

## A Big Thank You

The editors would like to take this opportunity to extend a big thank you to everyone who has supported the Messenger over the years and it's quite a long list. Born out of the 2006 Osmotherley Area Parish Plan the first issue appeared on May 1<sup>st</sup> 2007 and is delivered to homes in and around Osmotherley, Thimbleby and Ellerbeck; it is a community newsletter, produced by the community for the community.

First of all thanks to the parish council who financed the initial setting-up of the newsletter, we are grateful to them for their support at that time and ongoing; in particular thanks to Tim Swales. We are proud that the newsletter is self-sufficient, being financed by adverts and we have not had to call on the parish for further financial support. We do rely on the parish clerk to collect the monies for adverts this pays the printing costs and even produces a small surplus. So thank you to John Robinson and the previous clerk Len Cragg.

The most important parts of our *organisation* are the distributors; those kindly souls who plod the streets of the villages in all weathers to ensure you all have your first of the month reading matter. There's quite a long list of these and further recruits and reserves are always welcome. Some have been doing it for the full ten years, some have managed to escape and been replaced, but we hope the following role of honour is complete.

*James Downey, Mike Read, Margaret Hobbs, Margaret Holmes Sharon Pitts, Shona Padbury, Tim Swales, Tracey Swales, Swales Garage, Hugh Thompson, Laura Wilson, Eileen Webb, Jane Thorniley-Walker, Dave Morris, Chris Brown, Briege Cafferty, Dawn Austin, Tea & Coffee Shop, Michael Kitching, Golden Lion, Three Tuns, Queen Catherine Hotel, Top Shop, Gill Hinton, Louise Brooks and Helen Cameron.*

Thank you to all our contributors. Over the years the editors have built up an *informants* list of people who contribute articles, adverts etc. and these people are sent a monthly reminder of the copy deadline. However, everyone in the community is welcome to contribute and we do try to publish everything that is sent to us, although it's important we maintain editorial control. So if you have anything that you believe will be of interest to the residents of the Osmotherley area please do send it to us. The details of the editors, the relevant email address, and the deadline for copy, are included on the back of each edition.

Finally we'd like to thank our advertisers who finance the newsletter. There's limited space for adverts but we try to ensure those we include are local and relevant to the community.

Back copies of the newsletter are available on the Osmotherley website and we have now introduced a subscription email version for those who prefer to read online or live in the village virtually and need a reminder.

To sign up go to <http://www.osmotherley.org.uk/newsletter/>



### MOSAIC WORKSHOP

Saturday 8 April, 10am – 4pm

Garden Studio, Black Hambleton House

19 Back Lane, Osmotherley

Do you fancy trying your hand at mosaic at this one-day workshop? We will be decorating individual indoor ceramic pots suitable for your spring bulbs or even Easter eggs! All materials will be provided, as well as lunch and refreshments through the day. Lots of images will be provided as inspiration for the designs, but everyone is also welcome to bring any design ideas with them. The pots will be grouted and finished following the workshop and will be ready for collection in time for Easter. £50 per person.

To book a place, please contact Jane Thorniley-Walker on tel: 01609 883311 or email [jtw.publishing@googlemail.com](mailto:jtw.publishing@googlemail.com)

### LET' EM ROLL! Casino evening

The village hall committee will be holding a casino evening on Friday 5th May at 7.30pm. £15 per ticket includes a glass of fizz on arrival, canapés, Roulette, Blackjack and a DJ. For tickets please contact Leanne Robinson on 883128. Dress to impress. Take a chance and join us for an evening of fun!





## Sheepwash in the Bronze Age

It is easy to wander across the remote heather-covered moors around Cod Beck and feel that the landscape is timeless and untouched. However, such an impression is far from true: four thousand years ago, this deforested upland was an agricultural and cultural hub.

The prehistoric activities on Scarthwood Moor have been the focus of interest for over a hundred years. Whilst Victorian intervention resulted in the likely loss of burial goods, more scholarly research from the 1930s recorded the Bronze Age round barrows and massive boulder walling, including the standing stones known as the 'Seven Sisters' or 'Seven Stones'. More recently, investigations have extended the knowledge of up to 15 barrows, uncovered flint-knapping sites and sought to explain the purpose of the linear stone boundary and earthworks. In the past few years, the

clearance of the bracken has provided the opportunity for more in-depth exploration. The known 82m of walling, tentatively termed as an incomplete 'cross-ridge dyke' has now been shown to extend over 800m, into the more marshy zones, as a double rather than single line of orthostatic walling. This impressive boundary would most likely have served a symbolic rather than defensive role and would have required hundreds of man-hours to complete. Other Bronze Age features, comprising possible aligned stones and numerous burial cists have also been found along a hollow way dissecting the wall. Last month, a dislodged Bronze Age stone with precisely chiselled geometric decoration was found at this spot.

The new finds at Sheepwash raise as many questions as they answer – the connections between possible field systems, burial and ceremonial sites, and stone alignments all need further research. However, the investigations have revealed exciting evidence for an extensive and complex Bronze Age landscape – home to a thriving community for as long as Osmotherley itself.

Robert Thorniley-Walker will lead a walk Thurs 20th April 5.30pm from Sheepwash main car park. Please bring suitable boots for the bogs and rough ground.

*Jane and Robert Thorniley-Walker*

## Thoughts from the Tea and Coffee Shop

When I bought Osmotherley Walking Shop nine years ago I little realised what an amazing community I was coming to live in. That the area is gorgeous is clear for all to see; what is less obvious is the heart of the village. The events, the community groups, the various regular users of the village hall, the theatre, the pubs, the shop, the gossip and the care shown to those who need it.

Having changed from the Walking Shop to the Tea & Coffee Shop I see some of the same customers - the

walkers - and these are now joined by cyclists, day tourists and longer term visitors staying in the hotels, B&Bs and the campsite. This winter seems to have been particularly busy and every day that the weather is decent there will be people here - lots of 'retired early' since the pension changes a couple of years ago. Not many are put off by parking/driving through the village which can be problematic at times.

A regular suggestion is a car park in the centre of the village; a prospect that will, I think, require careful consideration and management in order to be truly beneficial

to both visitors & residents.

I appreciate being able to live and work in such a vibrant community and enjoy receiving the Messenger every month, keeping everything in touch with everything else; an essential part of Osmotherley life. I have spare copies in the shop for visitors to browse through and it is regularly complimented.

Thank you to all those who put it together & deliver it - I look forward to another 100 editions!

*Fiona Manners*

Housing Need Surveys -it's not too late to submit any Housing Need Surveys but the online surveys have closed.

Residents are reminded that if they are in housing need and wish to stay in Osmotherley they should register their need with [amanda.madden@hambleton.gov.uk](mailto:amanda.madden@hambleton.gov.uk). The only way we can look at a second phase of affordable housing is to have an identified need from local people.