

Editorial Team:

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

os.messenger@googlemail.com

Please Note:

Articles for April issue must be with the editors by Monday 24th March.

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 .
Tuesday 11th, 7.30pm, OWLS Meeting, Village Hall Supper Room
Thursday 13th, 7.30pm, Public Meeting re:Post Office Closure, Village Hall
Thursday 20th, 7.30pm, Parish Council Meeting, Church House, Public welcome.
Tuesday 25th, 7.30pm Dominoes Evening raffle and prizes, Queen Catherine

April

Tuesday 1st, 7.30pm ,‘The Changing Face of Gardening’, Malcolm Hockham (Eggleston Gardens), Village Hall.
Thursday 18th, 7.30pm, Parish Council Meeting, Church House, Public welcome.
Friday 25th, Osmotherley School Official opening.

May

Tuesday 6th, 6.30pm, Visit to Whitegates Nursery, West Rounton.
Thursday 8th, 7.30pm, Concert by Ashley Grote, St. Peter’s Church.
Saturday 24th, 2.30 pm, Plant Sale, Village Hall.

Mobile Library Visits 2008

North Yorkshire County Council provide a mobile library service that visits Osmotherley every 3 weeks on a Tuesday morning. The four stops in Osmotherley, are listed below with times.

King’s Folly	10:15am	10:25am
Belle Vue	10:40am	10:50am
Oswaldene	10:55am	11:20am
The Cross	11:25am	11:40am

Future dates for the mobile library visits to Osmotherley are listed below.

Tuesday March 18th 2008	Tuesday September 2nd 2008
Tuesday April 8th 2008	Tuesday September 23rd 2008
Tuesday April 29th 2008	Tuesday October 14th 2008
Tuesday May 20th 2008	Tuesday November 4th 2008
Tuesday June 10th 2008	Tuesday November 25th 2008
Tuesday July 1st 2008	Tuesday December 16th 2008
Tuesday July 22nd 2008	Tuesday January 5th 2009
Tuesday August 12th 2008	

Parish Council Meeting Dates 2008/9

Osmotherley Area Parish Council Meetings are held monthly. The dates for meetings in 2008/9 are listed on the right. All meetings, will take place in Church House Osmotherley, except those on the 19th June and 16th October which will take place in Kirby Sigston Village Hall

Thursday March 20th 2008	Thursday October 16th 2008*
Thursday April 17th 2008	Thursday November 17th 2008
Thursday May 15th 2008	Thursday December 15th 2008
Thursday June 19th 2008*	Thursday January 19th 2009
Thursday July 17th 2008	Thursday February 17th 2009
Thursday August 21st 2008	Thursday March 21st 2009
Thursday September 18th 2008	Thursday April 18th 2009

The public are welcome to attend the meetings, which all start at 7.30pm prompt.

* meeting takes place in Kirby Sigston Village Hall

Built Environment Working Group

This group was formed to take on the actions from the Built Environment section of the Parish Plan. Current members include Noel Coward (PC rep), Alan Turner, Dominic Lockett, Robert Thorniley-Walker, Sarah Housden (Policy Dev. Officer NYMNP), Tim Swales, Shona Padbury, Dave Morris, Brian Hunter ,Angela Thomsett,

Danny Manging, and Edward Freedman (Building Conservation NYMNP). Anybody interested in supporting this group would be most welcome, and should contact Noel Coward. The group met on 7th Feb, to discuss the draft of the Village Design Statement and work is continuing on various

aspects of this document. Edward Freedman has been approached to write an article on conservation and listed buildings. See page 2 for the first of these on conservation. Date of the next meeting is **12th March 7.15pm in the Village Hall Supper Room.**



Issue 9

March 2008

Osmotherley Area Messenger

Extended deadline for Post Office questionnaires

If you haven’t completed your questionnaire could you please do so now and return it as a matter of urgency to the Walking Shop, or if necessary ask a member of the support group to collect it. If you need another blank form these can also be collected from the Walking Shop.

Support Osmotherley Post Office at Top Shop

A decision to close Osmotherley Post Office was announced on February 12th. Along with this, also announced was a proposal to offer a limited hosted Post Office service (8 hours per week) based in the village hall. Despite assumptions made by Post Office Ltd. in their printed literature, no agreement had been made by the Village Hall Committee to allow the hall to be used for this Hosted service.

A working group has already started to examine the criteria and rationale behind this decision. We only have 6 weeks from February 12th in which to do this, and you support is vital. Please do not assume that this decision is final, as we have every confidence in the possibilities of overturning it. Hence, the importance of completing the questionnaire as the more returns we have, the stronger our case.

Public Meeting 13th March Village Hall 7.30 pm

A public meeting is to be held in the Village Hall on Thursday 13th March to which representatives of Postwatch, Post Office Ltd. and the National Park will be invited. A reasoned approach is essential to ensure the success of the campaign and a careful presentation of evidence based on fact is to be prepared. The meeting will be chaired by the Parish Council.

All who would like to attend are welcome to do so. If anyone requires a lift please contact one of the volunteers below.

Dawn Austin 883587, Shona Padbury 883237, Eileen Webb 883897,

Tim Swales
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Royal British Legion

The Branch will hold its Monthly Meeting followed by bingo and a raffle in the Queen Catherine Hotel on **Wednesday evening, 5th March at 7:30pm.** All are welcome to join in the fun and try their luck. Last month the "snowball" was £70!

Arthur Taylor Memorial Domino Drive.

All domino players in the district are invited to join the Legion for an evening of dominos at the Queen Catherine Hotel at **7:30 pm on Tuesday, 25th March.** There will be a raffle and prizes."

Osmotherley Womens Leisure Society (OWLS)

Meeting March 11th 7.30pm in the Supper Room,

Miss Helliwell will be giving an interesting talk on bats.

The meeting is open to everyone and New members are always welcome.

Conservation Areas

Osmotherley and Thimbleby both include designated "conservation areas" encompassing the historic cores of the villages. Conservation areas are defined in legislation as areas "of special architectural and historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance". There are over 8000 conservation areas nationwide covering a very diverse range of historic sites from twentieth-century housing estates such as New Earswick at York, to the Settle-Carlisle Railway line in the Dales. The National Park contains 42 conservation areas, predominantly focused on the centres of historic towns and villages, but also including a planned Victorian parkland at Guisborough.

In Osmotherley, the conservation area boundary runs to the south behind the primary school, crossing South End to include Back Lane to the east, continuing behind the rear boundaries of houses on North End up to Ruebury Lane and back down to include Grant Close and then follow the line of the pathway along the long plots behind West End to Cuddy Lane and back across the fields to the primary school. The area therefore includes most of the village's historic buildings but excludes more modern developments on the peripheries. It was designated in 1977.

In Thimbleby, the conservation area encompasses the whole of the village. Because the National Park boundary runs along the main road, responsibility for planning control is split between the National Park Authority (to the south) and Hambleton District Council. It was designated in 1986, and as a small, linear rural village with generously spaced houses it has a very different character to Osmotherley's more bustling, almost country town character with tightly packed terraced housing. The main statutory effect of designation is that the local planning authority has a duty to ensure that development that takes place within the area preserves or enhances its architectural and historic character. Obviously to some extent this judgement will always be subjective, so it is important for residents and the local planning authority to understand what the elements are that contribute to the area's distinctive character. Initiatives such as the production of a village design statement, and in the future the production of a conservation area appraisal, are important contributors towards a shared understanding of character, and should help applicants, consultees and planners to evaluate, comment on and make informed decisions on development proposals.

One problem with trying to ensure that development preserves character has always been that most small changes such as alterations to windows, doors, roofing and walls have been classed as "permitted development" and so have not been controlled by the planning authority. As a result, much of what makes the area architecturally and historically distinctive – slate roofs, Yorkshire sliding sash windows etc. – can be subject to unsympathetic alteration, with small changes cumulatively eroding the justifications for conservation area status.

The introduction of article 4 directions in Osmotherley and Thimbleby in 2006 means that these sorts of external changes now require a free application for planning permission so that the Authority has control over the design and materials when traditional features such as doors and windows are being replaced. As a way of encouraging the reinstatement of such features where they have been lost in the past, the National Park has been able to offer conservation area enhancement grants towards the work. This has only been possible as a result of the article 4 direction because of the requirement to protect the investment of public funds in the future. So far, four properties in Osmotherley have received grants towards the reinstatement of traditional windows and doors, and the Parish Council has received grant for the repair of areas of cobbling. Residents of the National Park who are considering replacing modern materials such as plastic windows or concrete pantiles with timber or clay, or modern designs with traditional, are welcome to contact me for further information on the grants available or with any queries about the Article 4 controls.

Edward Freedman,
Building Conservation Officer NYMNP
e.freedman@northyorkmoors-npa.gov.uk

Osmotherley School

This month children at Osmotherley School have had the pleasure of taking part in the very successful initiative "Music for Life" run by Sowerby Music. The children watched a performance given by 'Voice Matters' (a vocal trio) and then the older children took part in a workshop with the musicians. This culminated in a

performance for the younger children at the end of the afternoon. It is interesting to hear the government's views on 'culture'. At Osmotherley school it is already high on the agenda! The children are supporting United Nations World Water Day which is on Saturday 22nd March. We are collecting coins, which will be sent to Wateraid

after we have used them on March 20th, to try and cover an area of the playground. If anyone would like to contribute to this appeal there are bottles in the village or in school. Thank you to all those who have already contributed. Finally please don't forget our official opening on April 25th. Happy Easter everyone!!!

Osmotherley Area Parish Council

A large part of the February Parish Council monthly meeting was devoted to making arrangements to challenging the decision by Post Office Ltd. to close Osmotherley Post Office. Also discussed at the meeting was the condition of the roads in the villages. However, Highways have indicated that they will not be able to repaint the yellow lines until the new financial year. The water leak at the War Memorial came in for some justified criticism, but the Parish Council are obliged to

wait until ground water levels subside before work can be carried out. Plans forwarded for discussion included the development of two stone barns at Swainstye Farm. To redevelop these without disturbing the existing stonework will improve the visual impact as well as enabling the owners to diversify their business interests and this was therefore supported. Another application proposed to alter the front facade of Central Stores. This was met

with many objections as the proposal would detract from the highly visual shop front aspect of the property which is within the conservation area. Before any development could be considered members felt more should be done to try to retain a business on the site either by way of vigorously marketing the property or by trying to obtain a tenant. Because, the Parish Plan recommended that business losses should be discouraged this proposal was not supported.

RBL Helping Youth Help The Needy

During the war aspiring commandos reported to Achnacarry House in the Scottish Highlands. On arrival at the isolated railway station they were told the House was eight miles away and in two hours the doors would be locked and latecomers would be immediately rejected. A tough challenge, as each carried 40 lb of equipment. This test was undertaken by the grandfather of Stokesley ACF Detachment Commander, Sergeant Andy Davies. On mentioning the challenge to the current cadets, Andy was delighted to find he was not short of volunteers wishing to repeat the challenge, who also suggested they could in the process raise much needed cash for St. Dustan's charity for the blind. The lads are therefore tackling the same challenge

faced by the commandos, under identical conditions – same route, timescale and weight-load - on 8th March, with a target of raising at least £1,000. In addition to the physical effort, the citizenship aspect of obtaining sponsorship for a charity illustrates that the cadets are proving that modern youth can match the determination of those in the 1940s. This aspect caught the attention of RBL Branch chairman David Black. "Hearing that these lads were tackling a challenge, and raising cash for an ex-service charity, made me feel it a well worthwhile activity for our members to support, especially in these times when youth is so frequently criticised. This is a case of the old helping the young to help disabled ex-

service people. As a Legion branch, our fundraising is regulated, but as a group of friends we decided to hold a bingo session and give the proceeds to the lads." As a result, Sgt Andy and two Stokesley cadets attended the February bingo session and joined the enthusiastic players. At the end of the evening they were presented with a cheque for £202.



Andy Davies, Chris McCarthy; Lewis Wild and Anne Kirk



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