

THE TRI△NGLE

www.slingsbyvillage.co.uk

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Our 'Winter of Discontent' has passed (with apologies to Shakespeare)



June/July copy to Gill Baker, Birch Cottage, The Lawns, tel: 01653 628479 By **Saturday 15th May** at the very latest please or e-mail: thetriangle@slingsbyvillage.co.uk Price to non-subscribers £1.50



Now that the trees on The Green have been pruned, have you ever wondered who trims round the actual seat on The Green? Here's your answer – Denise and Geoff Brooks did it this year. They say it was a bigger job than they thought but it was a glorious winter's day so didn't matter. Many thanks to Geoff and Denise for their work.

We don't get much copy supplied from Fryton but this issue we have some for the wrong reason, namely the flood there. Below left is a photo of Fryton during the January flood. Several

properties were unfortunately flooded by the high level of Wath Beck. Thanks to G. Dickinson for submitting the photograph on the left. The photo on the right was taken one evening from an upstairs window but the photographer is not known.



Your Triangle Delivery Crew volunteers (welcome to two new deliverers)

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POSTAL DELIVERY:	Jo Breckon

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Please send us:

articles, comments, photos, ideas

Don't forget, if you want to contact Slingsby Village website, use admin@slingsbyvillage.co.uk

Welcome New Arrivals

Welcome to Cavendish Court to Lynn Wilson and her little dog, Lou Lou. Lynn has come to Slingsby from Norton and she says she has been made to feel very welcome, meeting villagers while on daily walkies.

And another new arrival says:

I just wanted to get in touch as my family and I have just moved into Balksyde and our neighbours have kindly lent us their copy of The Triangle - what a fantastic newsletter!

So far, we've been blown away by the welcome people have shown us when passing etc., but happy to get to know more people (once we are all free again - it's a very strange time to move into a new community!)



I'm Kate and I'm a freelance linguist so have been working from home for the past ten years. Dave works for B&Q in East Leeds but is furloughed at the moment. We have two daughters - Grace and Maya - who are 9 and 5, who will be attending Welburn, as we couldn't get them both places at Slingsby. They're adjusting well to life in the countryside and the new online learning routine.

We are both from the area originally, both attending Malton Secondary School, but have been living in Leeds for 18 years. We're really excited to be back in Ryedale - it's been a bit of a long journey, trying to relocate during a pandemic, but well worth all the stress, and we can't wait to get to know more people in the village. The children are so excited to make new friends and actually be able to play with them!

I'm particularly excited to get involved with local environmental initiatives and we're going to try to make the best use of our greenhouse and garden to grow as much food as we can - we've got a lot to learn though! For now, we're enjoying exploring all the local walks listed on the village website, and making a mental note of all the old/new haunts we can visit once restrictions allow. I don't know about anyone else, but I'm dying to visit the Yorkshire coast again!

*Kate Stansfield, Dave Bairstow,
Grace and Maya*

Jigsaw puzzles

People resorted to many different kinds of pastime during the long winter lockdown, but a very popular one has apparently been doing jigsaw puzzles, with puzzle retailers reporting heavy demand. I got to wondering what the appeal is and why we spend so much time putting together 1,000 little pieces which someone else has deliberately broken apart!

Engraver and mapmaker John Spilsbury is credited with inventing the first jigsaw puzzle in 1767. He drew a map on top of a piece of wood, then used a jigsaw to cut it into small pieces. Kids today still learn geography by using jigsaw puzzles of maps. In fact, the 'Geographical Puzzle' was the first wooden puzzle produced in 1891 by German company Ravensburger, one of the world's leading puzzle makers, still operating today.

Puzzles for adults became popular around 1900, and by 1908 puzzles were a staple of the upper class. Wooden puzzles were expensive, typically costing several pounds each, so for working people puzzles would have been a luxury. Over time, cardboard puzzles became a less expensive option, making puzzling available to everyone.

The Second Industrial Revolution of the 19th and 20th centuries greatly improved the puzzle-making process. Advancements in printing techniques enabled puzzle makers to transfer higher quality prints onto wooden surfaces. And instead of using hardwood as backing, manufacturers began using plywood. This allowed for lighter and more affordable material that was also easier to cut. Additionally, the invention of foot-powered treadle saws allowed manufacturers to create more intricate interlocking pieces at a fast pace. The name 'jigsaw' refers to the specialized saws used to produce them, however it would not become commonplace until decades later.

In 1977 the world's largest commercially available puzzle contained 5,000 pieces. Today, the world's largest puzzle you can buy, called 'Memorable Disney Moments' clocks in at 40,320 pieces and you need a big space because it measures 22 x 6 feet!

Not only are jigsaw puzzles educational and fun, but they are also thought to have other benefits. They are relaxing and offer a great way to unwind but they also require you to use the left and right hemispheres of the brain at the same time, creating connections that help with memory and recall. They improve hand-eye coordination and problem-solving skills, while requiring patience and perseverance to complete. Jigsaws are available in a myriad of designs and difficulty levels. Artists continually exploring the boundaries of jigsaws, inventing unconventional, yet beautiful, takes on the age-old activity — like a circular 1,000 piece depiction of the Moon or a reversible blueprint of the Guggenheim Museum. No longer are we restricted to the old-fashioned chocolate box cottages etc. I have just completed a 1,000-piece puzzle, shown below, featuring famous women and bearing the words "Well-behaved women seldom make history". Of course the actual puzzle is highly coloured, not black and white.



You can even design your very own personalised puzzle these days by sending a good quality photograph of your family, pets, hobbies or family to a jigsaw puzzle manufacturer. Alternatively, if you have a special birthday, anniversary or event, there are personalised message puzzles which feature pieces in the shape of letters to spell a message such as 'Happy Birthday' and 'Thank You'. Great fun, and good value considering the hours of entertainment they provide!

Lydia Broughton

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Plans for May Day 2021

It is hard to believe that it is almost a year since the May Day Team and other village partners had to cancel plans for May Day 2020. However, it has given time for a new group, called 'The Slingsby Maypolers' to gather themselves together to think about what *might* be possible this year.

We want to ensure that this much-loved village tradition, which is also such an important fundraising opportunity for so many village groups, not least FOSS (Friends of Slingsby School) goes ahead in some way this year. However, we also know that there is considerable nervousness about this, given the ongoing uncertainty about the lifting of lockdown restrictions. We need to remember that although many in the community have now had their first vaccinations, lots of people haven't - and won't - until later in the Summer.

After careful discussion, we do hope that a particularly popular aspect of May Day could go ahead safely, namely the Scarecrow Trail. This would be primarily aimed at the village community, rather like the Pumpkin Trail in the Autumn, raising funds for the school with donation buckets or online options available. We also hope we will be able to do *something* on The Green with the Maypole itself, weaving ribbons in a pattern safely. It does not seem likely that we will be able to offer refreshments or facilities, so careful thought will be given to the level of advertising, so that it does not encourage people to travel to us and be disappointed.

We very much hope that 2022 will see May Day return bigger and better than ever.

In the meantime, it might be helpful to remind everyone that the Slingsby Maypolers have a set of gazebos which can be used by any village organisation later in the Summer thinking about events outdoors.

Kate Giles

Where are the Pink Pages?

Regular Triangle subscribers will have noticed that there hasn't been Pink Pages for a year now. The reason will be pretty obvious - there haven't been any events to publicise in them!

As I write this paragraph in mid-March, the government has published its tentative plans to gradually return to normal by July. This is always assuming that things do go according to their plans and that people stick to the rules. So it appears that events will start to happen again gradually during late Spring and early Summer. If this is the case then it might be possible to re-start the Pink Pages with the next issue.

Finally, we would welcome feedback as to whether subscribers value the Pink Pages, i.e. do you use them or do you just bin them or ignore them. Producing the Pink Pages is a lot of extra work so please tell us whether you want them or not. Ed

FOSS

Hello everyone and it is such a joy to finally have our beloved school open again filled with very excited children. Well done to all families, and our wonderful school staff for getting through a very difficult time. Long may it continue!

On the fundraising side of things, we held our 2nd Mother's Day Plant Sale, which raised almost £50. A huge thank you to Mum, Lisa Bolland for providing the plants and looking after them throughout some very cold and frosty periods.

We have planned a number of Easter-focused events in the lead up to the Easter break. One of these is an Easter Bunny Mask-Decorating competition and another, our Easter Raffle, which we will be able to report on in the next edition of The Triangle. As you'll know, we would normally hold the annual Scarecrow Trail in May in conjunction with the May Day Maypole celebrations. What this will be at the time of print, we don't know yet but once we finalise a plan, all information will be posted on the FOSS Facebook page, the Slingsby Village website and via the school newsletter.

Sanja Sedran

Farewell Rita!

The Triangle would like to express our thanks to Rita Hardy, who has been delivering Triangles since the magazine started in 2010. Rita has decided to move away from Aspen way where she has lived with her husband (and Spaniel) for 20 years. In 2010, when a magazine was first suggested, Rita became aware that distributors were required and stepped forward to help the small group. She had the biggest round, delivering 33 copies as far down Green Dyke Lane as Melgates. Without volunteers like Rita the Triangle simply could not function. She has delivered the newsletter come rain or shine and has been an invaluable part of the team.

Rita's round will now be split into two smaller rounds to make it easier and also to give us an extra pair of hands in case we have someone unavailable. Rita will still come back to Slingsby to carry out her domestic job for a friend, and will still carry on with her successful cake business.

Once again we thank Rita for her help over 11 years and wish her 'All The Best' in her move.

From The Triangle Team

Thankyou Soupa-lunch

Thank you to all the Soupa-lunch team for all the delicious hot lunches you have delivered to our doors, with a smile and a chat. All is very much appreciated and it has helped us through this long, difficult winter. We are so lucky to have you all.

(This note was pushed anonymously through the editor's letterbox - Ed)



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Slingsby Ladies Group

Dear Ladies,

Happy New Year, and let us hope that it is, indeed, a happier 2021. It has now been a year since we last met and so much has happened or, maybe, not happened since then. No holidays, little or no meeting up with family and friends but, hopefully, things will improve over the next few months. I assume we have now all received our vaccinations and are on our way to receiving the second. I am sure that there has been much talk between us about which vaccine is better but how lucky we are to have been offered one of two, and what an amazing job by the NHS and all those volunteers. The days are growing longer and warmer and there is surely a light at the end of the tunnel.

We are keen for our monthly meetings to resume, but only when it is deemed safe to do so. With that in mind and with an eye on Boris's roadmap, The Committee feels that a return to monthly meetings may be possible in September. Clearly, that may change, but for the moment that is the date we are aiming for. We'll obviously confirm nearer the time if it is possible.

In the meantime, we wish you all a very Happy Easter. Please look after yourselves and let us know if we can help in any way. Stay safe.

Liz Senior

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Slingsby Village Website's 10th Anniversary



Original 'Gang of Four' who created the village website ten years ago! L-R are Keith Buck, George Dudzinski, Richard Flint and Jon Boots.

Following the 10th anniversary of the Triangle on 1st December 2020, the village website reached that same milestone on 1st March 2021. Why the difference in dates? Well, even though we had set up a joint team to handle both newsletter and website (the joint communications project, as I called it in the early days), the lead time to set up a website was considerably longer, given that we needed to design and build the website structure and then populate it with descriptive text and images about the many key facets of the parish. So it was that three months passed before the website was ready for release to an expectant/wary/doubtful public.

We marked the website's 10th anniversary online with a series of posts leading up to our big day on 1st March 2021. These were accompanied by a large banner and some impressive fireworks. (No health and safety rules broken!)

Whilst we paused then to take a look back at what had been achieved, the most important thing now is to look forward to our second decade and to make sure the village website can continue to prosper. The strength of our team has always been important, and is one of the main reasons why we have survived this long, when some other local community websites have fallen by the wayside over time. The immediate need is for some

additional help with the website and social media. This has been said before, but is now becoming critical. Without it, there will be lengthy periods when the website will not be updated, and its continuation will be in doubt. Basically, I need some cover for when I am away (on holiday?! or busy on other activities).

The good news is that all the hard (and in some cases tedious) work has already been done. A stable and secure structure is very well-established and a massive amount of content is already in place. Richard Flint continues to provide the vital technical maintenance and support. I just need someone to help with the day-to-day news and events, monitoring incoming queries and keeping an eye on social media. It could be a good opportunity for someone to learn new skills (especially WordPress), or alternatively for someone to bring new ideas and a new perspective to what we do. Young or old, skilled or unskilled, in short you need to have just a little spare time available to help out occasionally. Training resources are available and I can show you the ropes by Zoom or similar. We look forward to hearing from you and welcoming new members to the team.

For more information, go to
www.slingsbyvillage.co.uk/get-involved or email
admin@slingsbyvillage.co.uk

Jon Boots

Slingsby All Saints' Church

There's little to report in this issue of The Triangle, however we are shortly moving towards a new team supporting the church, which is very exciting. Full details will be in the next Triangle, when our understanding of what is or isn't possible due to Covid and what we hope to offer over the Summer should have emerged.

Over Easter, Rev. Martin Allwood is holding a Good Friday service at 10:30am at Amotherby, Easter Sunday at 10:30am outside at Hovingham and Palm Sunday outside at Slingsby, also 10:30am.

Kate Giles

Brickyard Bulletin

The NFA's 2021 - We were runners up!!! (But proud finalists)

What a winter! December and January together delivered us about 11 inches of rain, against a long-term average of 5". February was one of the wettest, and saw both the coldest and hottest temperatures for many a year. We have seen bulbs emerge early and beet damaged by both water logging and -9 frosts. And once again a disrupted cropping plan. Who'd be a blimmin farmer!

Our cover crops and bird feed plots have showed their worth though – on a recent walk we spotted a pair of Curlews and some Yellow Hammers, among other birds, which is encouraging. The cover has gone down with the frosts, but has protected the land from too much of a beating from the incessant rain, fed the worms and provided cover for birds. Pleasing. The February sunshine also allowed a brief window to turn and bale the last of 2020's straw!

We have now (finally) managed to harvest our sugar beet, bit by bit, and are nearly through delivering it to Newark, albeit with some quite disappointing results, mostly due to a lower-than-normal sugar content. The good thing to come from the frosty weather has been a good control of aphid vectors, which means that the neonic seed dressing that was granted a conditional reprieve isn't (or at least shouldn't be) required. For the first time in very many years, the crop has been adversely affected by both weather and virus all the way down the country, from Ryedale to Essex. Challenging times indeed for the UK beet industry, particularly with competition from tariff-free foreign sugar (where chemicals banned here can be legally used).

The crimson clover seed for my inter row trial has arrived, so let's hope for some positivity from that!

In February, our 'Royal' (the variety, that is!) potato sets arrived from Scotland. We have crated them up in wire cages called Blackburn crates to chit. These let the light and air to the tubers, to produce a short, strong little chit to get them off to a good start next month. I well remember emptying hundredweight hessian sacks into three wooden trays apiece, and stacking them in the chitting house at Porch Farm in the 1980's – my back aches at the memory! (and I was nobbut a lad then!)



This last week we fitted wide tyres to a light tractor and managed to get some fertilizer spread – a lower dose than normal, due to colder and wetter weather, but hungry crops were starting to suffer, and had to have a feed. It's a bit wet to spread muck yet, or drill much spring corn.

Next week we finally start washing 'Brooke' potatoes for Walkers crisps (the pandemic has slowed sales, and hence potato movements) and loading out 'Innovator' potatoes for McDonalds fries. We will also have a visit from a mobile seed dresser to clean our farm-saved spring barley and oat seed – this is quite a bit cheaper than buying in new seed.

Due to the Government's new targets for Bioethanol in petrol, both Viviergo, in Hull, and the Ensus BioEthanol plant in Teeside have started sourcing wheat from the market ready for a start-up next spring. In an area surrounded by feed mills, this increases demand for Yorkshire wheat considerably. Hence after some research, I have sourced some 'Chillam' spring wheat seed, to sow instead of some of our planned spring barley area this season.

As we go to press, some details of the Government's Sustainable Farm Initiative is starting to be released, so I will watch with interest. There's always plenty to think about!

Stay safe everyone.

Andrew Wilson

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Two photographs of Barry Lumley's blacksmith's outbuilding, taken 110 years apart! The first shows blacksmith Basil Swann, with William H. Maynard on the horse. He was groom to W. Brown of South Holme. Taken in 1910. Photo supplied by Malcolm Dixon. The second one, taken in 2010, shows how little has really changed!



Lawrence Miles Johnson.

1924 – 2021



On January 27th Slingsby lost another of our village stalwarts when Lawrence Johnson died in York Hospital. We will miss seeing him sitting on the bench outside his bungalow among his lovely flowers.

Lawrence was born in Scackleton in 1924, he went to the local school, and on leaving school he went to work with his dad who was a gardener on the Wigginthorpe Estate. He then went farming for Mr. Bulifant, first at Scackleton then at Claxton where his first job was to take 2 shire horses from Scackleton to Claxton – a hard task for an 18-year-old. From then on Lawrence loved anything to do with animals especially horses.

Pat and Lawrence were married in Brandsby in April and were happily married for 65 years. They have 3 children Michael, Susan and Robert and now have 4 grandsons and 5 great grandchildren.

Lawrence decided to return to gardening, and with 2 friends set up 'Easingwold landscaping'. Sid and Lawrence decided to see the world travelling to Russia in the middle of the Cold War, where Sid was nearly imprisoned for taking photos – he did have his camera smashed. Lawrence and his partners laid out the grounds of Mount Grace Priory and laid the first turf for York University.

Lawrence loved sport, especially darts, playing for Slingsby and all over Ryedale. He loved people, especially children, and so many of us remember

having a chat with him. He also had a deep love of music, singing along to Songs of Praise every Sunday.

Lawrence never gave in to pain, keeping cheerful despite it – his 80th birthday was celebrated with a jolly party in Malton Hospital. Pat would like to thank the carers who helped her and Lawrence in recent months. She would also like to say a big thank you to all her fabulous neighbours – "I love them all" and to everyone who stood outside to pay respects to Lawrence. Rest in Peace.

Pat Thompson

An Act of Kindness!

Early on in the winter months, I opened my front door to find a beautiful pansy in a plant pot, a lovely present to receive. My donors were the 'Sowers and Growers' group, which, under normal circumstances, meet regularly in the village hall for talks or to go to interesting gardens.

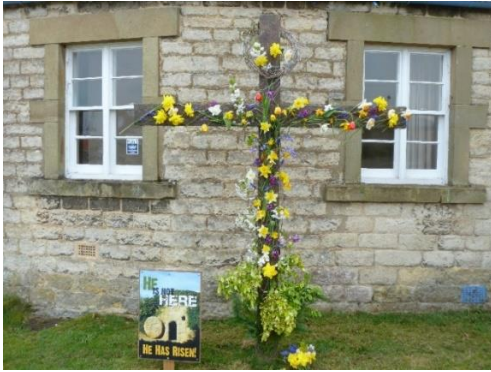
There was an intriguing note on the plant pot, telling me that there was a 'Spring Surprise' hidden in the pot. I planted the pansy and wondered what was in store. All was revealed yesterday as I approached my planter and spotted the beautiful miniature daffodil and a couple of crocuses, standing proud! To quote part of a children's rhyme, 'Goodbye winter, hello Spring, it's a new start for everything!'

A lovely act of kindness that meant so much to me, personally, as I have been in lockdown like many of you. Thank you to my donors and here is a photo of my surprise!

Kay Hill



Chapel News



Soupa Lunch is going really well with around 40 meals being delivered to people's homes on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. The next ones will be on 21st April and 19th May so do get in touch if you would like adding to our list. We especially want to help the elderly and those who live alone. Contact Stephen & Rachel Prest on 628277.

We have had no services at chapel since 3rd January. During this time we have been having a short service on Zoom every Sunday morning. Many friends have been joining us from Slingsby Parish Church and also from nearby villages. The fellowship is wonderful, and this led to us having a second zoom meeting after the service, allowing more time for a chat with each other over coffee and biscuits, often chocolate biscuits for some!

We will be joining our friends at the Parish Church on Palm Sunday. Sadly, due to restrictions still in place we will not be able to process around the village as we have done in the past. We are reopening chapel for worship on Easter Sunday. Although we are still not allowed to sing with gusto "Thine be the glory, Risen conquering Son", it will be wonderful to join together as we worship Our Risen Saviour. You will be very welcome to join us.

We will also be decorating the wooden cross, which is outside next to the chapel, with some flowers on Easter morning. We would like to keep the cross decorated for as long as possible. It was amazing how many people of all ages enjoyed putting flowers on the cross last year. Thank you! Please help us again this year. There will be flowers left near the cross (hopefully) or perhaps you may have some in your own gardens you would like to bring. It really did brighten the village up last year and brought comfort and joy to a lot of people.

We do pray for brighter days ahead. We have all experienced so many changes and restrictions while in lockdown, but one thing we do know, Jesus never changes. In Hebrews chapter 13 v 8 it reads 'Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. Hallelujah, what a Saviour'!

Stephen Prest and Audrey Foster

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CASTLE HOWARD



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Slingsby Local History Group

We hope very much to be able to get back to regular meetings after Easter, so taking a deep breath and with fingers crossed, here are some suggestions to look forward to with some **provisional** dates, obviously depending on whether the 'great unlocking' goes to plan. We are hedging our bets by thinking about outdoor activities where we can.

We hope to be able to use the church for gatherings quite soon. With the necessary risk assessments and social distancing, we shall be able to accommodate up to 20 people. There is an efficient sound system so even if we are spaced apart, we can hear.

Tuesday 18th May - in All Saints Church. 7.30 pm Chris Churches will tell us about her transcribing and research arising from the Snowball papers.

Tuesday 15th June – 'Understanding what is hidden in what we see every day' - guided walk with Kate and Margaret to take a look at some of the key architectural and historic features and stories of the houses and other buildings in Slingsby Village. 7 pm Meet at The Green.

Tuesday 20th July - 'Understanding what is hidden in what we see every day' - part 2. Complete the guided walk with Kate and Margaret taking in the second half of the village not covered the first time around.

All these dates to be confirmed nearer the time.

Dates still to be arranged:

Lecture about the Castle: Kate and Margaret as originally proposed for July 2020.

Hidden Gardens - visit to Castle Gardens in Malton with Chris Churches and Margaret to hear the history of Malton Castle and the Great Mansion built by the Eure Family.

Further headstone recording with Professor Harold Mytum.

Sorting out our archive: Lockdown has prevented us from filling the new archive cabinet. If you would like to help with this and would like to join a rota to look through things and get them catalogued please contact either Margaret or Kate.

Inspecting the archive: we shall also be arranging a session later in the year for the whole group to look at some of our maps and other documents in the archive.

Margaret Mackinder

Slingsby School

It has been great to have all our children returning to Slingsby School after another long difficult period of lockdown. All those at home have been fantastic in keeping up with their learning, but we're sure their parents and carers are enjoying not having to teach English, maths and the rest of the curriculum anymore - alongside their day-to-day work!

As we did last term, we continue to work closely with NYCC and Public Health England to ensure Covid-safe systems are in place in school. The staff are also now undertaking twice-weekly lateral flow testing at home, and recently the government have announced that families of children attending school can sign up to receive home-testing kits. We are strongly encouraging this in order to keep our school and surrounding community safe.

All the children have settled back in really well and we have wasted no time in getting down to working hard, there have been some very tired eyes at the end of a day! But also, really importantly we are giving the children time to re-socialise and play with their friends too, which we know they have greatly missed. Between the core subjects, we have managed to fit in some arts and crafts for Mothers' Day and FOSS are kindly helping us to organise some fun Easter activities too. We are also having a non-uniform fundraising day for Red Nose Day which will be fun!

We are so proud of all our children for the way that they have coped and adapted this last year and are very much keeping everything crossed for a full and happy Summer term.

Miss Hope & Mrs Massey

School Business Managers
Slingsby C P School
Tel: 01653 628370

Yorkshire Arboretum update



(note that this was written in early March to catch Triangle publication date – Ed)

At long last we have a roadmap towards a return to normality, and the arboretum is expected to open for *local visitors* on 20th March.

Coming out of a long period of closure is a bit like a bear heaving itself out of hibernation; there's a lot of catching up to do. As I write, building works are in the final stages of the 'snagging' process and we expect to be able to welcome visitors through our new reception area, but there's a lot of tidying, cleaning and reorganisation of furniture to do first. We have to bring staff out of furlough and get them up to speed with the new arrangements at reception, prepare ticketing and so on.

The weather has not been on our side this winter so the necessary work on the car park and access to the building was delayed: it has looked like a frozen section of the Somme for much of the winter.

The Arboretum Café is open for a simple menu of takeaway refreshments – this includes cake over the Easter Weekend from Good Friday, and will then operate a 5-day week Thursday to Monday until mid-May when we hope full normal service can resume. All reopening dates are subject to government guidance at the time.

With gatherings prohibited for some time yet we have arranged a short series of Zoom talks for the spring. These are open to all and we hope that a wide range of people will be able to attend and enjoy them before we can start a normal programme of events and activities later in the summer.

The arboretum itself is drying out – it has been atrociously boggy for months – and the first cherry buds are breaking. Let's hope for another glorious spring with steady progress towards the end of all restrictions.

John Grimshaw

Slingsby Produce and Pumpkin Show

With restrictions now being eased and coronavirus vaccinations going so well we are very hopeful that the show will go ahead on Saturday 11th September, so we do hope you will plan for this and plant lots of seeds and flowers in preparation for a very special bumper show. Classes will be much the same as at the last show but there will be more details in the next Triangle. If you want more details in the meantime please contact Trudy Carr on 628302 or Stephen Prest on 628277.

Stephen Prest

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Albert Jerrams

50 years ago, the name Albert H. Jerrams was one known to many Slingsby locals and to scores of Ryedale farmers too. Despite the fact that many will not remember him now, many people in Slingsby will know his daughter, Trudy Carr.



Albert and Trudy on the lawn at Mowbray Rise.

Albert was born in 1907 at Brompton-by-Sawdon, the eldest of five children, to farmers Emma and George Jerrams. He came to live at Church Cottage, Slingsby, with Mrs. Daisy Coupland, then the headmistress of Slingsby School, in order to be in the catchment area for Malton Grammar, which he then attended. When Mrs. Coupland later moved to Grey Gables up High Street, Albert moved too.



Picture above shows Albert as a very young man, probably taken in the 1920's



Picture shows Albert in his WWII Home Guard uniform, in the garden of Church View, with All saints' Church in the background.

After leaving Malton Grammar School he spent four years at Malton Estate Office at the time when Col. Diggle was the agent. He then left Malton Estate to work at R. Yates and Sons, agricultural engineers of Railway St., Malton, where he stayed for 42 years until his retirement in 1973.

Initially Albert joined the clerical staff at Yates' in 1931 but then transferred to the sales side of the business. Horses were common on farms in the 1930's and when Yates was approached by tractor manufacturers to become agents for them, the company was initially sceptical. However, WWII sped up the introduction of machinery, to the detriment of horse power.

Albert continued with the outdoor sales activities until just before he retired. He had a long association with Helmsley, Scarborough and Seamer markets, which he attended for over 30 years.

In 1941 Albert was elevated to the position of Secretary of Yates and then director in the 1950's. During the 1960's Yates underwent a large expansion programme in their business, requiring Albert to give more attention to office work.

In 1960 he eloped with Joyce, who he had met at Yates', where Joyce had worked for some 20 years. They got married at Bridlington Registry office and lived temporarily with a relative in Norton. They managed to get together enough money to buy

some land on Green Dyke Lane from Mrs. Cundill, where they built a bungalow, which they called Mowbray Rise, and moved in during October 1962



Albert on the Yates' stand, selling Ransomes' equipment, probably at a local show.



Albert at Smithfield Show in 1952

At his retirement he was presented with a precision wrist-watch by Harry Ellis, who himself had worked for the company since before WWI and was still employed as a part-time mechanic some sixty years later!

At home Albert loved his garden. He had a few hens, where the garden orchard is now, but he had previously kept some Saddleback pigs in the sand-pit, which is now Robin Hood Caravan Park. He was a regular attendee at the village Reading Room, now part of the school, and always competed at the

village Produce Show, where he was also on the committee, which is probably why Trudy still continues her role as Secretary to this day.

Albert died at home in 1977. The very large congregation at All Saints', Slingsby testifies to the high regard in which he was held, not only in the village but also amongst the business community in Malton and beyond. Part of the donation to the church was used to make an oak box to hold the valuable church Communion Cup and Patten, dedicated on July 17th 1977, his wedding anniversary.



Albert on the Yates stand at a local show, supervising some children on one of the new tractors.



Albert at the wheel of a Fordson tractor, probably taken outside Yates' premises in Malton.

*David Thornley
with thanks to Trudy Carr*

The Mowbray Oak



The Mowbray Oak is an old tree growing in what was formerly known as Priests' Park off Church Lane, Slingsby; but much more than that it is an 'ancient' tree of significant importance. The origin of the name of the tree is unknown and although the Mowbray family-owned lands in Slingsby in the latter part of the 12th century, the tree does not date back to those times.

Until about thirty years ago these old trees were not given much credence nationally and were considered by some as merely a good source of local firewood. However, in early 1993 a group of multidisciplinary experts came together to form the Ancient Tree Forum when it became more and more evident that these trees were of significant cultural, biological and wildlife interest.

It is estimated that there are more ancient trees in Britain than the whole of Europe put together. William the Conqueror (1066-1087) imposed numerous oppressive regulations to preserve hunting habitats, which forbade the people to clear and cultivate waste land, restricted their rights of cutting wood for building and fuel, and of pasturing their animals on the wastes, and even made it an offence to enclose their crops against the deer. Areas within the forest and outside were designated as Parks, Hays, Warrens and Chases. A further reason why many of these trees survive today is because in the last four hundred years we have had a period of relative calm when the requirement for timber for war-like operations was less than in more volatile countries of Europe.

The Ancient Tree Forum classifies trees into the following categories:

Ancient trees, Veteran tree, Heritage trees, Notable and Champion trees

What is the definition of an 'Ancient' tree?

The exact age at that a tree is ancient depends on the species of tree and other factors including the type of site where it's growing. A birch tree could be considered as ancient at 150 years old, for example, but an oak tree would not be thought of as ancient until it's at least 400 years old. Yew trees can live for thousands of years, so are not defined as ancient until they are 800 years old. It is often difficult to estimate how old an ancient tree is, but one method used, alongside considering the ancient characteristics, is to measure the girth of the trunk usually at 1.5m from the ground.

Characteristics of an ancient tree depend on the species, and on factors such as the site and conditions under which they have grown. However, they have three key features:

- A low, fat and squat shape – because the crown has retrenched (reduced in size) through age
- A wide trunk compared with others of the same species
- Hollowing of the trunk (not always visible)
- Biologically ancient trees are host to numerous insects and fungi that depend on them for their mere existence.

Veteran trees: Unlike an ancient tree, a veteran tree can be any age, but it is a tree which shows ancient characteristics such as those above. These may not just be due to age, but could result from natural damage, management, or the tree's environment. Ancient trees are all veterans, but not all veterans are ancient.

Heritage trees: A heritage tree is one that is **part of our history and culture**, and can be connected with specific historic events or people, such as the Major Oak in Sherwood Forest or the Tolpuddle Martyr's Tree in Dorset. Other heritage trees may simply have particular appeal because of their appearance, landscape character or architectural setting, and have therefore become well-known landmarks in their local communities. There are also heritage trees such as the Thorpeness Apple, which are valued for their great botanical interest, for example as rare native trees or cultivars of historic interest.

Notable trees: The term notable tree usually refers to **a tree which is significant locally**, because it is special or particularly large compared with the trees around it. Notable trees are usually mature, but not always; Wellingtonias for example, can appear to be huge even when quite young.

Champion trees: A champion tree is one which is the tallest, or has the widest girth, of its kind in a specific

Owing to the girth of the tree the Mowbray Oak is classified as an Ancient tree. I last measured its girth around 2000 when it measured 5.7m which equates to an age of 400-450 years old. Little is recorded about the history of the tree but reference is made to it in the book 'Slingsby and Slingsby Castle' by Rev. Arthur St. Claire Brooke (1904). In 1845 the tree had a girth of 17 feet (5.2m) and in 1903 it measured 18 feet (5.5m.) In the 1870's it was struck by lightning leaving a scar

which is still evident today. During the 1980's a fire caused damage inside the tree which had to be dealt with by the local fire brigade but thankfully the tree survived and today appears quite healthy for its age.



The left-hand photograph above shows the large scar most likely caused by the lightning strike in the 1870's. The right-hand photograph is taken from inside the tree looking up showing the tree to be completely hollow. This hollowing is completely natural in a tree's decline. Only the outer thin section of the tree is actually live wood which serves to conduct water and nutrients up and down the tree. A hollow structure is a very strong structure. This was demonstrated during the 1987 gales when many of the solid trees in Windsor Great Park collapsed leaving the hollow trees standing. The tree has also retrenched or reduced in height over the years to enable natural protection from winds forming a regenerated lower crown to sustain itself.

The tree is visible from Church Lane, growing on private land, can be viewed from the public right of way that runs north south to the east of the tree. Whilst the planting date of the Mowbray Oak is unknown planting dates of many ancient trees throughout Britain are known and their trunk girths recorded providing an estimate of the age of similar trees growing in similar circumstances.

So, the next time you are walking the footpaths and hedgerows around Slingsby and come across an old tree take a moment to think about the history it may have endured and the contribution it is making to local biodiversity. If you want to learn more about ancient trees visit the Ancient tree forum website <https://www.ancienttreeforum.org.uk/>

Significant dates in the life of the Mowbray Oak and an estimate of its various life stages:

When the tree was probably a young sapling or a young tree:

1603 James VI of Scotland crowned James I of England.

1605 The gunpowder plot

1620 The Pilgrim Fathers set sail to the Americas on the Mayflower from Plymouth in Devon.

1642-1646 The first English civil war

When the tree was semi-mature:

1776 American Declaration of Independence from Britain.

1805 Victory at the battle of Trafalgar

1825 Stockton and Darlington Steam Railway opens, the world's first public railway to use steam locomotives.

When the tree was in the mature stage of its life with a full crown but possibly the beginnings of hollowing:

1835 Christmas becomes a national holiday

1837 Queen Victoria comes to the throne

1851 The Great Exhibition held in London

When the tree begins it further decline and retrenchment:

1854-56 Crimean War

1876 Alexandra Graham Bell invents the telephone

From here on the tree becomes completely hollow:

1988 The tree is protected by Ryedale District Council under a Tree Preservation Order

2007 John Clayton takes part in a Radio York interview with representatives from the Ancient Tree Forum from inside the Mowbray Oak.

John Clayton

Alabama Rot warning to dog owners

The Triangle was recently tipped off about the existence of Alabama Rot. With a rather alarming name this is a deadly serious and local problem which affects dogs. If you look on The Kennel Club's and other websites you will see a map of known outbreaks, the nearest to us being Easingwold, however it is known to exist near Hovingham and Slingsby. The disease, correctly known as Cutaneous and Renal Glomerular Vasculopathy (CRGV) started in the 1980's in greyhounds around Alabama, USA, but it has now spread to the UK. It must be stressed that it is still very rare in the UK but it is usually fatal if left untreated.

Alabama Rot affects dogs' legs and feet and is most prevalent in winter and spring. It is a parasitic disease usually from muddy woodland soil. The first external signs of the disease are painful skin lesions, sores and ulcers, usually around the paws and lower legs; they can also appear on the dog's face, mouth, tongue and lower body. Usually, this will cause hair loss around the area, as well as excessive licking. The licking of infected areas takes in the parasite, which travels to the kidneys and often causes death, even in young and otherwise healthy dogs. Reduced appetite, drinking more, vomiting and lethargy are signs of acute kidney injury.

At the moment there is no known cure for Alabama Rot, however as a precaution it is recommended that the dog's paws and lower legs are washed immediately they get home from walkies and therefore before they start licking. Remember, the majority of visible skin lesions will not be caused by Alabama Rot disease while most cases of kidney failure will be a result of another cause, however it is wise to get the vet to check your dog before it becomes too advanced.

Our thanks go to a local dog lover for this warning.

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Late running

During the last few years of Slingsby's station existence trains very rarely ran in the hours of darkness. When this was known about in advance it was Fred Wright's task at Slingsby, the day or so before, to light the two paraffin lamps on the level crossing gates, and in the four signals, the Down and Up worked Home and Down and Up fixed Distant.

Basically, such trains were restricted to Ampleforth College specials and associated empty stock movements to/from Gilling in mid-December (pupils going on holiday) and late January (pupils returning to school). For example, my records show that on the 19th December 1962 empty stock trains were scheduled to pass Slingsby at 6:48am and 7:15am, returning at 7:55am and 8:19am. On the 22nd January 1963 the two Ampleforth College specials passed Slingsby at 6:14pm and 6:41pm, returning empty stock at 7:18pm and 8:17pm.

There were two exceptions to this in 1963, requiring lamps to be lit. On the 6th June the annual excursion from Kirbymoorside, organised by the Helmsley porter-signalman, on this occasion went to King's Lynn. In previous years these trains went via Pilmoor, but with the connection to the East Coast Main line severed in March 1963, there was no option but for it to travel via Malton. This necessitated some useful overtime for the porter-signalmen on the branch, compensation for a lack of sleep! The empty stock was timed to pass Slingsby at 4:44am, the Excursion at 7:27am. At 12:15am on the 7th the return Excursion from King's Lynn passed Slingsby, with the empty stock not returning until the unearthly time of 2:48am!

On the 5th July a Private Excursion returning from Chester to Gilling actually called to set down passengers at Slingsby 10:54pm, the empty stock passing Slingsby 11:54pm

Charles Allenby

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Stephen's farming column

Thankfully we are coming to the end of what seems to have been a long and very wet winter. A lot of farmland has been flooded at various times and the ground is still wet and cold, although having said that the drilling of spring crops on the drier land particularly spring barley is well under way. Commodity prices are very mixed at the moment. On the one hand wheat is in short supply and spot prices are around £200 per tonne, which is a good price, whereas pig prices have dropped very low mainly because of problems exporting into Europe. There was supposed to be a trading agreement with the EU but working it out in practice is proving quite challenging.

One bit of good news this week is that The Great Yorkshire Show will go ahead on the 13th – 15th July, so that is something to look forward to, but sadly most local agricultural shows have had to cancel their events.

I took part in 2 bird counts this year including The Big Garden Bird Count, where I recorded 17 species, and then the GWCT Big Farmland Bird Count, where I recorded another 8 different species including a Barn Owl, Buzzard and a Kestrel. There is no doubt that many traditional farmland birds have suffered serious declines such as lapwing, yellowhammer, skylark and grey partridge.

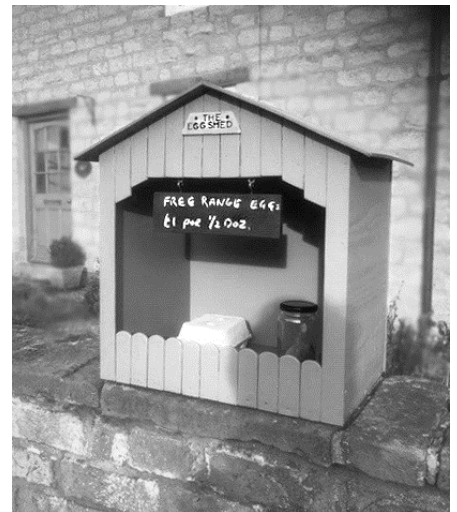
Picture shows a Sparrowhawk after the little birds around my bird feeders.

Stephen Prest



The Egg Shed

A big thank you for all supporters to The Egg shed located on the wall outside Orchard Cottage. All produce for preserves (except the oranges) came from our



garden as did the eggs from our free-range hens. Sadly, no more preserves until late summer when the new crops and fruits are ready. Empty jam jars are much appreciated please. I have also enjoyed making bread a couple of times a week and will continue to do so. I'm happy to take on any commissions and orders. (628128)

All proceeds have been split between All Saints Church and John's charity - York Young Carers. Thank you all and can't wait for lockdown to end and some normality to return

Chrysta Apps.

Volunteers wanted

Could you help us to preserve this extraordinary family home as a national treasure for future generations?

We are looking for volunteer Room Stewards to share the stories of Castle Howard's rich history, bring to life our amazing collections, and help our visitors enjoy their time in this special place.

Join our friendly and supportive team, have a chance to get to know our historic buildings and stunning landscapes from behind the scenes, learn new skills and meet new people. No specialist skills or previous experience are required and we have opportunities available throughout the week.

To find out more and apply for roles, visit www.castlehoward.co.uk/get-involved/volunteer

Sophie Allenby

Cairn for Easter

All Saints Church and the Methodist Chapel have jointly erected a cairn on the village green to celebrate, Easter, Spring and as a thanksgiving for the light at the end of the covid pandemic tunnel.

All villagers, adults and children are invited to add stones to the cairn, these can be to celebrate or remember anything. Paints were available from the Chapel courtesy of Rachel Carmichael.

Villagers were asked to celebrate their families and friends, those they have lost, Spring, The NHS, The Easter message or anything they wish to remember and rejoice. It is expected that the Cairn will remain in place until after Easter.

The Cairn was made and erected by John Apps and John Senior, with support from Geoff Bishop.

Chrysta Apps



Completed cairn with John Apps, Geoff Bishop and John Senior. The cairn has just been placed so needs a lot more stones and pebble yet!

Events for your diary

As there is no Pink Pages in this issue, please make a note in your diaries of the following future events at Castle Howard in August:

Our live music weekend is set to take place from 20th - 22nd August 2021 and discounted early bird tickets are available until 31st March.

Friday 20th August – Café Mambo Ibiza

Saturday 21st August Castle Howard Proms

Sunday 22nd August – Queen Symphonia

Friends of Castle Howard are entitled to a discount, the discount code should have been received by email on 15th March

Hovingham Cricket Club

We are looking for new players, umpires, scorers and supporters to come down to one of the most picturesque grounds in the country. We run two teams on a Saturday in the York and district league, and an evening team (not on the same night as Slingsby), so there are plenty of opportunities for all abilities and age groups.

Please contact Stuart Prest 07720941090 or Richard John 07368579269 for more details, or look on our Facebook page - Hovingham Cricket Club. Many thanks.

Stuart Prest



Above: just a reminder of happier days to come when we can legally go to the seaside again! Below are two male pheasants. Both photos by Lesley Clay

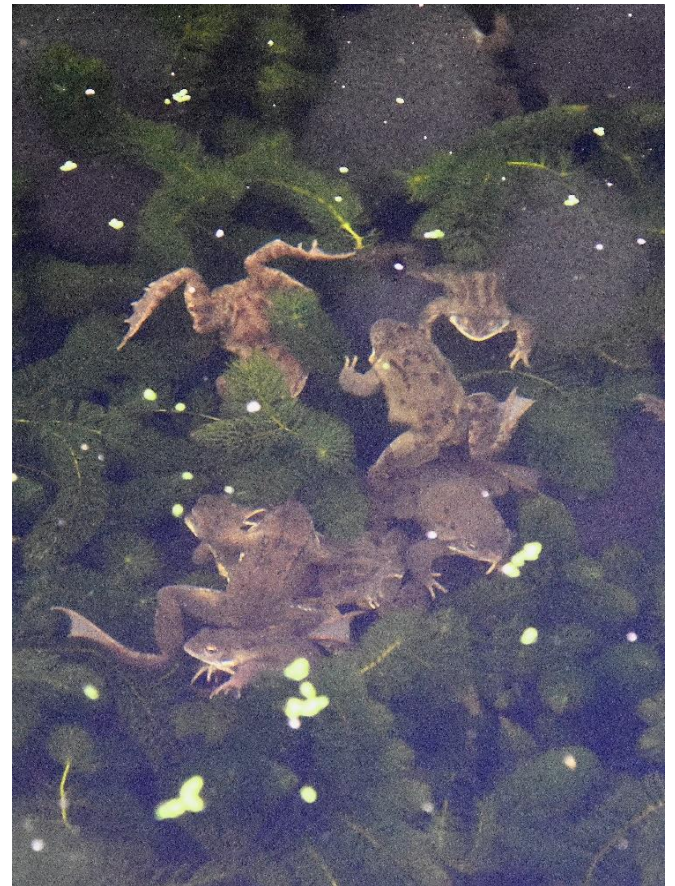


Photo above shows happy time for these huge male frogs! One female is clung onto by several males eager to mate. Unfortunately, this can result in her drowning as she can't get to the surface to breathe. The spawn is in clumps at the top of the picture. Photo by David Thornley



Coronavirus: NHS Text Alerts



- The NHS are trialling a new mobile phone text service, making it easier and more convenient for people to book their life-saving covid vaccine.
- The text message will show as being sent from 'NHSvaccine' and will include a link to the NHS.uk website.
- The NHS will never ask you for payment or banking details. If you are unsure about a text message you have received, you can call 119 to book your appointment.