

Toad Watch

*All I ask is just your time -
see Nature at it's best.
Sheepwash is a lovely place
in daytime and at dusk.*

*For once a year our toads need help
to cross the dangerous road.*

*Forsake your TV, warmth and rest
Get Grandma too,
but warmly dressed,
so torch in hand (with Mum or Dad)
and bucket at the ready*

*Call us now to join the group
and see the moonlit night
The toads are "squeaking"
out to us
its time again to hear their call - to don
the luminous vest!*

Just a mention that Toad Rescue is starting very soon. Sheepwash is being developed with work still in progress on the car parking areas.

We are at present meeting at the car park nearest to the Reservoir, as usual. If anyone in the Osmotherley Messenger area would like to help with this echo-friendly annual event, please ring Pat Duggan for details of times and requirements, Tel. 883440.

MUST RING FIRST -

co-ordinators then can issue vests and record accurate numbers of frogs, newts and toads for each evening.

CRoW Act Access

The Countryside and Rights of Way (or CRoW) Act was passed in 2000 and came into effect in the North York Moors area in May 2005. It gives a general right of access for walkers for open-air recreation on 'access land'. This is known as 'open access' i.e. where there is right to use a whole area of land (within defined mapped boundaries), rather than just along linear rights of way. Sometimes this is known as the 'right to roam' but this can be a misleading description because it is by no means a completely free licence to roam everywhere.

CRoW Act access land is made up of registered common land and 'open country' (land classed as mountain, moorland, heath or down). Within the National Park, this amounts to 23,598 ha of registered common land and 24,375 ha of open country. In addition, some Forestry Commission woodland has been voluntarily dedicated as access land.

Access land is shown on recent (post-2005) Ordnance Survey Explorer maps in a yellow colourwash. However, some places are excluded from access rights even though they may be depicted as access land on maps. Such places include buildings, private gardens, land

within 20 metres of a dwelling, active quarries, golf courses, airfields, railways, military land, land in operational use by statutory undertakers and telecommunications systems, ploughed land.

CRoW Act access rights allow recreational activities on foot, including walking, picnicking, bird-watching, climbing, and running. It does not apply to access on horse, bicycle or any vehicle. There are a number of activities which are not allowed - such as camping, swimming, lighting fires, metal detecting, fishing, hunting, hang-gliding, organised games, commercial activities.

CRoW Act access land may be closed or otherwise restricted. Such restrictions do not affect rights of way over the land, which remain open and unrestricted.

Most owners of grouse moors in the National Park have used their right to ban dogs from open access on grouse moors. In open access areas where dogs are allowed, they must be kept on a short lead between 1st March and 31st July (i.e. the main bird breeding season).

All moorland open access areas of the National Park are closed at times of exceptional severity fire risk.

In Memory of Willie Howdon.

Willie's son Michael, is running the London Marathon in April in aid of the Stroke Association. Anyone wishing to sponsor Michael can do so at either :-

The Top Shop or
35 North End
(Bobby Terry).

The family would also like to take this opportunity to say thank you for all the support and kindness over the difficult last 10months.

Royal British Legion.

The local branch will hold its usual monthly meeting followed by bingo and a raffle (which are open to all visitors and villagers alike) in the Queen Catherine Hotel at 7:30 pm on Wednesday, 2nd April . The Branch Annual Spring Lunch will be held in the Queen Catherine Hotel on Sunday, 27th April. This will be a members only event and notices will be sent out soon to all concerned.

Landowners and tenants have the right to close the land for any reason for up to 28 days per year (but there is a limit on use of closures on summer weekends). In the North York Moors these closures have mostly been used on grouse moors in late May to the end of June during the period when grouse chicks have hatched and are particularly vulnerable to disturbance.

Landowners and tenants can apply for further closures for land management or public safety – but none have done so in the North York Moors.

Open access in forestry areas may be closed during felling operations.

Land can also be closed or otherwise restricted by the National Park Authority for public safety or nature/ heritage conservation. However, careful planning and management of access has so far meant that it has not been necessary to make restrictions for these reasons.

Up-to-date information on places with CRoW Act open access restrictions can be viewed on the internet at www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk. This website also gives lots of general information about enjoying the countryside via open access and rights of way.



Issue 10

April 2008



THE THREE TUNS
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wgrussell@btinternet.com

Osmotherley Area Messenger



At last what you have all been waiting for!

A village cinema, in the heart of the community, of Osmotherley, Thimbleby and surrounding areas. Osmotherley Film will show films on a monthly basis in the Village Hall. We hope to show recent releases as well as more unusual films. It will run as a non-profit making organisation, with an annual membership to include 10 films.

Come and see what it's all about at our free launch night on:-
Friday 25th April 2008 at 7pm in the Village Hall.

Join us and enjoy some wine and refreshments, plus the showing of our first film:-

Atonement

Starring Kiera Knightley and James McAvoy

We look forward to seeing you there. Entry will be limited to the first 100 people.

Any enquiries before the event please contact Laura Wilson on 883096 or email: osmotherleyfilm@yahoo.co.uk

Unfortunately the event is only open to those over 16 years of age.

Calling all photographers

Are you a budding photographer wanting to improve? Are you a seasoned amateur (or even a pro) looking for a chance to show and compete with your work? Have you got a digital camera and can't understand what ¾ of the buttons do, but want to get more out of it? Are you looking for similarly minded people to go out on photography trips with (rather than the family who keep telling you to get a move on!)? If you can answer yes to any of the above then I ask you to join me in forming a casual photography club in Osmotherley. I've been involved with photography clubs in the past and learnt all I know - and still have plenty to learn. I'm not asking for committee members, I just want similarly interested people to come and enjoy their and others' photography and experience. I'd like to see regular (monthly) meetings to share work/experiences, outings to local and not-so-local locations, talks by professionals/ accomplished photographers, exhibitions in the village, competitions, outings to galleries, and more...

This will be open to anybody of all ages with an interest in still photography – digital, film, medium and large format or anything else I've not thought of. If you'd be interested in being involved in any way, please come along to an informal gathering at the Queen Catherine Hotel on Tuesday 8th April at 7.30 pm. Further information: tel: 883162 or email dave@hdmorris.fsnet.co.uk .

I'd appreciate some idea of people who might come, but will otherwise be noticeable, not by a pink carnation, but a Nikon digital SLR sat next to me at the bar and sitting on my own wondering where everyone is.

Osmotherley Area Parish Council

Osmotherley Area Parish Council have held a number of meetings during March with the most significant being a public one to appeal against the proposed closure of the Village's Post Office. In addition there has been the monthly Council meeting which was able to ratify a resolution that stated *"A full time Post Office is needed to serve the needs of the community of the Osmotherley area and that a hosted service of 8 hours per week will not provide for the needs of this community"*.

This public meeting was held in the Village Hall which was full to capacity and was attended by representatives of the Post Office, Postwatch and the National Park. Post Office opened by stating their case based solely on financial criteria and also stated that they had consulted with all of the local authorities. This last statement was categorically denied by Andy Wilson, the Chief Executive of the North York Moors National Park whose authority had not received any consultation documents whatsoever, his comments to the meeting were greeted with spontaneous applause for the manner in which he was able to attack the lack of fact and evidence put forward by Post Office.

Many others speakers from the floor were themselves in business and stated that they will seek an alternative service particularly to send packages rather than travel to Northallerton or rely on an arbitrary hosted facility. Others highlighted the lack of knowledge held by Post office of customers' requirements and made it known that an alternative service to that already in place would not meet their needs. The resolution was carried unanimously and thanks are due to Mike Thomsett and the appeal team for presenting such a well researched and factual document to present to Post Office Ltd and it is now hoped that there will a positive outcome.

The monthly PC meeting heard how the Chairman had with the assistance of a few others obtained the services of Aldersons of Worsall to dig into the culvert near the bus shelter and were able to tackle the water leak problem. You may already have noticed that water no longer pours down the road. There is still some tidying up to do as the refilled trenches settle down so please be patient with us as this will take some time. Thanks to residents for parking elsewhere while the work was carried out. We will now try to find a solution to a similar problem near the Pinfold. This is almost certainly due to the weight of traffic causing the culvert to collapse under the road and will mean working with NYCC Highways to find and repair the fault so please bear with us. Another area of water damage is visible on the Village Green about 20 meters above the War Memorial and because this would appear to be of sewage rather than of water the householders have been asked to consider if their pipe work is damaged.

A planning application has been received seeking permission to put in a hard standing area on The Lords Waste, an area of grass which is not owned by the applicant. Members agreed that this should not be allowed but a fall back arrangement could be considered using a grasscrete type material which would permit grass to grow through it which would be considerably less unsightly than the cobbles nearby. A further application to build a 5 bay stable block off Clack Lane was discussed in great detail and was subsequently supported when it became clear that it was only for private use to house "driving" horses and their tack and that it would not result in an increase in traffic volumes.

Work should start in early summer to effect a permanent repair to the Ellerbeck crash barrier and also to put additional bollards at the edge of the footway up North End. Both of these safety features are to be welcomed. Problems still exist in Thimbleby with heavy traffic cutting up the verges and this is to be taken up with Highways to try to reach a solution.

Future events in the area include the Summer Games at the beginning of July and an offer of assistance from the Royal Dragoon Regiment is being followed up in the hope that they could assist on the day. Remembrance Day falls on the 9th November this year and the Parish Council agreed to lay a wreath at the Service. A date was agreed for the Annual Assembly which has been booked to be held in the Village Hall on 22nd May.

Osmotherley Pre-School

We have been recognised by the Local Education Authority as a 'highly effective setting'. Only 46 out of 298 settings in North Yorkshire have been awarded this. We are very proud and would like to express our thanks to everyone involved in making pre-school a success. Osmotherley Pre-School currently have places available every morning 9.30-1.30am for children from 2yrs old. A lunch club is also available.

Gill Hunton and Julie Allison are doing the Coast to Coast Cycle Ride in May - funds raised will be split between pre-school and school. Pre-School are also collecting old/damaged mobile phones to raise funds. For further information on any of the above contact Gill Hunton, Nursery Manager on 01609 883138. Or check out the website address below.

www.osmotherleypreschool.co.uk

email: info@osmotherleypreschool.co.uk

Free Bicycle Health Check and Postcode Marking

Following the success of last year's bike clinic held in the Village Hall, we will, as promised, be holding a repeat event.

Thinking that now the days are getting longer, the weather fairer, you still haven't lost those 'Christmas pounds' and want to get out on your bike a bit more? Give it a once-over by a professional and get it security marked at the same time by bringing it to the Village Hall on Monday 7th April between 6.30 and 8.30pm.

An expert from Cowley Cycles in Northallerton has agreed to be on hand to give your bike a free health check. If it needs work and can be done in a reasonably short time it will be done there and then. If not, a quote for repairs will be given and free transport will be arranged to take the bike to Northallerton and return it to Osmotherley, or your house if possible, within a few days (subject to numbers).

Whilst you're there, North Yorkshire Police will be on hand with their postcode marking kit. In the event of you having your bike stolen, postcode marking will make it much more likely that you'll get it traced back to you and returned. (Under 18s will need a parent/guardian's signature as consent for postcode marking).

For further information, please send a message to dave@hdmorris.fsnet.co.uk or call Dave Morris on 883162.

Parish Plan – Wildlife Group

After a delayed start a working group chaired by Alan Turner is up and running to implement actions arising from the Parish Plan under the broad heading of Natural Environment. A survey of footpaths is well underway with Pat Duggan covering those inside the National Park, Alan Turner covering those outside the Park and Carolyn Chalkley giving a horse riders' perspective. Once completed the Parish Council will

present the results of the survey to the authorities responsible for rights of way (National Park and NYCC) and will work with them to make improvements where needed.

At the open meeting on 26 February a wildlife group was set up. This is co-ordinated by Angela Thomsett and will soon be starting a wildlife audit. There is still a need for more help and anyone

enthusiastic about wildlife in general is welcome to join in. Interested people should contact Angela Thomsett on 883224 or Alan Turner on 882310.

We are in contact with Forest Enterprise and are working to encourage them to expose the Hanging Stone through the felling of surrounding trees.

See article this month on CRoW Act.

Osmotherley Gardening Club

Osmotherley and District Garden Club has produced a booklet 'An Introduction to Gardening in Osmotherley' to help newcomers who are keen to make a start with their gardens. It was one of the initiatives undertaken to mark the club's Silver Jubilee year.

The guidance contains factual information about soil types, elevation, climate and Conservation Area requirements. Also there are tips about getting started, which subjects grow well and when to plant.

It is anticipated that a summary of this booklet will be included in the Parish Plan's welcome pack. Meanwhile the free booklet is available to all interested residents. Contact Colin or Pat Elton on 883267

Osmotherley School

Congratulations are in order for all children, staff, governors, parents and friends of Osmotherley School as we have been awarded "Highly Effective School" status by our County Council. This accolade is given to the top 20% of schools in the county. It recognises our excellent exam results as well as our creative curriculum and caring ethos. I am very proud indeed to be given this award. Our school website is now being updated after initial problems so if you wish to learn more about what the children are up to then please visit www.osmotherley.n-yorks.sch.uk where you will find a wealth of information. A

big thanks to Alison Shepherd for taking on the updating for us.

The school council have been meeting regularly to discuss various initiatives in school including fundraising for charity. It was decided that the money raised on World Book Day would be donated to the United Nations World Water Day appeal. The 'Friends of Osmotherley School' held an Easter bazaar on the last Friday of the term where they sold second hand toys and books, there was a tombola and 'guess the sweets in the jar' and one or two other games too. There was also a very successful cake

stall – a great big thanks to all those who contributed in any way to this fund raising event.

Finally I would like to invite everyone to the official opening of the extension to the school on Friday 25th April from 1.30pm when the Rt. Hon William Hague MP will unveil a plaque to commemorate the occasion. The children will be doing guided walks around school and refreshments will be served. The children will also entertain Mr. Hague before he departs at 2.30pm. Everyone is welcome – so please come along.