



Issue 158

March 2023

Osmotherley Area Messenger

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The plight of swifts and conservation

I have lived in Osmotherley all my life and have noticed a dramatic decline in swift numbers since my childhood days. It is estimated that almost 60% have gone from the UK in the last 25 years. Several factors contribute towards the decline including climate change, pesticide use, less insects for the birds to feed on and more often than not, habitat loss.

Frequently when repair / renovation work is carried out to properties in the village no access is left for swifts to nest when they return from migration at the end of April / early May. They can't nest if they don't have access at eaves, roof or upper gable level. Swifts return to the same nest site year after year and having just flown thousands of miles returning from migration, the last thing a swift needs is to discover its nest hole no longer exists. They like to use the same places year after year : they don't have the time or energy to search for a new nest site each spring and will die attempting to regain access to their old nest site.

The installation of artificial nest boxes for swifts can be useful and provides an alternative, to hopefully encourage the birds to take up residence and breed.

If repairs to eaves / roofs / gables cannot be undertaken without leaving access for the swifts those carrying out the repair should be encouraged to install an artificial swift nest box or swift bricks. Similarly in new builds swift nest boxes or swift access bricks should be installed at the outset. Any installation of artificial nest boxes should ideally be 5 metres above ground level but they have been known, and do, nest lower.

Loss of established nesting sites due to repair and renovation should be discouraged. Swifts are fully protected by UK and EC laws (it is illegal to kill or harm them, to damage their nests or take their eggs).

The conservation status of swifts in the UK is RED under the Birds of Conservation Concern 5 : the RED List for Birds (2021). Perhaps NYM National Park Authority might consider introducing a stipulation when planning applications are granted to require that provision for swifts nesting is provided, in a similar way to the requirements for bats.

I hope this will raise awareness to both villagers and holiday home owners regarding the plight of swifts and perhaps encourage some to install suitable nesting provision for the birds. Nest boxes are readily available from the RSPB and other providers on-line, or you can make your own.

Installing a nest box cannot guarantee that swifts will immediately take up residence but at least it will help to give the few that are left more options and a chance to survive before they are all gone.

Terry Neasham



IYENGAR
YOGA
CLASSES

Osmotherley Village Hall

Tuesday 6-7pm

Thursday 2-3pm

Thursday 5.45-7pm

Thursday 7-8pm (men only)

Catholic Church N'allerton

Tuesday 10.30-11.30am

Butterflies Dance Studio

Thirsk

Tuesday 7.30-8.30pm

Methodist Hall N'allerton

Wednesday 6.15- 7.15pm

To book contact: Helen

Cameron 01609 883293,

07990784081



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Osmotherley Area Parish Council-Feb

The council met, later than normal this month (23rd February 2023), to discuss the issues arising since the last meeting.

Those attending discussed the following areas:

The concerns over bad parking in the village, particularly on School Lane and Back Lane had been reported to NYCC Highways for comment. The option to add new yellow lines in the village to alleviate the problem is one that has consistently been raised over the years by this council however the stance taken by Highways has also been consistent in refusing such requests. However, on Back Lane NYCC Highways have advised that they will provide a white line in the problem area. Whilst accepting that this is not as good a solution as yellow lining, it was agreed that this should go ahead, which will hopefully result in the majority of drivers refraining from parking in the white lined area.

The speed limit change, requested by residents at the junction of Clack (Bank) Lane and the A684, was also turned down by Highways, however the Parish Council were informed that residents would continue to take this matter further.

The broken memorial bench on South End has been removed. Communication is ongoing regarding a replacement.

A report on the health of the trees on the Village Green areas, Cemetery and Graveyard is to be commissioned, following the fallen tree last year on North End.

Numerous culvert leaks in the village have been repaired by Yorkshire Water however the leak on Clack Bank still requires attention.

Residents have raised visibility concerns caused by cars parking adjacent to the Golden Lion and a general discussion followed concerning the loss of car parking spaces in the village outside local businesses.

Finally two planning applications were considered and supported.

John Robinson - Clerk to the Parish Council 07801591566

Save our toads

Osmotherley toads need you! Are you interested in saving lives, could you spare a couple of hours around dusk for a few evenings to save toad lives?

Lovelorn toads will start crossing the road to Cod Beck in March when the evening temperature is 9 to 10 degrees C. Depending on weather this lasts for 4 to 6 weeks. To stop them being squashed in large numbers by cars they need help, lifting them off the road, into a bucket and then into the reservoir. The toads show their gratitude by singing to you from the bucket. If interested to know more and potentially help please contact Mike Rowe e-mail: mkrowe61@gmail.com; mobile or text. 07502 263141.

George Jewitt - Memorial Service

There will be a memorial service to celebrate the life of George Jewitt, formerly of South End, held in St Peter's Church, Osmotherley on 11th March at 2pm, with refreshments afterwards at The Golden Lion. All welcome.

Andrew Jewitt

OWLS

There will be a talk in St Peters at 2.30 on Tuesday 14th of March by Prof Jon Lovett . The talk will be about the Victorian Botanist, John Gilbert Baker who worked at Kew Gardens.

If you wish to go on the trip to Goldsborough Hall on April 11th , please bring the £20 for the event plus £5 towards the bus fare in a named envelope.

Osmotherley Community Group

There will be a community soup lunch on Tuesday March 7th at 12 noon - 1 30pm in St. Peter's Church.

It was lovely to see so many at our February soup lunch on 7th Feb - it has been 3 years since we have been able to meet in person! All are welcome at our next soup lunch on 7th March.

This season donations from our soup lunches will contribute towards Northdale's fundraising project to purchase a defibrillator. We do hope you will be able to join us to enjoy a delicious variety of soups whilst supporting this very worthwhile cause.

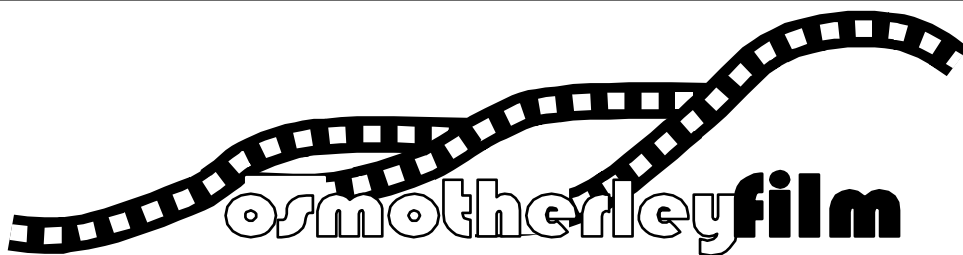
Lent 2023 Feb 22nd - April 8th

Launched at our February Soup Lunch, this project will aim to make 40 donations - one for each day of Lent - to Hambleton Foodshare. There is a collection basket in St. Peter's Church and regular donations are always welcome - the church is open every day. In the current climate, your support is particularly appreciated.

Mothering Sunday March 19th

Service at St Peter's Church 10.45am. We look forward to welcoming everyone to this community service. There will be gifts of flowers and special refreshments.

We do hope you will be able to join us.



Join us for our film evening this month: **Friday 17th March**

OMAR [2013] [Pal.] Cert. 15 95mins

Adam Bakri, Leem Lubany, Eyad Hourani, Waleed Zuaiter, Samer Bisbarat

Love across a divide. A life lived across a divide with all its inherent challenges and contradictions.

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Where? Village Hall

Doors open 7.30pm, film starts 8pm

Guests welcome. Guest Fee: £6 (you must be 16+ yrs of age)

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planned re-opening Friday 24th
March

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Editorial Team:

Contact us on -

os.messenger@googlemail.com

Articles for April issue by
Saturday 18th March 2023



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Dates for your Diary

March

Tues 7th, 12-1.30pm. Community Soup Lunch, St Peter's. All welcome.

Thurs 9th 7-9pm. Charity Book Launch, The Globe Library, Stokesley (see below for tickets).

Sat 11th, 2pm. George Jewitt - Memorial Service, St Peter's Osmotherley. Refreshments afterwards at The Golden Lion. All welcome.

Tues 14th, 2.30pm. Prof Jon Lovett . The talk by Prof Jon Lovett on the Victorian Botanist, John Gilbert Baker, St Peter's church.

Fri 17th 7.30pm. Osmotherley Film, Omar, Village Hall.

Sun 19th 10.45am. Mothering Sunday service at St Peters. All welcome.

Fri 24th 9am. Planned re-opening of Osmotherley Tea & Coffee shop.

OXFAM CHARITY BOOK LAUNCH

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Oxfam Syria appeal.

Hear from local author &
climate change expert
Robert Thorniley-Walker
on a new book covering
Climate Change and
the Moors.

The Globe Library
Stokesley, TS9 5DH
Thursday 9 March 2023

Donations for refreshments to Globe Library. Book sales for Syria appeal. Readings from the book and discussion as guided by the audience.

For details and to book a free ticket please go to Stokesley [Eventbrite](#)
or book/purchase tickets directly at the library



tinyurl.com/mrx8c49z

Mobile Library

Dates for the mobile Library are as follows:

Thursday 23rd March Thursday 20th April

Thursday 18th May Thursday 25th June

10am to 12 noon The library stops at the entrance to the Oswaldene estate.

Village Hall Bookings

Please contact Clare Scott via bookings@osmotherleyvh.org.uk

Quaker Meeting House Bookings - Available for bookings. (Costs are
£12/half day or £24/full day. Contact Annie Peart (Anniepeart@live.com)