



# Osmotherley Area Messenger

Issue 38

Feb 2011

## Top Shop Meat Thompson Butchers

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**Veg**- JM&S

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## Mount Grace refurbishment

This month, the Osmotherley Area Messenger talked to village resident, Becci Wright, who has worked as a custodian at Mount Grace Priory for nearly twenty years. Becci told us all about the exciting year ahead at the site, with the opening at Easter of two refurbished rooms that have been out of use since the mid-1980s. The staff found out last year that their £100,000 funding bid for redevelopment of these abandoned parts of the house had been successful and since then there has been a whirlwind of research and activity to bring back the rooms to their former turn-of-the-century splendour.



Becci is particularly delighted that the work at Mount Grace will highlight the significance of the house as an Arts and Crafts masterpiece. Much previous work at the site has concentrated on the medieval history of the Carthusian monastery and manor house, but the Edwardian history of the house is equally fascinating. The manor house was bought and restored in 1900 by the wealthy industrialist and art patron, Sir Isaac Lothian Bell, who was an enthusiastic exponent of the 'Arts and Crafts' movement led by William Morris. Morris took inspiration from the craftsmanship of the pre-industrial age, and sought to raise the status of decorative design and reintroduce light and simplicity to interiors.

One of the two refurbished rooms will be entirely dressed in authentic 'Arts and Crafts' furnishings, complete with hand-printed William Morris wallpaper from the original pear-wood blocks. Becci related how there was a fair amount of detective work to identify the design used in the dining room - finally confirmed when remnants of original wallpaper were discovered behind a fitted bookcase. As well as authentic wallpaper, the room will be fitted with Morris and Co furniture sourced and restored by English Heritage. The second refurbished room will be complete with interpretation boards.



Becci hopes that the new rooms will raise visitor numbers from the present rate of 24,000 a year – with better ground-floor attractions for disabled visitors and a nationally-important Arts and Crafts site. The opening will also coincide with the 150th anniversary of Morris and Co. If any residents have photographs or recollections of relevance for the new history displays, Becci would love to hear from you (tel. 883494). A special entrance rate for locals should be available before the opening at Easter – more news on that to follow.

## Dog Poo !!!!!

This morning (Tuesday, 25 January) a number of children went into school and pre-school with 'dog muck' on their shoes which had been picked up on School Lane. To prevent further incidents, a member of pre-school staff went out and cleaned the street.

This is **unacceptable**. It's never pleasant cleaning up after your own dog, but it's even worse cleaning up after someone else's. Please can all dog owners make sure they clean up after their dogs within the villages and surrounding footpaths and dispose of it in a suitable bin. **Enough is enough.**

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# Parish Council

The first item on the agenda of Osmotherley Area Parish Council's January meeting was a presentation given by David Mitchell who had been awarded the Alan Turner Bursary which had then enabled him to compete in the University Mountain Biking Championships at Whistler in British Columbia. David presented a series of photographs showing the area, its scenery and climate and also of encounters with Grizzly Bears in the wild mountains around the resort as well as explaining how he had benefited from the award.

The main meeting was once again dominated by winter conditions and the slow action from Highways. Supplies of salt have now been made available and are stored ready to be used by both Keith the Caretaker and also by anyone with a proper need to treat sections of road or footpaths to help to make these safer for all users. Unfortunately Highways have been very slow in acting and their response when needed has left much to be desired: there were many times when roads were left covered in a blanket of ice and this should never have been allowed to build up.

Hambleton District Council and the County Council are under considerable strain to balance their books and several services are to be severely cut. These include Library services and all users are asked to make their feelings known by responding to the on-line consultation. School transport is also affected and pupils attending Faith schools will no longer have access to a free bus service. Currently the well-used public bus drops off at the centre of Northallerton but is this the best place? Please let your County Council know where you want the bus to stop in town - supermarkets or High Street? A further housing needs survey is to be sent out shortly, please complete and return.

Broadband provision in rural areas is not always as good as it could be but "Nynet" which already serves the schools and other establishments could be opened up as an internet service provider (ISP) instead of other commercial concerns and would give a much faster service than experienced at present, certainly worth considering by anyone within range of a current terminal. Other rural areas have already successfully taken this service on board. The Police report showed that there are still too many opportunist thefts of fuel from either parked vehicles or from farms and outbuildings as well as of hay from a farm. Antisocial behaviour persists at Codbeck and the Police now have nightly patrols to this area to try to prevent an escalation of this. They have also attended where vehicles obstruct the footpaths and have issued fixed penalty notices to the owners. A Neighbourhood Watch meeting has been booked for the evening of the 10th February in the Village Hall, when all are welcome to attend.

## Historic Guide



An acquaintance of Mike Read recently unearthed an old official guide to Northallerton Rural District. It doesn't have a publication date, but if anyone recognises it and can throw any light on it please contact the editors. Included below is an extract from the Guide.

### **Osmotherley**

(7m. E.) The parish of Osmotherley occupies the most easterly part of the District. The River Wiske rises on the western slopes of the Moors and the Cod Beck flows in a half-circle around the village. Osmotherley stands high on the Hambleton Ridge with the Cleveland Hills to the east, and once a market town is still a village of some size. The Chequers Inn is on the side of the Moor, and it is said that a turf fire has been burning continuously there for over two hundred years.

Beside the Market Cross in the centre of the village is a large slab of stone supported on five legs, which was probably used by traders for displaying wares. In the eighteenth century, John Wesley used it as a pulpit, and in 1754 one of the first Methodist chapels to be erected was built at Osmotherley.

The parish church, which probably stands on Norman foundations, has a fifteenth century tower and porch. During restoration work at the end of the last century, evidence of a Saxon apse and other stonework was found. The south aisle and arcade were built at the end of the nineteenth century. The font and doorway are Norman, whilst the interesting chancel arch was rebuilt at the end of the fourteenth century. In the fifteenth century the south chapel was added to receive the tomb of Sir James Strangways and his wife.

*(next issue read the listings for Thimbleby and Ellerbeck)*

# Osmotherley Village Theatre

Following the huge success of *The Good Hope*, the OVT are now in rehearsal for their next production. This time we shall be staging a light-hearted comedy – **Move Over Mrs Markham** – by Ray Cooney and John Chapman. Complications arise when various illicit assignations are planned using the Markhams' supposedly

empty flat. Needless to say, all does not go according to plan, with predictable results. We can guarantee you an evening of entertainment and laughter.

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup>, Friday 25<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.** Book early to avoid disappointment – the last production was a sell-out.

Tickets will be available from 1<sup>st</sup> March. (Friends of Osmotherley Theatre have priority booking – to become a Friend, contact Angela Thomsett on 224).

**The set-building department is looking for help**—we need two louvred doors, a single mattress and some foam sofa cushions

about 200mm deep. We are also looking for: one sash window approx. 4 feet wide; ceiling spotlights (chrome/brushed aluminium or similar - don't need to work); wall lights modernish 70s.

If anyone can help, please contact Jim Whitton on 883443.

# Osmotherley School

Happy New Year everyone from all at Osmotherley Primary School. Thanks to everyone who supported the Christmas plays and those who came along to the Christingle service. It felt like a real community affair! The service raised over £60 for The Children's Society.

This term is another busy one. The Acorns class have a theme 'Sticks Stones and Old Bones' based on archaeology and the study of

Dinosaurs. They have already been outside looking for dinosaur footprints as part of their Forest Schools experience each Monday morning. It will be interesting to see what develops in the corner of the classroom! They are planning a joint day with their peers from Swainby which all sounds very exciting.

The Oaks Class are working on a theme about "Tudors". They are looking at life in Tudor times and the influence

it has had on life today. We have several visits and visitors planned including Curriculum Kitchen – who will be helping the children to prepare and taste some Tudor food. We also have planned a couple of workshops based around Tudor crafts and buildings.

Some children from the Oaks class have been given the opportunity to take part in a Climate Change Exchange at Thirsk Racecourse and will be bringing messages back to

school about how we can improve our eco-status. Years 5 and 6 are involved in two very exciting projects, an animation project and a 'Sing-up' project, both of which involve working with experts in their field. If anyone would like to come along and help in school, either with one of the special projects we are doing or in the classroom, please don't be shy, come along and chat to us. We would love to hear from you.



[www.osmotherleyfilm.co.uk](http://www.osmotherleyfilm.co.uk) for further details see the posters around the village centre (or contact: Chris 883518, Shona 883237, Laura 883096).

Osmotherley Film wishes everyone a Happy New Year! Our last film evening of 2010 was yet another enjoyable evening for all with mulled wine on offer to accompany the sumptuously produced film, 'The Young Victoria'. Both film and refreshments, well received! We greeted 2011, in January, with a piece of cinema history and one of the greatest films of all time, 'The Third Man' (starring Orson Welles); proof, once again, of our ongoing wish to bring a rich array of film to our season for all to enjoy. Again, an enjoyable evening for all.

With the January film evening also came the launch of our 'Members' Choice' shortlist –

that time in our season when the choice of film is thrown open to our members. Always eagerly awaited and the voting always keen; this year's shortlist has a distinct British flavour. Voting will remain open until the end of this month's film evening. The chosen film will be shown in April. (Any Member unable to be with us for January's film, make sure you don't miss out – come along this month to make sure your vote counts!)

Exciting developments are in store as the season continues! **Your Osmotherley Film experience will now be even better than it already was!!**

Our co-operation with Ken Blackwood and Rotary of

Northallerton has been earmarked by Screen Yorkshire and UK Film Council (sadly, soon to be no more) as a prime example of how rural cinema can work – we are the North Yorkshire example! The result is the funding, by UK Film Council, of new state of the art equipment... and that equipment had its first outing at January's film evening.

So, a public thanks to Ken and to Screen Yorkshire for their work and to the UK Film Council for their funding. And thanks to our members whose keen support of Osmotherley Film has meant we are seen as a successful rural film outfit! We hope your support will continue.

**THIS MONTH  
Fri 18<sup>th</sup> Feb -  
Doors open 7.30pm**

*LEMON TREE [2008] Cert. PG 106mins (subtitled) Starring: Hiam Abbass, Rona Lipaz-Michael, Ali Suliman*  
*A beautiful and thought-provoking award-winner. Salma Zidane, a widow, lives simply from her grove of lemon trees in the West Bank's occupied territory. All is to change, however, when an Israeli government minister moves in next door. Modern-day politics collide with the simple human wish to continue a family tradition.*

Guests admitted (must be over 16 yrs of age).  
Guest Fee £5

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Articles for March by Mon  
21st Feb please



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## Dates for your Diary

### February

Tues 1st - 8pm, Osmotherley Show Dominoes, Haynes Arms  
Wed 2nd - 7:30 pm Royal British Legion Monthly Meeting and Bingo. Queen Catherine  
Sun.6th - 3 pm Osmotherley Methodist Church afternoon service led by Mrs K Walker  
Thurs 10th - 'Neighbourhood Watch' meeting, Village Hall  
Sun 13th - 3 pm, Afternoon service led by Rev.A Bryer, Osmotherley Methodist Church  
Tues 15th - 8pm, Osmotherley Show Dominoes, Golden Lion  
Fri 18th - 7.30 pm for 8pm start Osmotherley Film 'Lemon Tree', Village Hall  
Sun 20th - 3 pm Afternoon service 3 pm led by Rev. R Gee, Osmotherley Methodist Church  
Sun 27th - 3 pm afternoon service 3 pm led by Mrs D Bottoms worship leader, Osmotherley Methodist Church

### March

Tues 1st - 8pm, Osmotherley Show Dominoes, Queen Catherine Hotel  
Tues 1st - 7pm Garden Club AGM followed at 7.45 by "Making Your Garden More Wildlife Friendly"- Osmotherley Wildlife Group, Village Hall,  
Wed 2nd - 7:30pm Royal British Legion Monthly Meeting and Bingo, Queen Catherine  
Tues 15th - 8pm, Osmotherley Show Dominoes, Dog and Gun, Potto  
Wed 16th - 10 am Lent Meetings, St Peter's Church  
Wed 23rd - 10 am Lent Meetings, St Peter's Church  
Thurs 24th - Fri 25th and Sat 26th at 7.30pm Osmotherley Village Theatre. 'Move Over Mrs Markham', in the Village Hall  
Wed 30th - 10 am Lent Meetings, St Peter's Church

### April

Tues 5th - 7.30pm Village Hall Garden Club Val Hepworth - Cottage Gardens  
Wed 6th - 10 am Lent Meetings, St Peter's Church

## News from the Village Hall

Thank you to all those who supported, and attended the Carol Evening. It was a wonderful community event and made £386. We are also planning to hold a Ceilidh in the coming month or two so watch this space for details.

## Osmotherley & District Garden Club

Our next meeting is on **Tuesday 1st March at 7.45pm in the Village Hall.** WILDLIFE FRIENDLY GARDENS  
Members of Osmotherley's Wildlife Group will give an illustrated talk on how to provide the best conditions to encourage wildlife in the garden; providing the right habitats for invertebrates, reptiles, birds and small mammals, including examples of easily made bird and bat boxes; and growing the plants which will attract bees and other pollinating insects.  
Even the smallest garden can be a haven for many species. Everyone is welcome whether a member of the club or not.

## Churches Together

There will be a series of four Lent meetings which will be held in St Peter's Church on Wednesday mornings. The dates will be 16th March, 23rd March, 30th March and 6th April and they will start at 10 am.  
As the series of Advent meetings had to be cancelled because of the snow we very much hope that these meetings will be well attended and we look forward to welcoming members of all our congregations.