

## Dates for your Diary

### February

Tuesday 5th, 8pm, Osmotherley Show Dominoes 2008, Queen Catherine Hotel.  
Tuesday 5th, 7.30pm, Osmotherley & District Business Forum Meeting, Golden Lion.  
Wednesday 6th, 7.30pm, British Legion Meeting and Bingo, Queen Catherine.  
Tuesday 19th, 8pm, Osmotherley Show Dominoes 2008, Blue Bell, Ingleby Cross.  
Tuesday 26th, 7pm, meeting of the Wildlife Group, Church House.

### March

Tuesday 4th, 7.00pm, Village hall Gardening Club AGM followed at 7.45pm by Gardeners Question time with Simon Cross and Philip Goldsbrough.  
Tuesday 4th, 8pm, Osmotherley Show Dominoes 2008, Haynes Arms, Jeater Houses.  
Wednesday 5th, 7.30pm, British Legion Meeting and Bingo, Queen Catherine .

### April

Tuesday 1st, 7.30pm, 'The changing face of gardening', Malcolm Hockham (Eggleston Gardens) Village Hall.

### Editorial Team:

Eileen Webb (883897)  
Dawn Austin (883587)  
Shona Padbury (883237)  
Jane Thorniley-Walker (883311)

[os.messenger@googlemail.com](mailto:os.messenger@googlemail.com)

### Please Note:

Article for March issue must be with the editors by Monday 24th February.



## Osmotherley Royal British Legion

### Christmas Festivities

The annual RBL Yuletide Drinks & Nibbles party is now a firm fixture on the calendar to welcome the Christmas festivities. In early December, with sleet and snow sweeping down from the moors, over 80 people crowded into the warmth of the village hall to the welcome sight of festive decorations, buffet, bar and an overloaded table of raffle prizes.

The cold and wet was quickly forgotten as good cheer and fellowship prevailed, thanks to the preparation of Legion stalwarts Maureen and James Downey. There was an impressive array of 30 plus prizes, kindly donated and collected by Barbara Nimmo and friends, which attracted many hopeful glances, as did the 'nibbles' buffet and bar, manned by James Downey and Dudley Nimmo.



Jayme Collison

Charming waitress service was provided in the form of 8 year old Jayme Collinson, who to everyone's delight held a winning raffle ticket.

Branch Chairman, David Black, commented; "We get enormous support and encouragement from local people enabling us to raise funds for the Legion (this year alone we have sent £3,000 to the RBL



David Black

home, Lister House in Ripon) and of course to support the Poppy appeal which last month totalled £3,228."

### Festive Bingo

As in past years, on the Friday after Christmas the village RBL Branch staged an extra afternoon Bingo session in the village hall to enable regular players to take children allowing them a taste of 'old fashioned' entertainment. On this occasion all cash from ticket sales went in prize money. Forty-two people, including eight children, braved miserable weather on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> and settled down to the bingo, or as an old soldier called it, "Housey-housey", the original name from years ago. Branch chairman David Black took the role of caller, demonstrating a hidden talent, and ensured a good time was had by all.

David later said; "People enjoy these sessions, which provide a change from the pressures of modern life, and in addition gives the children an insight into the Legion. We like to think the sessions put fun into fundraising".

The Branch will hold its Monthly Meeting followed by bingo at 7.30pm on **Wednesday, 6th February** in the Queen Catherine Hotel. The bingo and accompanying raffle is open for all villagers and visitors to attend and you will be very welcome. Last month the bingo "snowball" was £65 so come and try your luck. Representatives of Stokesley Army Cadet Force will be present and will explain a charity march in which they plan to participate in Scotland, later in the month.

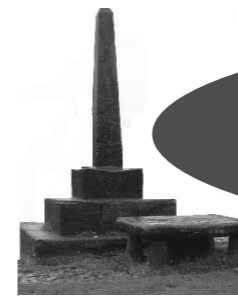
The Arthur Taylor Memorial Domino Drive will be held in the at 7.30pm on **Tuesday, 25th March** in the Queen Catherine Hotel. All domino players in the district are welcome to attend this annual event, which will include a raffle and prizes. The Arthur Taylor Memorial Cup will be presented to the highest placed branch member.

## The Osmotherley Women's Group

The W.I has been disbanded in the village and a new club has been formed called "The Osmotherley Womens Group". The aim is to continue meeting on the second Tuesday evening of every

month and enjoy speakers, interesting outings, theatre trips etc. The next meeting will be on February 12th at 7.30pm in the village hall supper room, where a quiz has been organised.

New members are most welcome, subscriptions are £10 per year. For more details please contact:- Angela Wilson 883857 or Norma Thwaites 883228.



Issue 8

February 2008



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## Osmotherley Area Messenger

### Support Osmotherley Post Office

Decisions on local post office closures will be announced on February 12th. If the decision were made to close the Osmotherley office we would have only 6 weeks to appeal, therefore we need to be prepared to act fast.

See information enclosed, and have your say by completing the questionnaire.

## Parish Plan Review

It is over a year since the publication of the Parish Plan, and the Parish Council has assumed responsibility for ensuring that identified actions are carried forward. A meeting was held on the 15th Jan as part of an evaluation process to review progress in each of the working groups. Jo Buffey -Parish Plan Development Officer YRCC was present, offering support and to oversee progress. Every action was discussed and is summarised below. However, it was agreed that over the next few months each group will produce a more detailed report.

### Built Environment

*PC Contact: Noel Coward*  
A Village Design Group has been formed, and although progress has been slow to date, a photographic survey has been completed. The next meeting is planned for February and it is hoped to have a rough draft of a Village Design Statement (VDS) by then. Some of the actions within the Parish Plan will not be covered by the VDS and this group will be looking to identify people to move these forward.

### Natural Environment

*PC Contact: Alan Turner*  
Next meeting attended by Rona Charles who will talk about setting up a wildlife group. See page 3. A footpath and bridleway survey is underway and should be completed by spring/summer 2008. With regard to the 'Right to Roam' act it was agreed to contact Sarah Blakemore, Access Officer for further info.

### Traffic and Parking

*PC Contact: Maurice Drabble*  
Progress is continuing with yellow lines, bollards and parking issues. A small car park has been approved at the back of the Catholic church. Ellerbeck now has 40 mph speed restrictions.

### Business and Tourism

*PC contact: Mike Read*  
A business forum now meets regularly, with occasional guest speakers. Next Meeting 5th Feb in the Golden Lion. The group are continuing to explore possibilities for small business units/workshops.

### Services and Amenities

*PC contact: Tim Swales*  
It was agreed the village newsletter was a success, and a village website is now up

and running as part of the Hambleton website. New notice boards are still needed, but they are looking for grants to finance this. Collection of prescriptions now has a large team of people involved. Some progress has been made to extend the cemetery which should be adequate for at least 10 years. A Neighbourhood Watch Scheme is to be initiated by holding a meeting with the police and local communities. A number of new dog waste bins have been delivered. The appointment of a village caretaker has helped to meet many of the actions within the Parish Plan. All of these projects rely on volunteers who have either special skills, knowledge or just an interest and the Parish Council feels that there is still an untapped source of assistance who have yet to come forward. You are all welcome, so please let a PC Member know who you are and where your interests lie. The meeting closed with the agreement that there will be another review in a year.

## Why not You?

If you are interested in being involved in any of the parish plan work groups then please contact the editors and we will pass your names onto the parish council. There are 5 workgroups (see page 1) An example of things that need to be done are:

- Wildlife survey
- Buildings Survey
- And VDS (see bottom of page)

## A Warm Return on a Cold Night

A very big thank you to all those who took part in the annual 'round the pubs' carol singing, on behalf of the over 60's. A total sum of £360 was collected for this worthy cause. A Happy and Prosperous New Year to everybody.

## Village Cinema

Watch out for the launch in March.

Details soon

## Youth and Family Cricket

One of the outcomes of the Parish Plan was many requests for better use of the sports facilities. For the past two years, youngsters and the not so young have enjoyed family cricket down at the Thimbleby cricket pitch. This has given the children, teenagers and parents a taste of real cricket and supplemented the official coaching organised by the primary school. With assistance from the

Headmistress, Penny Vernon, and endorsement from the Parish Council, the village and school were given a grant to purchase several hundred pounds worth of pads, gloves etc for a full range of sizes, so even seven-year olds have been able to pad up to face specially designed junior cricket balls. The experience has encouraged some to join youth cricket clubs. At one match, a father commented

that he had not bowled for 28 years, and that he had been useless then. With his first ball he cleanly bowled out an adult. It is hoped to set up a proper club, where for a modest joining fee, members could make use of the equipment, pavilion and cricket ground for a season. Watch this space for developments. For details of the available children's equipment contact Robert Thorniley-Walker 883311

## Osmotherley Area Parish Council

The text below summarises the key points from both the December and January meetings. The December meeting heard that the Police have recently been called to the village due to concerns about the behaviour of a vagrant, however they can only act if the complaint is made by the person or persons who may have seen any activity likely to cause a breach of the peace. There have been several recent reports of dog fouling of public footpaths, similarly action can not be taken for this kind of activity unless the witness is able to make direct contact with the street scene department of the District Council. The Police have also attended to a vehicle on Quarry Lane and issued cannabis warnings to the occupants.

The 40mph signs have now been erected in Ellerbeck and shortly investigation work will take place to put effective foundations in place for the roadside barrier. Highways have stated that they are considering adding to the safety features in the village and this may include work on Back Lane, the Parish Council will be consulted before any decisions are made. Members expressed concerns that there are too many road signs at present and wished to see a reduction. The January meeting heard that Highways have agreed to put additional bollards in place on North End with the main objective of protecting the footpaths and the cobbles. They will also renew the "no waiting" double yellow lines and hopefully it should then mean that Police enforcement of indiscriminate parking will result in safer village streets. Recently a vehicle has been parked very close to the northern access from Back Lane resulting in great difficulty for residents accessing that road, this problem will now be monitored and should improve.

The water leak near the War Memorial still gives problems but work has had to be abandoned following recent heavy rainfall preventing access to the roof of the underground culvert which would appear to be blocked, almost certainly by tree roots. A further attempt will be made as soon as the surrounding area dries up again.

Many residents repeatedly fail to put their refuse bins out of sight and the District Council may at their discretion choose to remove the bins from those householders. Likewise with the blue recycling bins, residents are requested to place them out of sight. Currently the contractors do not collect in Back Lane and other side roads with limited access and this matter is to be taken up with HDC to try to find a working solution to the problem. The National Park Authority are to be asked to look at the path from Back Lane past the Methodist Chapel to see if an improvement could be made to the surface which is showing signs of needing repair.

The only new planning application for December was to replace windows at a property on North End, members felt that the proposal to put in neo-Georgian panes was not in keeping with the character of the house and traditional timber sliding sash frames should be used, but that double glazing would be acceptable. In January, planning applications discussed concerned the replacement of a dilapidated timber barn at Middle Farm, Thimbleby, this was supported. Also supported by Members was an application to replace a box dormer window at a property at the entrance to Back Lane with pitched dormers which will be aesthetically more in keeping with the street scene of the conservation area. Concerns were raised about the finish to stonework at a newly completed garage in Thimbleby and this matter will be taken up with the Planning Enforcement Officer at Helmsley.

## Village Hall

### News from the Village Hall Carols-around-the-Tree.

Thanks to all who contributed prizes, bought raffle tickets, and helped in the many ways that go to make this what we like to think is a super village evening. You also raised £330, this was very welcome and will go towards our massively increased electricity bill. Many thanks!

### A Strange Find

Every now and then (about once every century) friends of the village hall roll up their sleeves and have a spring clean and clear out accumulated "things". During a recent clear-out, one of the objects to emerge for disposal was a stained pine plank, about 4ft by 1ft, rounded at each end, and obviously carefully made. A bit like a long, elderly

skateboard without the wheels; or an ironing board that has lost its stand.

As it was about to be chopped up for firewood, curiosity prompted us to take it to the Ryedale Folk Museum and ask "any idea what it might be?" They immediately came back with the answer "it's a laying out board". In earlier times, when people died they were usually "laid out" on their bed at home, rather than being taken to an undertaker's Chapel of Rest. Mattresses were then flock filled with a hollow in the middle, and as rigor mortis set in the body would tend to set into a banana shape, not very aesthetic and tricky for the coffin maker. To avoid this, when the body was cleaned and dressed for laying out, the

board would be hidden beneath it to provide support and present the ramrod-straight image with which we are familiar from the Godfather films.

The Ryedale Folk Museum have said they would like to give a home to our find, and it has been donated to them where it will shortly be on display. Incidentally the Folk Museum is a fascinating day out and highly recommended. In the New Year we will be seeking volunteers for another Village Hall spring clean – do come along, you never know what you might find!

*Hugh Thompson, Village Hall Committee*

PS – we now have a Lost Property Box, should you leave anything behind.

## Parish Plan – Wildlife Group

The Parish Plan proposed the setting up of a Wildlife Group to carry out a number of actions including a wildlife audit/survey. A open meeting has been arranged for **Tuesday 26 February at 7.00pm** in Church House, with the aim of setting up such a

group. Rona Charles, Senior Ecologist from the National Park at Helmsley will address the meeting and offer guidance and advice. We are keen to involve everyone with an interest in wildlife and would particularly welcome those with expertise in the

subject. Please come along and join in, all welcome. If you would like more information or if you wish to be involved but cannot attend the meeting please contact Alan Turner (Chairman of PC) on 882310 or by email

[councillor@alanturner01.plus.com](mailto:councillor@alanturner01.plus.com)

## Osmotherley School

Happy New Year to everyone from all the staff, pupils and governors at Osmotherley Primary School. This term is a very short one with Easter falling early, but we are still managing to include lots of activities. This term the Acorns (the infant class) are studying 'Eureka Moments' – looking at inventors and inventions. They have a model of a hot air balloon in the corner of the classroom which they use as part of their role play, visiting different parts of the world – they have to dress appropriately too! An exciting way to study geography!

The Oaks (junior class) are studying 'Mountains' followed by 'France'. The recent death of Edmund Hilary has brought current affairs into the classroom. As part of their science curriculum the children are looking at the changes in climbing equipment and outdoor clothing and are investigating the suitability of different fabrics for outdoor wear. In the second half of the term a joint activity is planned with the children from Swainby. They are going to have a French fruit and vegetable market which will also include a tourist information stall. This will give the

children a great opportunity to practise their French language skills (as they have French lessons as part of their weekly curriculum)

I also have a date for your diary. William Hague has agreed to come and officially open the new extension to the school on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April. We do hope that as many of you as possible will be able to attend and take the opportunity to look around the school. I will let everyone know details of timing etc., as soon as they are available.

*Penny Vernon - Headteacher*



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### Briege's 50th Birthday Party

Briege would like to thank everyone for their generosity in raising £1500.00 for Cancer Research UK (Leeds Division) A big thank you to the Irish contingent and for the great local support.