delegated day to day responsibility to a small committee of young and older local people.

Hopefully there will be a special event to mark the opening of the sports area and this will be advertised as soon as a date is known.

A separate application to refurbish the swings and add a new mini roundabout and climbing tower with slide has been submitted to Ryedale District Council under the same scheme and will be considered at their February meeting.

Both the Tennis Court and Play Area improvements will be a great asset to the Community.

Geoff Bishop

Kate Giles

Geoff Brooks





Slingsby Community School News

After three years of hard negotiation and patience, Slingsby School has now acquired The Old School House, which is adjacent to the existing School, in order to provide a much needed extra classroom and staff rooms because of the increased intake year on year.

It was a wonderful present when the builders arrived the week before Christmas and an even greater thrill when two doorways were drilled through to make the accommodation one unit. The necessary internal building work should be finished by the February half-term.

Parents and the Friends of Slingsby School (FOSS) are busy fundraising for new equipment for the School House as unfortunately school funds are very limited.

All donations are hugely appreciated and if you would like more information regarding the Wish List the school has for its new building, please contact the Head Teacher, Mrs Georgie Metcalfe, on 628370 during school hours.

Slingsby Community Primary School is an integral part of the village community and deserves much praise and support for its high standard of primary education.

Geoff Bishop
Vice-Chair of Governors

Bag2School Collection

We would like to say a huge thank you to all the villagers who supported our Bag 2 School collection.

With your help we were able to raise £190 (a much greater amount than usual). This money will be donated to school to help provide a Smartboard and projector for the new classroom. Another collection is planned for May so please bear us in mind when you're having a spring clean!!

Quiz and Curry Night - Friday 2nd February

The evening starts at 7pm and everyone is welcome, including children for whom there will be activities.

Please buy tickets in advance from the school office - £5 for an adult and £2.50 for children.

Ticket prices include quiz entry and a tasty selection of homemade curries and accompaniments.

Please bring your own drinks. A raffle will be run on the night.

Scarecrow Weekend, May Bank Holiday Weekend

Advance notice that the annual Scarecrow Trail will take place on the weekend of 5th/6th May. It will include the usual trail and refreshments. More details to follow in the next issue.

Liz Wilson and Sarah Rayner



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THE POTATO WARS

It is a quiet time of year on the farm and it is nice to be able to relax a bit and enjoy more leisure time. What has become a regular event over the winter months is the annual "Potato Wars" which is held at The Grapes Inn. A number of local potato growers each take a sample of potatoes to The Grapes where they are washed and made into chips. Bowls of chips are then taken round the customers for a blind tasting and the sample voted as the best chips is awarded a trophy and has the privilege of supplying The Grapes with potatoes for the next year. Those taking part this year were Alex Lange, Stephen Rooke, Andrew Wilson, Stuart Prest and The Sparrow family. The winner was Stuart Prest and he was presented with the trophy by Trudy Carr (Stuart is pictured below).



CONSERVATION

When walking round my fields just before Christmas I was delighted to see 8 swans on one of my small ponds. I didn't have my camera with me at the time so I went back the next morning which was a bright frosty morning and was able to take some pictures of them. They were obviously feeding on pond weed and they stayed for a couple of days or so before moving on. A couple of days later I saw a herd of 7 Roe deer in one field and 3 in another field. Their numbers are increasing year by year and they are a lovely sight.



Stephen Prest

May 7th 2018

Do please put this date in your diaries as we are planning to hold our annual May Day celebrations on The Green in front of the school at Slingsby.

There will be: dancing round the maypole by the school children; Swinton Brass Band; The Minster Stray Dancers; Teas; Food drinks, and ice-creams; children activities and various stalls. All the organisations in the village are invited to take part to make this a whole village affair.

Contact Pat Thompson (628620) if you would like to have a stall.

But we do need help namely with the following – selling raffle tickets on the day (a good raffle drawn at 3pm); helping with refreshments for the performers in the village hall; helping with food stalls; and helping with children's games.



It is a great day, hard work for a few so the more helpers we have the better we will all enjoy the day.

Please speak to Chris Conyers, Tamsin Smurthwaite, or Pat Thompson for more information.

Pat Thompson

Farming at Brickyard

To be asked to deputise for the journalistic talents and agricultural observations of Stephen Prest is something I consider to be a privilege, so welcome to my occasional column!

Whilst only being a whipper snapper of 41, I have been involved in farming in Slingsby for all of my life. A little history for those unfamiliar with our operations, some of which is detailed in David Thornley's excellent recent books Slingsby – 'Then and Now' and 'Farming in Slingsby Parish'.

As a family, we have been tenants of Castle Howard Estate for over 90 years:

1926: Thomas and Esther Wilson take on Park House Farm, Easthorpe

1954: Kenneth and Daphne Wilson take tenancy of Porch Farm, Slingsby

1989: Christopher Wilson takes tenancy of Brickyard Farm, Slingsby

2006: Andrew Wilson becomes joint tenant of Brickyard Farm

So we've been here a while!

Over the years the farming has evolved, from horses to tractor power and from a very mixed operation to a slightly more specialised one today.

I can remember as a lad picking stones on the sheepwalk heights fields in spring (land previously part of Porch farm, now part of the estates in hand farming), watching (in awe) Grandpa hooking and topping swedes in one deft movement, or hoeing sugar beet in a similar fashion.

Try as I might, I never really got the knack but I still remember him teaching me how to sow grass with a Seed Lip hopper and hand broadcasting in a figure of 8 movement and practised this last year when we grassed down the area at the end of our farm drive.

This beet work would be as recent as the early 1980's. Monogerm sugar beet seed was developed and harvesters have developed from hand pulling to the six row self-propelled tanker model that you will no doubt of seen Brian or George Clifford driving through the village in recent times. Grandpa

passed away in May 1986, and I often wonder what his opinion of today's farming would be.

My involvement here at Brickyard was initially as a boy helping out in the early 90's. I had a spell working away as a student, but have been farming here with dad permanently since summer 1997. In 2006 I was lucky enough to become joint tenant, giving us the longer term confidence to invest in and grow our business. In the summer of 2014, I moved back into Brickyard farmhouse, with my wife Elizabeth, and daughters Mollie (nearly 10) and Poppy (7). Mum and Dad remain very much involved in the business, but live now in a lovely bungalow at Barton le Street.

A few things have remained very similar for many years. We have grown sugar beet and potatoes along with cereals since the 1970's. Grandpa ran a lorry hauling grain in the 70's, and dad continues that today. We have seven lorries today, you may of seen them trundling through the village, usually towing a tipper trailer, mostly carrying grain from farms to feed and flour mills and maltsters, generally within a 100 mile radius of Slingsby.

Beet has been a very consistent crop and grows well on the lighter land to the southern end of the farm. We feed it with muck from the pigs, irrigate it in dry years, and with good dose of sunshine, we get a decent crop. Sunshine is essential for the beet to produce sugar, and it is the sugar content of the beet that dictates how much we are paid for it.

Beet is one crop that has really seen some advancement in the last 30 or so years. In the early 80's, 15t/ac was considered a decent performance, now, we budget on 27t/ac. This year has been good for beet, with yields comfortably above that level. We have 22acres still to harvest later this month (when it dries up a bit!). By comparison, average wheat yields have barely risen 10% over the same period.

More on people, pigs, potatoes, cereals, pulses, environmental schemes, cover crops and carbon footprints in a later column!

Here's to a kind spring and 'normal' (!) farming season. (it's been a testing backend!)

Andrew Wilson

Slingsby Methodist Chapel News

DIARY DATES:

Thursday 1st February - Tea Spot in the Chapel Schoolroom, 10am–11.30am

Wednesday 7th February – Fellowship Group in the Methodist Church Schoolroom, 7.30pm

Sunday 11th February – Second Sunday Club, 5pm – 6.30pm

Tuesday, 13th February - Fish and Chips will be delivered around the village at 12noon. Contact Stephen Prest on 01653 628277.

Wednesday 21st February - Soupa lunch in the Methodist Schoolroom, 12noon

Wednesday 21st February - Fellowship Group at the Methodist Chapel Schoolroom, 7.30pm

Thursday 1st March - Tea Spot in the Chapel Schoolroom, 10am – 11.30am

Wednesday 7th March – Fellowship Group in the Methodist Church Schoolroom, 7.30pm

Thursday 8th March – Church Council in the Vestry, 7.30pm

Sunday 11th March – Second Sunday Club, 5pm – 6.30pm

Tuesday 13th March - Fish and Chips will be delivered around the village at 12noon. Contact Stephen Prest on 01653 628277.

Wednesday 21st March :

- Soupa lunch in the Methodist Schoolroom, 12noon
- Fellowship Group in the Methodist Church Schoolroom, 7.30pm

A new **Slingsby Baby and Toddler Group** began on Friday 19th January 2018 in the Methodist Chapel Schoolrooms.

The group will run every Friday during term time, from 1.15pm – 3.15pm. All are welcome to join us. (£2 per family).

We invite you to join us for any of these events.

Dear Friends,

At the beginning of another New Year we will inevitably look back at the events that took centre stage in our lives. It gives us all an opportunity to see how we were led and also supported through the year in so many ways. The Christian life is a journey of faith and therefore that often means working outside of our comfort zones and being stretched beyond our limitations to find God's unlimited resources. I am encouraged to hear time and again of your stories telling of God's grace and strength given to you just when you needed it. I know that there have been challenging times for many this past year and your resolute faith has been a strong witness to us all. We are called to "look over one another in love" and that has been the hallmark of the fellowship we have in Jesus.

Every journey has to have a starting point and the first step is critical as to the direction of travel. Making that initial move is therefore so important. What is God asking you to be and to do for him this year? Are you willing to respond to the challenge of his call to serve him with the whole of your life? That means in every area and every part. It is comforting to know that God will not ask of you that which is beyond your ability and he also promises to give us his strength to accomplish the task. Our Covenant Service provides us all with an opportunity to place God at the very centre of our lives. It also asked us to be willing to take up those tasks that he places before us to do.

It is worth reminding ourselves of Paul's prayer to the Ephesians at this point. He declared, "that God is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us". Now that must give us all hope and confidence as we step forward in faith.

I wish you all a joyful New Year!
Blessings,

Rev. Tanya Short



Jesus said "I am the Good Shepherd"

Chocolate Stout Pudding & Toffee Sauce

Since moving to England from The States I have become fascinated (maybe even a little obsessed) with steamed puddings, and this one is an absolute cracker.

As far as I can tell, steamed “puds” are a very English concept, not something I have ever come across before on my travels. When I first heard about them I was very dubious, particularly the idea of Christmas pudding and I must say I’m still not totally convinced by Christmas pud (I’d take pumpkin pie any day) but I have certainly been converted into a lover of other steamed puds and I think this recipe is one of the best I’ve come across.

It may sound a little odd to put beer into a dessert but it works so well. The stout in this recipe gives it a fabulous earthy, rich flavour and makes it a proper wintery pudding and a favourite on any dinner table at this time of year. Served with the fantastic hot toffee sauce and a scoop of vanilla ice cream, there is nothing better on a cold winter’s night.



Ingredients

For the pudding – (makes about 8 small ones or one large (1 litre) pudding bowl)

115g Unsalted Butter
175g Demerara sugar
2 medium eggs
5g Vanilla essence
115g Plain flour
Quarter tsp Baking powder
Half tsp Bicarbonate of soda
200g Stout (any stout will do but ideally chocolate stout – we use Young’s Double Chocolate Stout)

50g Cocoa powder

For the Toffee Sauce

500g Cream
125g Muscovado sugar
50ml Black treacle

To make the pudding

For this recipe your eggs and stout need to be at room temperature. If you keep your eggs in the fridge then before you add them, drop them into a bowl of warm water for a couple of minutes. You will also need to butter the mould(s) you are going to use.

Soften the butter and cream it together with the Demerara sugar. Once light and fluffy, add the vanilla essence then the eggs one at a time, allowing the previous one to incorporate before adding the next. Sieve together all the dry ingredients – including the cocoa – twice so as to be sure to incorporate everything properly.

Once all the eggs have been creamed into the wet mix, fold in your sieved dry ingredients then once all is incorporated carefully fold in your freshly opened, room temperature beer. Pipe or spoon the mix into your buttered moulds. Remember the mix will (should) more or less double in size.

You will need to put a “lid” on the bowl/moulds. If your moulds don’t have lids you can place a sheet of parchment then a sheet of foil on top, tying them around the edge of the bowl. Steam for 35-40 mins. Use a metal skewer to test if it is cooked (if it comes out clean it’s cooked).

To make the sauce

Over a medium to high heat, bring the cream and sugar to a boil and simmer until it is thick, then add the treacle and remove from the heat.

To serve, turn out your pudding, pour a little of the sauce over it then serve with vanilla ice cream and more sauce.

Tom and Vanessa Wade

A note from the editor...

If you give this yummy recipe a go, it would be great to see your photos of the finished product! Please send them through to thetriangle@slingsbyvillage.co.uk

Barn Owl Tales

Tea used to come to Slingsby Co-op Stores in tea chests not tea bags. The empty tea chests were useful as storage containers (no plastic containers in those days) and in 1969 when Doreen and I moved into the house where I still live, Dad, who worked at the Co-op, was able to get us all the chests we wanted. We finished up with eighteen lined up in the loft.

A few years ago I decided it was time clean out the loft which meant I had eighteen empty tea chests. Lying on their side with a piece of wood across the front and a ledge underneath, tea chests make excellent nest boxes for Barn Owls so I set about the task of knocking on the doors of eighteen farmers and asking if I could put a box in their buildings.

I knew I would have no problem, farmers are almost always willing to help and the words 'Barn Owl' work like magic anyway. The boxes, along with a few more I managed to find, are now in farms along Bilsdale and north of the moors from Lingdale to Crathorne. The problem with nest boxes in buildings is that the owls do not always find them but at least seven have been used for nesting with a few more for casual roosting.

Boxes for outdoors are a little more difficult to acquire needing good quality timber but with help from organisations such as Tees Valley Wildlife Trust, Forest Enterprise, Hambleton Council, farmers and friends I now have a total of around seventy boxes, and still increasing. I am not sure I would have got into this so deeply without the boost of the tea chests from Slingsby.

The most interesting Slingsby box was one I put in a wooden shed by the side of a farm road near Chop Gate. Owls nested in it twice, then used it for roosting for a couple of years before moving to another Slingsby box in one of the main farm buildings. In early 2016 I noticed on passing that part of the roof of the wooden shed had blown off so I retrieved the box and moved it to a new site in a shed at Skelton-in-Cleveland near Saltburn.



Source: Image from the RHS website courtesy of Geoff Myers

After putting it up on 7th April I visited on 22nd June.....to find four newly hatched chicks.

It just shows that where there are owls around they are very quick to take up the opportunity of a new nest site. There is of course a shortage of natural Barn Owl nest sites – few unused old farm buildings and few trees with holes.

It was a very good vole year in 2017 and Barn Owls did very well. I had a total of 27 nests and ringed 114 chicks which, other than one or two, all fledged. Four and a half chicks per nest indicates that it has been a very successful season!

Geoff Myers

Ryedale Mumbler will be running a Nearly New Sale at Malton School (West Wing Hall), Middlecave Road, Malton, YO17 7NH on Saturday 24th February at 9.30am – 11.30am. Please do drop in to get some great bargains. In addition, Peagreen Pottery will be doing some hand and foot prints for Mothers' Day gifts.

Tables are still available (£7 private, £20 trade), to book a table, please email SJ on sj@mumbler.co.uk

SJ Barker

Commonwealth Grave in Slingsby Cemetery

Slingsby 'new' Cemetery was consecrated in 1911. It contains one Commonwealth War Commission grave from the Great War (WWI). The grave is that of Private John W. Pearce of the West Yorkshire Regiment, service record number 19836. Pt. Pearce died on the 10th May 1918, aged 40. The stone can be found at the Western end of the cemetery, away from the road.



New 2018 Campaign

Ryedale District Council have launched a new 12 month project to tackle issues they know are important to residents – including fly tipping, waste, dog fouling, recycling and litter – to clean up our district.

'Don't be a Waster – reduce, reuse, respect' aims to encourage community pride and raise awareness of environment and street scene issues. RDC focusses on a different issue each month and they aim to work with parish councils, community groups, schools and local businesses to see how everyone can tackle the issues together.

Monthly Project Campaigns

January – Donate don't dump

February – Litter - the Big Clean

March – Green waste

April – Dog fouling

May – Make do and mend – promoting reuse and repair

June - Fly tipping

July – Environmental crime

August– Love Thy Neighbour

September – Litter

October – Food Waste

November – What's in your bin?

December –Christmas recycling initiatives

For more information on how to 'Reduce, reuse and respect' please visit the Ryedale District Council website at:

<https://www.ryedale.gov.uk/environment/dont-be-a-waster-reduce-reuse-respect.html>

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Pigeon houses or cotes.

Pigeon houses or dovecotes were a common sight throughout Britain and across mainland Europe between the 16th and 19th centuries, but today few remain and of those that do, many are now in ruins. Pigeon houses were abundant in Egypt as early as 3000 BC. They are recorded in Old Syria and Ancient Persia and there are many biblical references to them and to doves as messengers and subjects for sacrifice.

Dovecotes, as I will call them in this article, have been a feature of the British landscape for over a thousand years. They used to be a common sight, especially at monasteries and manors, where the young birds, called squabs, were highly valued for their tender and tasty meat, while their feathers were used for mattresses and pillows. The oldest existing dovecote in England is probably the one at Rochester Castle in Kent, built in 1126.

The structures could be massive buildings in some cases, housing hundreds of birds which foraged for food in the locality, much to the annoyance of local farmers. Some of these huge dovecotes have survived and are now protected buildings.

Pigeons from the rich man's houses were serious pilferers of poor man's grain and considerable penalties were imposed by Acts of Parliament as early as 1424 for breaking into cotes or stealing or shooting doves. In 1503 King James IV directed 'lords and lairds' to make cotes as 'beneficial to the community' and old charters show that there was a spate of building cotes after 1598.

In the 16th Century pigeon guano was sought after for a different reason – it was found to contain saltpetre, which was used for the manufacture of gunpowder. This secret was brought across from Germany and sold for a payment of £300, which was a huge sum in those days. This dramatically changed the role of the dovecote in light of the fact that guano was potentially valued more highly than the birds themselves! To protect this resource armed guards were often placed outside dovecotes to stop thieves stealing the guano. However production of saltpetre from pigeon guano ended in the late 18th century when it was found to be naturally occurring in South America.

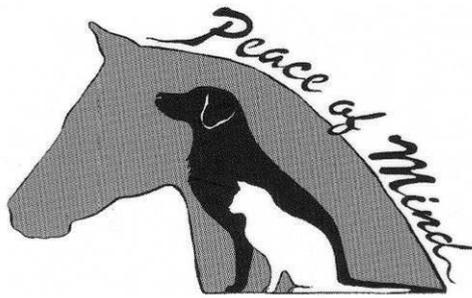
The main purpose of a dovecote was to provide year-round food. The pigeon chick (or squab) was seen as a delicacy and squabs would be 'farmed' when they achieved a certain age and size (normally 4 weeks of age). In the 16th century eating pigeon meat became much more popular with pigeon pie becoming a delicacy and often described as 'food fit for kings'. As a result of this popularisation, pigeon meat not only graced the tables of the monarchy and the rich, it became a standard food for the masses and it was commonly said that every family should eat squab at least once a week. Some squab farms were believed to house anything up to 30,000 birds to satisfy this demand.

Gradually, dovecotes ceased to be a feudal privilege and fewer and fewer were built. However in the late 1700's a succession of bad harvests increased antagonism towards the pigeon. About that time the Swedish turnip, or swede, began to be imported. This meant that cattle could be fed through the whole year and did not have to be killed off in the autumn, so there was no longer the need to keep pigs or pigeons for fresh meat during the winter.

Early in the 19th Century dovecotes became more or less obsolete, though people did still keep a few nesting holes in their buildings. Some people enjoyed the sport of shooting them and specially bred pigeons were used as racing pigeons, a sport still continued to this day. In Slingsby the Dosser's were keen and successful breeders of 'Nun Cock' pigeons, an attractively marked variety bred just for showing.



A small dovecote which was situated in a garden on Malton Road, Slingsby until about five years ago..



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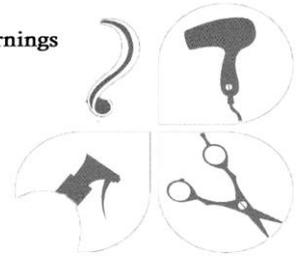
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- 13th February 2017
- 13th March 2018 (Last one)

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V.I.P. corner – Chris Coyners



My interview with Chris, a Molecular Biologist, seemed a bit surreal as I pondered the full size drum kit! It turns out that a few years ago, her daughter's clarinet teacher formed a Wind Band and needed a drummer. Chris took up the challenge and found a reasonably priced drum kit at a car boot sale. The next step was to find a drum teacher, by which time the Wind Band had been disbanded! Undeterred, she started her lessons and has just achieved her Grade 4 exam - what a girl! She is currently undertaking her Grade 5, as well as helping a colleague get started on the drums. It must be catchingThe drum teacher has a monthly gig in a York pub, and Chris enjoys going in to hear them, along with her husband and friends.

Another passion are her two dogs, a Labradoodle the size of a small pony, and an utterly charming Miniature Dachshund (pictured) who did an excellent job of guarding Chris. There are big plans for the Dachshund as he has been enrolled in a 'Dachshund Walk' in Manchester, to raise funds for charity. There are about 300 dogs expected to take part, just think of all those little legs strutting their stuff!

So much for her passions, what about any dislikes? If you are a politician, don't waste your time trying

to impress her, as Chris finds all politicians irritating, however I don't think she is alone there! Family consists of two daughters, Rachel who is in her first year at Lancaster University studying Law, and Eloise who attends Malton 6th Form, and husband Simon who is an Ecologist. Simon's focus is currently on Countryside Stewardship, encouraging biodiversity on farms.

Chris has very fond memories of going round to her grandparent's house in Slough, when she was a small child, where the whole family would gather to sing traditional English folk songs. This was probably the catalyst for Chris's love of music.

It's a long way from Slough to Slingsby - what brought her here? By a twist of fate, the Ministry for Agriculture, Farming and Fisheries underwent a reorganisation, preferring to operate from one site rather than three, and built the DEFRA site at Sand Hutton. It was the right time for Chris and Simon to make their move North, and Slingsby was the Village that came to the top of their list. Chris's mum, Elsie, also made the move just as Rachel was born, and still resides in The Green Crescent.

Another area Chris devotes her time to is Dancing round the village Maypole - not Chris herself - by assisting Pat Thompson with training the children in the intricacies of ribbon pleating etc. It really is a lot of work, as there is a lot of practice with a pretend Maypole, indoors. Chris has the important job of stabilizing the pole by 'weighting' it while the children dance round it, not easy!

Chris was a School Governor of Slingsby school for 8 years, and is currently on the C.I.C. ('Community Interest Company'). Their remit is to raise money through rural grants for things such as ribbons for the Maypole and Gazebos for May Day celebrations that can also be used for other village events. Finally, mention must be made of the Scarecrow Trail successes, in 2016 'Animal' came second and in 2017 'Dangermouse and Penfold' came third.

Watch this space for 2018!

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New St Leonard's Hospice Community Fundraiser

Kathryn Craven is the newly appointed Community Fundraiser for St Leonard's Hospice in the Ryedale Area.

Kathryn's main role will be to work with the community within the Ryedale area and to raise awareness of the work the hospice does and how we care for the people of Ryedale and their loved ones. More to come about Kathryn's role in the next issue of The Triangle

Local Services Information

Super Mobile Library



At Porch Farm, Slingsby alternate Fridays from 2pm

The Super Mobile Library is now a firm favourite in the village, but don't be disheartened if you cannot make it when it visits, they also **deliver** books, music, audiobooks, CDs, DVDs and information across the area to those who find it difficult to get out and about due to ill health or disability.

For more information on the mobile library service, please call 01609 533800.

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- Friday 10.15am – 11.45am

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These details are correct as of Feb 2017.

Every effort is made to post a notice in Sycamore Close if any change to schedule is required (e.g. for vehicle maintenance).

All Saints Church News

Thank you to everyone who attended our services over Christmas and the New Year. It is so wonderful to welcome our regular festival congregation and visitors to the crib and Christmas services. Thank you too, to Slingsby School, whose Christmas service was a highlight...what talent we have in our young folk, and how wonderfully they are supported by Georgie Metcalfe, her staff and parents.

We are heading into Lent in February which means not only that we look ahead to Pancake Tuesday on the 13th February, but also Ash Wednesday on the 14th February. It is likely that we will host the Benefice service as usual which is an evening service of quiet contemplation with a really special atmosphere. Please do come and join us (further details will be posted on the church noticeboard).

For further information about the Benefice Lent course, please contact Daphne Rose (dafnolia@yahoo.co.uk)

Heritage Lottery Fund project

We are expecting to receive our 'permission to start' from the HLF any day now. This will enable us to undertake sorts of important work, from procuring an architect to developing the next stage of our application to the HLF. In order to be eligible for this, we need to begin our campaign for match funding, which will be between £30,000-£40,000. Do look out for a leaflet through your door over the coming months, which will explain how you can support us. But please also support our first fundraising event:

Saturday 24th March 2018 Gourmet evening with musical entertainment at The Village Hall

4 course, French-themed dinner which includes cocktail and canapés, seafood platter, coq au vin and vegetarian alternative, a trio of desserts and coffee and truffles (bring your own wine, but we provide glasses).

Price: £30 per ticket (Tables for 6 or 8 may be reserved). Tickets are available from The Grapes, The Worsley Arms or from Maurag Carmichael (maurag21@outlook.com) or Chrysa Apps (01653) 628807

Kate Giles



Slingsby Local History Group Forthcoming events...

Saturday 17th February. 11a.m. *Interpreting the landscape around Slingsby Castle.*

How the land might have looked and been used from early medieval times.

As the first of several speakers, we should like to hear on this topic, we welcome back Steve Moorhouse to explore the area around the castle, finishing at The Grapes for an optional sandwich lunch. Please let Margaret know in advance, by email: family@mackinders.demon.co.uk or 01653 697010 so we can book. £1 entrance fee.

Please note that it is likely to be cold in the area of the castle and sports field at this time of year. Those attending are strongly advised to wear warm windproof clothing and stout shoes. This is the best time of year to view topographical features without obscuring tree cover, hence the need to do this session now.

Tuesday 20th March. 7.30pm in the Village Hall committee room (please use kitchen entrance).

This is a working meeting to take the castle project further and plan summer events and visits. Please bring anything interesting you may have or have found recently about the castle, and any ideas you may have about how we present the information we have, and have yet to collect. Meeting open to all. £1 entrance fee.

Margaret Mackinder

Slingsby Castle

The Slingsby local history group project for 2018 is to collect and present more information about the castle.

The ruined structure, which is normally visible through the tree cover, tells only a small part of the story. It is possible that the site, on a slightly raised mound, is a site of significance, which has origins dating back to before roman times, given the evidence of bronze, iron and roman sites in the parish.

The medieval castle superstructure, demolished in the 16th Century, is thought to have developed from one of two manor houses tenanted according to 12th century records by the Wyville family. Six generations of Wyvilles lived in the village including Sir William Wyville, of supposed dragon slaying fame, whose 15th century effigy lies in the present church. When the Wyvilles fell from court favour, ownership passed to the powerful Hastings family and from 1216 they developed a defensive castle. At that time castles were often developed by private noblemen, licensed by the monarch in the interests of security from uprisings and foreign attack.



They were usually located within a day's ride of each other, but it is thought unlikely that many of them ever saw serious battle. Their owners visited them when in the north, but were more likely to be resident nearer to the court of the day, where they often held high office.

The final phase of Slingsby old castle development began in 1462, when William, Lord Hastings was given permission to expand it further. He served in the court of Edward IV as Lord Chamberlain and

Master of the Mint, accompanying the king on missions abroad. He took an active part in the Wars of the Roses and was a high profile player in turbulent 15th century life. He supported the Yorkist cause but fell out with Richard III and was beheaded. Slingsby Castle was abandoned. Hastings was later re-instated and buried in St George's Chapel Windsor. At its abandonment the castle was a large structure, described as having four angle towers and a large gatehouse as well as a private chapel, and hall. It was surrounded by a bailey wall and a moat of about 80 feet wide, fed from Wath Beck. We think that some of the stone ramparts still may exist along with the undercroft to the hall.

The life of Slingsby village would have been closely bound up with the operation of the castle itself, and the villagers would have been kept unusually up to date with the activities of the court at the time. This is a very brief early history of the castle. Keep an eye open over the coming year for more events and information.

Please also note that the present castle structure (privately owned) is not open to the public because it is in a highly dangerous state. Please do not attempt to enter it.

Margaret Mackinder

Slingsby Allotments Association

We currently have a vacant plot on the allotments.

If you are interested or wish to add your name to the waiting list for future vacancies, please contact Brian Clarke on 01653 628625.

Christmas carol concert thank you!

All Saints PCC would like to thank everyone who supported their Christmas Concert on 3rd December, with special thanks to Terrington Choir for their continued support over the years. The concert raised just over £900 and with marching funding for ticket sales and raffle from Barclays Bank, the final total amounted to £1,700 - a marvellous boost to our Roof Repair Fund. Thank you everyone.

Maurag Carmichael, Hon. Treasurer

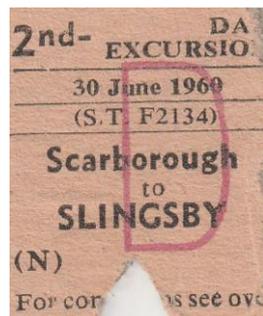
Slingsby Railway Tickets

At the beginning of the 1920's residents of Slingsby were able to avail themselves of a rather sparse, four trains each way service between Gilling and Malton. The North Eastern Railway provided Slingsby with a significant array, given its country station status, of different types of tickets for the Station Master, George E. Wood, and his staff to issue to passengers. Pre-printed tickets to all the local stations between Malton-Gilling-Husthwaite Gate and Gilling-Helmsley-Pickering were available, as well as a variety of blank tickets where the destination was filled in by hand and details recorded. There were also tickets for bicycles and prams.

With the gradual decline of passenger revenue, steps were taken to withdraw some of the pre-printed tickets that were hardly ever used by Slingsby, from December 1922. Not surprisingly these were to Ampleforth (station one and a half miles from the village and need to change at Gilling), Coxwold (need to change at Gilling), Husthwaite Gate (station half a mile from the village and need to change at Gilling), Nunnington (station a mile from the village and need to change at Gilling), Kirbymoorside (need to change at Gilling or alternatively change at Malton and Pickering), Pickering (need to change at Malton) and Thirsk (station a mile and a half from the town and need to change at Gilling and Alne). Any passengers to these destinations would subsequently have had to be issued with a Slingsby to blank ticket.

The advent of a much more convenient bus service through the The Street villages, running parallel to the railway, spelled the end of the local passenger rail service, which came to pass from the 1st January 1931. Consequently, virtually all of Slingsby's ticket stock was withdrawn later that month, by which time the post of Station Master had been withdrawn with supervision provided from Gilling.

However, it was recognised there was a need to continue with ticketing facilities for the yearly excursions to Scarborough. Whilst for each excursion specially printed tickets were produced by Crewe (Fig. 1 return half from Scarborough to Slingsby 30th June 1960), for those who enjoyed privilege facilities, such as wives, children of serving railwaymen and retired staff, a stock of single and return Slingsby to/from blank tickets were retained. Fred Wright, porter-signalman at Slingsby from 1942 until the 1964 closure, had to remember, when faced with a request for a privilege return to Scarborough, to fill in

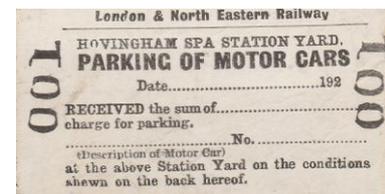


the destination and the fare, endorse the ticket 'Priv', stamp it with a W if it was for a female, endorse it 'child' where appropriate, and date it, as well as recording the transaction. (Fig.2 return half from Scarborough to Amotherby dated 6th August 1959). Clearly Fred hoped that such passengers didn't leave it until the last minute to book as by then he would have been busy operating the token instrument, shutting the level crossing gates and clearing the signal.

Another facility available at Slingsby right up until closure was for the conveyance of accompanied bicycles, prams and dogs, known as Zones. These were based on mileage bands, and with Slingsby being some 28 miles from Scarborough by rail, the ticket first introduced in May 1957, covered the 25-30 miles band (Fig 3).



The other, somewhat bizarre, ticket Slingsby retained was for car parking, as did neighbours Hovingham Spa, Barton-le-Street and Amotherby. The North Eastern Railway provided a set of ten tickets for these four stations in the 1920's, and must have been confident of them being used by the end of that decade because the only space left on the ticket to be filled in was the last digit i.e. 192-. Reality was entirely different. Six months before the complete closure of the line in August 1964 (Amotherby in October 1964) Hovingham Spa had sold just two, one for a motor bike in 1963 and the other to me as an enthusiast (Fig.4). Slingsby didn't sell any at all, likewise Amotherby, whilst Barton-le-Street sold one - to me.



Finally, Slingsby's parent station, Gilling must have held one of the largest stock of different types of tickets in the country (no less than 72) for a station where there was no regular passenger service. The reason for this was the six trains a year departing from Gilling (three to London King's Cross, three to Leeds) conveying Ampleforth College students at the end of each term. Gilling also had a facility to book passengers from York.

Charles Allenby

Slingsby Village Hall News

Village Hall AGM

The 2018 Village Hall will be held on Monday 19th March in the Village Hall at 7pm and anybody interested in becoming part of the Village Hall Committee are more than welcome to join us, as we are always looking for new committee members.

Village Hall Bookings

If you are interested in booking the hall or have an enquiry about facilities, please contact Trudy Carr (Hall Secretary) on 01653 628302 or e-mail mowbray.rise@gmail.com

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Oil consortium – 2018 order dates

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April	1 st April
June	1 st June
September	1 st September
November	1 st Nov
December	1 st Dec

Geoff Bishop

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