

WRNM News!

The village newsletter of Wykeham, Ruston and North Moor
LOCAL NEWS FOR LOCAL PEOPLE!



A very warm welcome to this bumper June newsletter, which finds us living in the strange world of COVID19. Hopefully, by the time you read this, things will have eased slightly. Volunteers have done a brilliant job in providing help with shopping and supplies, and there has been wonderful community support, kindness, generosity, caring and thoughtfulness – so let's give everybody a huge "Clap" of appreciation! Thursday evenings have also seen some fine pan-banging, bell-ringing and horn-blowing in support of NHS, care and key workers. Our beautiful cover image, created during the lockdown, is provided by Anna who has found herself stranded in Ruston, together with her partner Sam, and unable to get home to Italy. Inside, we welcome new contributor Kate Rjsker, of Cottage Farm Stables in Ruston, and we share your photos, experiences, talents and thoughts. Well done and thank you to one and all – particularly the WRNM contributors and deliverers - and stay safe and well.

Anne Britton, Editor, 07866106093, britters54@gmail.com

PARISH COUNCIL

Here is a selection of items from the draft minutes of the most recent Parish Council Meetings. The full minutes may be found on the Parish Council website www.wykehamparishcouncil.org.uk The next Parish Council meeting date will be notified in due course. From the meeting on 4 March:

Input from Councillor Jeffels:

Cllr Jeffels said there has been a meeting with Transpennine Express concerning the noise from their new train maintenance depot in Scarborough. The concerns of residents have been noted. In an answer to Mr Sands Cllr Jeffels said that it is unlikely that bus services in our area will change as funds are not available.

Defibrillators: Mr Sands presented the Council with a cheque for £200 from Scarborough Dine and Dance to go to the defibrillator fund. Lady Downe expressed the Council's appreciation. The Clerk will write to further express our thanks at this extremely generous gesture. Cllr Sword will make enquiries as to how the amount raised by the Wykeham Shoot is progressing. It is expected that the money raised by them will provide a defibrillator at the Downe Arms and also one at North Moor. Once we know how the amount raised stands the Council will consider further fund raising to provide for a defibrillator in Ruston. It is possible that Cllr Jeffels will be able to supply a further £300 from his rural fund.

Parish Field: The present tenant has asked permission to site a field shelter in the field. Councillors agreed to this provided that the installation be removed by the tenant at the end of his tenancy. Cllr Ashman pointed out that £1,200 had been paid to the Estate 3 years ago for repairs to the field. So far the Council has not received any indication that this money has been used. Cllr Sword will make enquiries about this before the next meeting.

North Moor and Ruston: Cllr Ashman raised the question of the pile of rubble by the road at North Moor. Council have previously approved £150 for this to be cleared, although the Estate had said they would clear it. Cllr Sword will have a look at the area and the Estate may remove it, otherwise it was agreed that Mr Harrison would be asked to do it on behalf of the Council. Cllr Ashman said that there had been some attempt by Highways to repair potholes on Ruston Lane but had made rather a perfunctory job. Two soakaways on North Moor Road are now being dug out and the drains are to be flushed out. Concern was raised as to the condition of the road in Burton Terrace in Ruston. The clerk will contact Highways about this.

Speeding: A meeting was held at the Downe Arms at the end of January but Wykeham PC was unaware of this. Councillors held a meeting in February to discuss the possibility of sharing a unit with other parishes. However it is considered to be financially not possible at the present time. Cllr Sword said that the 40mph signs on the road needed to be painted to show up more, and the rumble strips needed to be improved. Cllr Jeffels said the rumble strips were due to be done when the weather improves. The clerk will approach NYP about the siting of their speed vans when they are in the area. It was suggested that the layby approaching Farfield and outside the Downe Arms entrance would be suitable sites.

Street Lighting: In October of last year we were told that the three existing lights would be replaced with LED lights and an additional two lights would be installed on the A170. At present the three existing lights have been replaced but the other two have not been installed. The clerk will contact Paul Gilmore to ask what the current status is. Cllr Sword said that he did not consider the further two lights to be necessary or appropriate given the rural location.

Salt Bins: The Clerk will contact NYCC to request that the grit bins be refilled, and also to report a damaged bin in Ruston.

Dog fouling: Fouling of paths and public areas by dogs continues to be a concern. Special dog waste bins are available but are not cheap. These would have to be provided by the local council and emptying them would be our responsibility. Since they would in any event be simply emptied into the green bins it was decided to ask Scarborough Borough Council to provide a further three waste bins. Sites suggested were outside the gun shop in Wykeham, at the end of the Millennium walk opposite the Downe Arms, and by the stables in Ruston. There is, however, already a bin by the bus shelter in Ruston. The clerk will contact SBC about this. It is hoped that this would encourage dog owners to put dog waste straight into the bins.

CONFINEMENT - A LUCKY EASTGATER'S PERSPECTIVE

Lockdown a nightmare....? Well yes, things I liked doing I cannot do. No more trips to the seaside; no more promised visits to families and friends, here and abroad. A dismal prospect. Having to cook all one's own meals, favourite restaurants all shut - even writing to me to say how they're doing! And there's the start of the paradox - communication!

Life has changed over these last weeks and it's not so bad. Physical isolation is not total. So lucky that, for example, I've time to sit and enjoy the burgeoning garden. It throbs with new life of every sort. You just sit and luxuriate. The colours change, the yellows fade and it's now the blues that dominate. The birds: I never noticed before those glorious bull-finches feasting on my apple blossom - so what? There's always too much fruit for me to use anyway. Thrushes, my delight, have already fledged four babies and mum and dad have built again in a pear tree and are laying. There are blackcap babies chortling in a tall hedge, tits everywhere and gosh, there's a greenfinch for the first time in years...

So, you not only carouse with nature, you also benefit from human generosity. Emails from lovely neighbours to make sure your stomach's replenished, and I am so indebted to them. Lengthy isolation cries out to be broken. Occasional wine bottle emptying, with strictly-respected social distancing, is a redeeming feature on lawns and barn steps! Making new pals: Ruston's second language is Italian, did you know? Modern communication is a godsend, and Zoom is confinement's bouncing new baby. Regular chats with families; shared birthday parties; natters with former work colleagues; U3A French classes with ten of us working together two hours a week; teaching grandchildren three times a week and loving it, all of us. I Zoom over to Italy and chat with Sylvana, Chris and Liliana 'to improve fluency!' (!?)

Then there's YouTube. A source of hilarity and news, some fake? The critiques of political ineptitude make you laugh and weep, and trying to make a virtue out of what's going on makes you cringe. Have you noticed (thanks Sam) that the countries doing the best are led by women - Ardern, Merkel et al? Those with the worst records are led by male populists, USA, GB, Brazil? You see, confinement lets you read and, more importantly, think.

My red "Dublin Bay" rose has a flower and I must let this bumble bee escape from its accidental confinement!

Bill Baxendale



WALL ART IN RUSTON

These beautiful pieces of metal wall art can be found decorating the gable end of Trisha King's barn in Eastgate, Ruston. Designed by a company in York, they are precision-made and a real pleasure to look at. Says Trisha of the company owner: "he was a super chap to deal with, kind and professional, which is rare these days." For further information visit www.antart.co.uk

Trisha and her daughter Luisa are The Unique Care Team Scarborough, a company set up to provide bespoke specialist care packages and domestic services. For further information visit www.uniquecareteam.com, email info@uniquecareteam.com or telephone 07846042455.



Thank you to everyone for supporting the plant sale at such short notice and for giving so generously at this difficult time.

Nicola Shepherdson raised an amazing £800 for the ROC bunker and aircraft observation post at Wykeham on Saturday and Sunday 2nd and 3rd May.



Plants were sold on the footpath outside my gate next to the shop. Nicola spent many hours splitting and packing all those plants from her own garden.

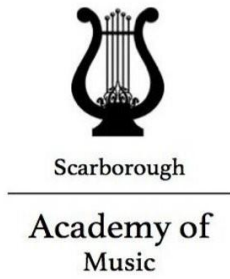
Well done and thank you.

C Shepherdson

LOCKDOWN LITERATURE

Many of us have taken to reading more during lockdown. **JULIA FOWLER** of Ruston says: "I like a good mystery and I've really enjoyed re-reading stories by Ruth Rendell. As a member of the North Yorkshire County Council Library service I can download books for free – it's brilliant!"

A BIG "THANK YOU" to MaryAnn Stockill of Ruston for keeping the bus shelter clean and tidy. It is very much appreciated!  



Covid 19 may have temporarily put a halt to students and singing groups meeting at the Academy, but we have embraced the challenge to bring music into everyone’s homes. The wonders of Whatsapp enable us to communicate. Sue is sending sound clips to both music groups each week, and we meet “virtually” to sing together. It’s amazing the sense of togetherness we feel through the music, all enjoying it at a designated time each week. Zoom chats are also very welcome to keep us connected. There have been lots of funny moments to keep everyone’s spirits up – everyone’s hair growing longer and all of us enjoying too much food and wine!

Wykeham Singers: The Wykeham Singers are entering into the spirit of being cast away on a desert island, hence their new name – The Castaways. Each day we have a song theme, where each person chooses a piece of music for the rest of the group to listen to. In addition to the music, we have chosen our favourite book, a luxury item and something we can’t do without. We particularly enjoyed choosing who we’d like to rescue us. At the moment we are planning a dinner party. This is proving to be very popular, with some “out of this world” menu choices.

We are also treated to a daily music quiz. This is hosted by Bob Muir – Brompton’s very own quiz master. Once the answers are released, as the result come in, it is treated like a horse race, with Bob giving us a running commentary and everyone else chipping in with amusing anecdotes. And of course the winner wins the trophy!

Una Voce: Una Voce too are participating in daily music choices. This has been a great source for discovering “new music.” Our normal Wednesday evening rehearsal time is now split between singing and Zoom chat, which is very enjoyable.

On Thursday 30th April, our Principal, Sue Hartley, arranged a special Captain Tom’s 100th birthday celebration in the courtyard at Wykeham. As well as the usual clapping, she led the residents in a rousing performance of “You’ll Never Walk Alone.” Everyone was delighted by the presence of Lady Downe, who also joined in with the singing.

For V.E. Day, Sue prepared us by sending sound clips of the popular songs of the day – Run, Rabbit Run, A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square, There’ll be Bluebirds Over the White Cliffs of Dover and We’ll Meet Again. Something for us all to look forward to.

Let’s hope it won’t be long before the Academy is in full swing once again, but until then

Everybody Take Care and Stay Safe!



WALKIES!
We are very lucky to have so many lovely walks on our doorstep, and to be able to access beautiful countryside so easily – this has been especially appreciated during COVID19 and lockdown.
Thank you to Janet Crossley of Ruston for this photo of suitably socially-distanced walkers crossing paths near the bridge at Wykeham!

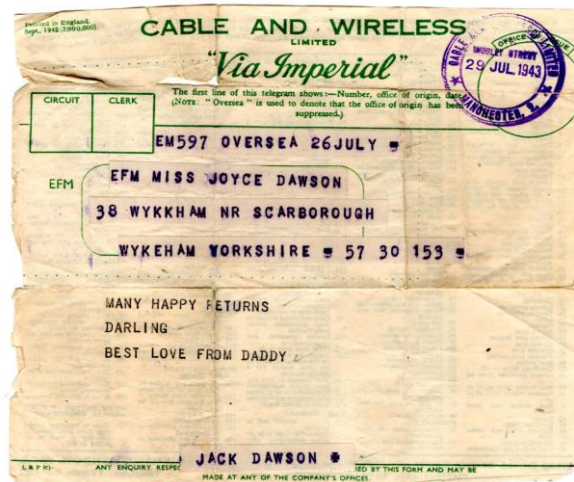
VE DAY MEMORIES

We are very grateful to Joyce Robinson, former Ruston and Wykeham resident, who kindly agreed to a telephone interview about her recollections of VE Day, sharing some very poignant and precious photos and objects from the years of WWII.

“My father joined up in WWII, and he was in India and Burma with the 14th Army. His father had served in WWI in France. My father was 35, considered to be old for a soldier. His brother George Dawson, who worked at the Abbey gardens, was in a protected occupation and so never went to war. I will never forget my father’s number: 1120350 Driver Dawson JW. During the war we had two land girls lodging with us who worked for Bill Jackson in Hutton Buscel. Jean, my mother and I had to share the back bedroom, and I remember sleeping in a large cot on the floor. The land girls shared the other bedroom. I remember there were evacuee children sent from towns like Hull to live in local villages – Walter and Lily Fieldhouse and Herbert Castleton were some of them.

I recall lying in bed and listening to the bombers roaring overhead on their way to and from raids. A bomb dropped on a house next to the pub in Brompton and all the people who lived there were killed. A plane crashed near the far gates at the Abbey, and another crashed in Hutton Buscel lane. Once the crash sites had been cleared, the local lads would go looking for bits of broken glass from the smashed plane windows. Although it sounds strange now it was a popular thing to have rings made from the glass, which was very thick and green.

My mother used to take in washing and went cleaning for people. Times were really hard but we never went hungry or dirty. I recall once my mother could not afford the two and a half pence needed for a postage stamp. I don’t know how my father managed it whilst he was away in the war, but he sent Joyce and me birthday cards and telegrams from overseas. I still have mine to this day. Jean and I had a lovely upbringing, and we were very lucky to have the parents we did.



I was only eight years old when VE (Victory in Europe) Day was celebrated in May 1945, and my mother, sister and I didn’t really feel like joining in, because my father was still out in Burma at that time. I remember we were all given the day off school, and some people put Union Jack flags up.

In those days, Wykeham still had a railway station. When my mother found out the day my father was coming home, we went to the station to meet every train to see if he was on it. It got to my bed time, and he still hadn’t arrived. But then I can remember the bedroom door opening, and my father peeping round at Jean and me. He was wearing his bush hat, and was very thin, and very brown. He had been away for three years, which was a long time to a little girl! He never really spoke about his time during the war, only to remark once that he had been shot at by snipers. He had been hospitalised twice with dysentery and during one of those stays all his possessions were stolen out of his kit bag. When he came home he brought Jean and me a little leather handbag each, made in India, with our initials on the front, which I still have, along with his Burma Star medal and some of his letters.”

BUNKER NEWS

Unfortunately COVID19 stopped progress on the ROC bunker and observation post – the team of volunteers were on lockdown.



Photos: L-R: The site before clearance; the digger on the first day; Kirsten tending the bonfire.

The huge task of preparing the land ready for sowing the grass seed began. In September 2019 a digger cleared the site of blackthorn and briars, and I managed to get it fired on site before the start of the shoot. In February 2020 I decided to check the site, and was devastated when I found all the loose soil had washed away with the heavy rain and exposed lots of stones, which then took several weeks to clear. The briars and blackthorn roots had to be dug out and the site was raked to remove all the small stones ready for the grass seed.

Thank you to Martin Corney for spraying the site for me. Thanks also to Sam and Adam Messruther: Sam for finding some interesting information regarding the bunker, which was much appreciated, and Adam for helping an old lady in distress! I hope all of you enjoy reading this special letter, below, which was posted through my letterbox from William and Harrison Zakrzewski. I was extremely excited to find two young volunteers with a huge interest in the Royal Observer Corps bunker and aircraft observation post. How wonderful when you can inspire the younger generation to be part of the restoration. It makes it all worthwhile.

Dear Sally's Mum

Me and My brother William have heard you have found a ~~WW2~~ air raid shelter. We would like to Help out if we could. We are very interested in History and we know quite alot about WW2. At the moment my brother likes the Titanic and the Victorians and the crimean war. And I like WW1 and WW2 the Romans and the Celts. We go out without mettal detector and try and find things we dont really find ennything so that is why we would like to help you and your amazing find. We would have to help on weekends because we go to school on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. I'm in year 6 at school and my age is 9 and my name is Harrison. My brother is in year 2 at school and his age is 7 and his name is William.

Thank you



NEW VOLUNTEERS

William and Harrison, very much looking the part! Mum Nicola Zakrzewski would like to thank Carrie Gledhill of Hill Farm, Wykeham for the uniforms.

NEWS FROM WYKEHAM CRICKET CLUB

NOT MUCH GOING ON.....

With the likelihood that there will be no competitive cricket this season there has been little activity at the ground so far. However the groundsman, Ian Thompson, has still been hard at work and the ground is looking a picture. Have a stroll up, if regulations allow. Secretary, Jayne Graves, has also been working hard for the club and has gained a £800 grant from Sport England to help with our running costs. This is obviously very welcome, particularly as there has been very little income under the present circumstances.

It is rather unfortunate that the club has scheduled the start of the season for the launch of a new club shirt. It looks very smart and is sponsored by Scarborough Flooring, a local firm based in East Ayton.

The shirts for the juniors are causing concern because, with little chance of cricket for the juniors this season, by the time they do get to wear them in a game several of them might have outgrown their shirts...

We had the unusual thought that there might be, amongst our non playing supporters, those who might like to purchase a shirt, after all Manchester United do quite well from replica shirts sold to supporters and ours are not replicas, they are the real thing. If you are interested please see the advert which appears later in the magazine.

CRICKET HUMOUR

I had thought to brighten the mood by telling a few cricket jokes and anecdotes. This has not proved as easy as I first anticipated for a number of reasons - a lot of the jokes are rather infantile and not suitable for the sophisticated readership of this publication:

Why did the fish lose their cricket match with the sharks? They let the goldfish bowl.

Or even worse: **Which birds do cricketers fear most?** Ducks.

A lot of the jokes are funny but quite frankly filthy and not suitable for the gentle sensibilities of the WRNM populace. There are however one or two clean jokes I quite like:

My wife says she is leaving me due to my obsession with cricket. To be honest it has knocked me for six.

And: **I spent £80 today taking my son to the cricket.** Eighty quid and all it did was hop around and chirrup.

A lot of jokes are very anti Australian, but mind you the Aussies can hand it out as well. Said one, of Geoff Boycott: "He was the only fellow I've met who fell in love with himself at an early age and has remained faithful ever since."

The Aussies also invented the art of sledging. This is the practice of trying to disturb a batsman by saying personal and usually unpleasant things about them while play is in motion. It usually involves completely unfounded accusations about the player's wife or girl friend. Sometimes these comments can rebound, for example: Shane Warne, the famous Australian spin bowler, on seeing Daryll Cullinan coming in to bat remarked that he had been waiting two years to humiliate him again. To which Cullinan replied, "Looks like you spent it eating."

Mark Waugh, the twin brother of the more famous Steve who was the Australian captain, greeted James Ormerod with, "You should not be playing test cricket - you're not very good." Ormerod observed, "That may be so but at least I am the best player in my family."

There have been some good observations about cricket, one of my favourites (unfortunately I cannot remember who said it): "The English, not being a spiritual race, invented cricket to give them some idea of eternity." G H Hardy, the mathematician, had a cynical but not entirely wrong impression of cricket when he observed "Cricket is the only game where you are playing against eleven of the other side and ten of your own."

DAVE GRIMWOOD

NEWS FROM RUSTON FARM

What a strange world we're living in at the moment. For me as a farmer it has been work as usual, which is a blessing for my wife, who is now working from home. Calves keep being born, crops still need to be drilled and fertiliser needs to be spread. No matter what the lockdown state of the nation these jobs all have a time they have to be done.

Weather-wise, again it has rained all winter then when it stopped it never started again and though it's very cold out this week as I write (14th May) believe it or not we're teetering on the edge of another drought and a much reduced crop as a result. With such a wet winter the autumn-sown barley only put down very shallow roots and now the top layer of soil has dried up it is unable to get hold of moisture from deeper down.

A job we have at this time of year is to re-establish our nectar and wild bird seed plots. These are part of a countryside stewardship scheme we're in, to take areas across the farm out of cash crop production and sow seed mixes that appeal to small birds, bees and butterflies. We have 18 acres in total and I've sown three different mixes this time to try and appeal to as wider spread of wildlife as possible and to extend the feed value of the plots for as long as possible through the year. You should be able to see them change colour as the different flowers thrive and then die.



Calving has gone well so far, with the first half requiring very little assistance. All have been born under their own steam and just a couple of calves needed pointing in the right direction for their milk. Once they are a week old we have to tag, castrate and dehorn them. Many of you will have seen we've moved 10 up to the Cowpasture - they always look well in there, with plenty of cover from the bad weather. The Cowpasture is designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest due to some rare orchids that have been found there. As a result, no fertilisers can be applied to it, meaning a much lower stocking rate. Under standard stocking rates you'd put one cow and calf per acre; in this situation, though, it's much lower, with the ration nearer one cow and calf to four acres. I see it more of a park-keeping exercise.

DAVID SHEPHERDSON

THANK YOU!

We just wanted to make a personal note of thanks to Di Ruston and friends and neighbours for all their help in keeping us "fed and watered" since the COVID19 lockdown. The uplifting community spirit is alive and well at Town End and it has really helped us through the last two months. A note of thanks also to Graves Butchers for their delicious deliveries!

Dave Ward and Sharon Colley

HOME SWEET HOME



Bug Hotel



Hedgehog House

These beautifully-crafted “home sweet homes” are made by David Sands of Ruston and Bobby Gledhill of Wykeham. Any profits made from sales are donated to the Hedgehog Rescue Centre and wildlife projects. All enquiries to David, by email: davidsandsie@gmail.com or telephone 07429687087

VE DAY IN WYKEHAM

Some lucky residents in Wykeham were given a real treat on VE Day – delicious scones, with jam and cream, hand-delivered by Bobby and Matthew Gledhill and made by mum Carrie (whose unusual recipe features below!)



Laila Bradley and Matthew Gledhill



VE Day scone

VE DAY SCONES

400gm (14oz) self-raising flour; 175ml (6fl oz) each of double cream and lemonade. Mix together all ingredients and roll out to 3cm thick on floured surface. Cut out into 7cm rounds and cook on a greased baking sheet at 220 deg C for around 15/20 minutes. Makes 8-10 scones.

GARDEN NOTES

What frustrations with the weather – too much water then too little, and a couple of sneaky, late frosts, and most recently three days of gusty winds! In my garden, with its free-draining, gritty soil, plants are really beginning to suffer after nearly three months of no significant rain. This makes me wonder whether the lush, green herbaceous borders that England is justly famous for might become a thing of the past, and we grow instead more Mediterranean style plants. I don't envisage olive groves just yet, but plants with silver leaves (such as lavender), grasses, thymes and bulbs might fare better than delphiniums and day lilies, for example. Even some of the roses are looking a bit sad, so I have been pampering my favourites with a good soaking from the watering can.

The “meadow”, aka front lawn, is coping pretty well, with lilies and iris coming through as the cowslips (of which there have been lots, everywhere, this year) and snake’s head fritillaries fade away. The birds have been pulling moss out of the grass for nesting material, an added bonus!

Many people have been trying their hand at growing plants from seed during lockdown, and having to tend seedlings and plants does give a focus to every day. Particularly good to try are radish, basil, rocket and lettuce, as they are quick to grow and delicious to eat. Also worth a try in biggish pots, though they take longer to mature, are courgettes and climbing beans (French and runner). For sheer entertainment value – who can grow the biggest? – sunflowers are always a good bet too, and the seed they produce can be used to feed the birds.

Villagers have been sharing spare seed and plants during lockdown. It has been a joy to look over garden walls as part of a daily walk and see how the gardens of friends and neighbours are coming along. We are indeed very lucky to live where we do.

Anne Britton

FROM THE ARCHIVES#1 29 June 1904: The Foundation Stone was laid for a New Primitive Methodist Chapel at Ruston.



Jessica, Josh and Jacob

RUSTON CLAPPING FOR CARERS

Thank you to Alan Howells of Ruston for these photos of the Thursday night Clapping for NHS, Carers and Key Workers. Lots of enthusiasm, sincere appreciation and a superior class of clapping!



Ian and Cassandra Fowler with Esme, Mikey and George



Tracy, Tom and David



Sharon and Dave



Barry



Donna, Summer and Des



Lesley and David



Di



Ben and Tom

BEAT THAT !

Not to be outdone in the clapping stakes here are some Town Enders in Ruston putting on a fine display. Thanks to Sharon and Anne for their photographs.



Janet's Jottings

I'd like to recommend something to add to your reading list during lockdown. It will take you back to your teenage years, and may fill you with dread when you think of all that revision. I speak, of course, of the Highway Code.

When I took my test (1977) the examiner got out the dreaded book at the end of my test, flicked through and asked a few questions. Now students have 50 questions on the Highway Code and a hazard perception test before they even get to the practical test. How lucky were we?

When I ask my students how they are preparing for their theory test, they usually say "I have an App." Yes, there is an App for the Highway Code itself, and an App for sample questions etc. You can access the whole thing on line; you can even get alerts and updates as rules change, and they do change. The current edition came out earlier this year – do you know what changed? Any rule that says "YOU MUST" is law, and will be accompanied by the relevant section of the Road Traffic Act.

So spend an afternoon reading the Highway Code, then have a go at some sample theory questions – it can't hurt to refresh your knowledge, can it.....? And if you get stuck, ask a teenager!!! Safe travelling.

Janet 07713 646461

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FREE HORSE MANURE

Steve Risker, of Cottage Farm Stables in Ruston, says if anyone would like some well-rotted horse manure then to please help themselves from the pile on the triangular bit of land after the top bend leaving Eastgate.

WANTED (1)

Helen Evans of Ruston is seeking a **piano or electric keyboard**.
Please contact Helen on 01723 658736.

WANTED (2)

Images or memories of the former chapel in Ruston, which was converted to a house some years ago. Contact Anne Britton britters54@gmail.com or 07866106093

THE
TACK
ROOM

Ruston's new business enterprise is the Tack Room at Cottage Farm Stables, offering boutique accommodation and stabling. Stays are tailored on a bespoke basis and guests are welcome to bring along their horse, dog, cat or any pet on holiday! For further info visit www.thetackroomruston.co.uk or telephone 07776200456



MEMORY GARDEN

Thank you to Christine Richardson of Wykeham for her photos showing the progress of the tree and garden planted in memory of Michelle Collins

HOME THOUGHTS FROM HOME (as opposed to Home Thoughts from Abroad)

I realise that these few random meditations are mine alone. I also realise how lucky I am to live here with a comfortable home, and a garden to sit in, surrounded by caring and kind neighbours and friends. I have not wanted for a thing. As I write, the land is silent, the roads are free of traffic and the skies are clear. The atmosphere is so much more pure.

I have been thinking of Nelson Mandela who survived nearly 30 years of imprisonment, most of it in solitary confinement. He came out without bitterness as he focused on the higher cause, but he saw his day, as we will see ours.

He was sustained by this wonderful poem, *Invictus*, written by the English poet William Ernest Henley in 1874 and first published in 1888.

[Henley had his left leg amputated below the knee at the age of 16 as a result of the complications of tuberculosis. He suffered greatly but overcame the difficulties of his disability. *Invictus* was composed during a long period of isolation in hospital as he battled with tuberculosis.]

INVICTUS

Out of the night that covers me,
Black as the Pit from pole to pole,
I thank whatever gods may be
For my unconquerable soul.

In the fell clutch of circumstance,
I have not winced nor cried aloud.
Under the bludgeoning of chance
My head is bloody, but unbowed.

Beyond this place of wrath and tears
Looms but the Horror of the shade,
And yet the menace of the years
Finds, and shall find, me unafraid.

It matters not how strait the gate,
How charged with punishments the scroll,
I am the master of my fate;
I am the captain of my soul.

So the shadows lengthen and the evening comes and I go to my door and clap with my lovely neighbours, to applaud the NHS, the people on the front line. To me, the NHS is one, if not the, greatest of social steps forward Britain has produced.

Hallelujah, the swallows are back! I am always sad to see them leave in the Autumn, but joyful to see them back in the Spring. Surely a sign in this uncertain, fevered world of rebirth and renewal of life. What marvellous birds they are: mysterious, brave and tenacious of purpose, as we must be.

I have been moved by many untimely deaths, but I was very sad to see the great footballer Norman Hunter go to his rest as he did. To see his lonely coffin in the middle of the Leeds pitch and then carried down the tunnel of dreams accompanied by just ten people... he, who had entertained and thrilled thousands, scored his final goal almost alone. A supreme irony, I thought.

Laila Bradley

APPEAL FOR INFORMATION – CAN YOU HELP?

Eileen Barrett – whose family originated in Wykeham and Hutton Buscel - is seeking information about her Winspeare ancestors, particularly Frances Winspeare, who married William Kidd of Wykeham on 2 January 1798. They had two children who were christened at Wykeham Church. Please email Eileen at ebarrett@ebarrett.karoo.co.uk if you can help. Thank you!

TACK ROOM TALES

A new regular feature from Kate Risker of Cottage Farm stables in Ruston



Orphan Lambs

Amidst the Covid-19 virus we were stuck at home with plenty of time on our hands so we adopted some orphan lambs. We had to feed them every six hours at first and mother some lambs that were not comfortable drinking from a bottle. The ewes had either disowned them, perhaps had triplets or died giving birth. The lambs are now fit and healthy, weaned and eating off the grass in the paddock behind Town End! The photo shows the lambs when they'd just arrived.

We enjoy foraging for food and here is a recipe using wild garlic. Serve these fragrant, spiced eggs for a simple, meat-free meal. We enjoy foraging for food and here is a recipe using wild garlic. Serves four.

Green Masala Egg Curry with Wild Garlic

Ingredients: 6 eggs; 350g Basmati Rice; 2 tbsp rapeseed oil; 1 onion finely sliced; 2cm piece ginger; 1 tsp turmeric; 1 tsp chilli powder (adjust to taste as quite spicy!); 1 tsp ground coriander; 400ml can coconut milk; 2 green chillies finely sliced; 1 tsp mango chutney; large handful chopped wild garlic leaves.

Method:

1. Lower the eggs into a pan of boiling water and cook for 6 mins, then lift them out and cool under cold running water. Cook the rice following pack instructions.
2. Heat a little of the oil in a deep frying pan and cook the onions until soft. Add the ginger and cook for 1 min, then stir in the turmeric, chilli powder and coriander and cook for 1-2 mins or until fragrant. Add the coconut milk, most of the chillies and the mango chutney, bring to a simmer and cook for 5 mins.
3. Meanwhile, heat the rest of the oil in a frying pan or wok. Peel the eggs and stir them around in the hot oil until they brown and start to bubble and crisp all over. Lift them carefully out of the pan and halve them.
4. Roughly chop the wild garlic and stir most of it into the masala with some salt. Add the eggs, scatter the rest of the chilli and wild garlic over the top and serve with the rice.

KATE RISKER

ENJOY A LOCAL WALK

We have all been encouraged to take daily exercise during COVID19 and there are many lovely walks on our doorstep. One particularly enjoyable trek of about 45mins duration is a circular route from Eastgate in Ruston. Follow Eastgate out of the village, up the hill. After about 5 mins, take the signposted bridleway to the left. Continue along, keeping Sawdon beck on the left, until just before the point where the route is blocked by a gate. Cross the beck on the left, go through the gate, and continue to the right, following the beck now on the right hand side. At the end of the field, head up through the gully on the left. Go through the gate at the top, and turn immediately left onto a track which heads all the way back down to Westgate in Ruston. There are wonderful views south across to the Wolds and at the time of writing there is a meadow of beautiful pink campions in bloom. As always, observe the Country Code and ensure all gates are securely closed behind you.

THE WYKEHAM SHIP



We recently held celebration events to commemorate the 25th anniversary of VE Day and it seems an appropriate time to relate how a ship which has been moored in Wykeham for the past few years has a link to an incident of extreme bravery and self-sacrifice which occurred at sea during WWII. The ship (pictured) is not of course a full-size vessel and is not moored on water. It is a 26-foot replica of an armed merchant cruiser bearing the name HMS Jervis Bay and it sits 'moored' on dry land at the top of the garden of Lilac Cottage, 29 Wykeham.

Jervis Bay did, however, spend about 40 years on water entertaining countless numbers of people as part of the Naval Warfare Display run by Scarborough Council in Peasholm Park during the summer season. The display commenced soon after WWII and is still running today. Jervis Bay played a principal role in it between the early fifties and her retirement and replacement in the late eighties.

The tenants of 29 Wykeham are Ray Kirk and his partner Jacqui and after he took semi-retirement from his work as a professional musician, Ray became involved with the private company which took over the operation of the North Bay Railway and came across the broken up Jervis Bay where the Council had previously dumped it behind the engine sheds. Recalling the amount of pleasure which the Warfare displays had given to him and countless others over the years, he felt strongly that she was part of Scarborough's entertainment history and heritage and did not deserve to end her days on a rubbish dump. Therefore he decided to take her home to Wykeham and rebuild her, which proved difficult as the hull alone took six men to lift it. However, this was achieved and, with no plans but only old photographs to go on, he set about the restoration which overall took about two and a half years. The restored ship has now rested serenely in the garden for the past six years.

The Jervis Bay had been modelled on and named after a real hero of WWII. At that time, Great Britain was supplied with essential goods from the US and Canada by convoys of merchant ships crossing the North Atlantic, usually under the protection of a Royal Navy Frigate or an armed merchant cruiser. On 5th November 1940 a vessel of that type named HMS Jervis Bay was the only escort of a convoy of 37 merchant ships crossing the North Atlantic from Halifax, Nova Scotia when they were met by one of the most formidable members of the German surface fleet - the Battleship Admiral Von Scheer. The 6-inch guns of the Jervis Bay with a firing range of 7/8 miles were no match for the 11-inch fire power of the battleship with a range of about 22 miles. Nevertheless, her smaller size gave her the manoeuvrability to continually cross its path, dropping canisters to create smoke screens and hindering it from its mission to destroy as much of the convoy as possible. Whilst ablaze and severely damaged, Jervis Bay still kept up her heroic and self-sacrificial attempt to protect the convoy until 190 of its 225 strong crew had died and the captain gave the order to abandon ship. She was eventually completely destroyed and sank, but not without engaging the attention of the Admiral Von Scheer and hindering it long enough to allow 32 ships of the convoy to scatter and escape to safety with their vital supplies for Britain.

After the war, the captain of the Jervis Bay was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross for bravery and the captain of the Admiral Von Scheer, who survived the war, is believed to have written in his memoirs that he would have liked to have met the captain of Jervis Bay in peacetime as he admired his seamanship, bravery and self-sacrifice but as he wrote, it was war and he had to put him down. The Jervis Bay which lives in the garden of 29 Wykeham (but which is currently dismantled for further renovation) was modelled on and named after the real HMS Jervis Bay to commemorate and honour the heroic role it played in the battle of the North Atlantic. A fitting tribute and a good enough reason for it to be restored and retained.

(For more information about the Jervis Bay/Admiral Von Scheer battle, googling "Jervis Bay Ship" will bring up the full story and associated articles. Also, googling "Naval Warfare, Scarborough" will show film of the Peasholm Park entertainment and the replica Jervis Bay can be seen in action.)

MILLENNIUM FOOTPATH GROUP

Our activities have ceased during the lockdown, though it is always handy to carry a pair of secateurs on the daily walk, to take a passing snip at some of the vicious blackberry stems which threaten to take over various sections of path!

Unfortunately, and disappointingly, there have been some developments which have caused concern. The first is the deliberate smashing down of several path-side yellow signs reminding users of rules and obligations; the Ice House information board was also damaged. Some of the signs had also been damaged by gun pellets. The second was the lighting of a fire next to a bench on the Millennium path - in broad daylight, in full view of passers-by - by a group of youths. This irresponsible and intimidating act, particularly with the grass being bone-dry, could have set fire to the surrounding area and trees. The police were informed, and fortunately the fire did not spread far.

As always, it seems that the few are determined to spoil things for the many, and our little group has to bear the cost in terms of labour and materials to put things right. However, please continue to use and enjoy our lovely paths - they play an important role in our lives, particularly in these recent times.

LOCKDOWN LIFE #1

Listen

Go outside your door and stop and listen!

I mean listen!

A gentle breeze rustling leaves,

Birds singing and preparing their nests

Daffodils out, crocus and snowdrops been and gone!

Mother Nature at its finest.

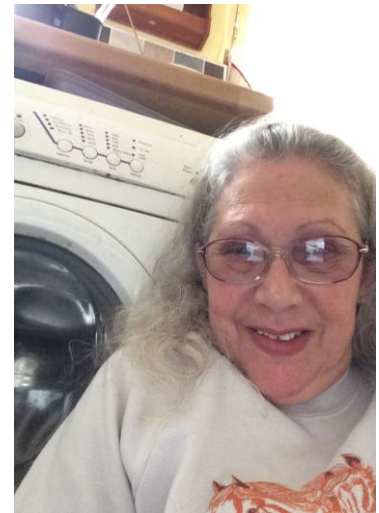
So what have we really got to moan and get depressed about?

We will survive.

Then it will be a distant memory.

We just need to work together.

Sending out lots of love and healing light to all xx **Sue Long**



Thanks to Sue Long for her poem. Sue says she has found some unusual companions during the lockdown.... "The microwave and the washing machine are my new best friends that I talk to every day. The worrying part is they are answering!"

DID YOU KNOW.....? There are some words from the distant past which are very relevant to this strange time we are going through? **Agathism** was coined in 1830 for the belief that all things eventually get better. It is a word to remind us that though we may be having hard times, there is light at the end of the tunnel. **Dolorifuge** is a 19th century word for anything that makes you happy and lessens feelings of pain or sadness; and **focillation**, from the Latin, is a momentary act of comfort or refreshment.

Information courtesy of Bill Baxendale

ST HELEN AND ALL SAINTS CHURCH

Robert and Rosemary Sword, stalwarts of St Helen and All Saints Church, are leaving the parish for pastures new, following Robert's retirement from the Dawnay Estate after 27 years. Thanks go to Robert for his many enthusiastic WRNM reports of church activities and information about forthcoming events, as well as all his hard work in trying to bring a village hall to the community, latterly by the conversion of a part of the church premises. An active churchwarden for many years, he has also been instrumental in raising the £70,000 required to repair the church organ, and has organised many activities to raise funds for essential maintenance of the fabric of the church. Robert has also been an active and committed Parish Councillor for many years.

Both Robert and Rosemary have striven to bring music to the church and wider community, by way of social and operatic events and the choir. They were huge supporters too of the annual Wykeham Whizz. Their efforts and presence in our community will be missed by many. We thank them, and wish them every happiness in their new life.

LOCKDOWN LIFE #2



Photo: Katrina Shamel

Writes **Katrina Shamel** of Wykeham:

Working from home has been a challenge for an IT novice like me and although I've now got to grips with Zoom I've missed my colleagues, the buzz of the office and all the conversations with customers and tenants. Those who have had to juggle all this with lockdown and home-schooling children – well, you deserve a medal. But my main thoughts throughout lockdown have been how fortunate I am to live in such a friendly and supportive place, and so beautiful. One of the prettiest places is the walk along the old railway line, behind the Estate Office, that has been transformed by the Millennium Footpath group – full of light, flowers and birdsong.



SMILE!

Here are two pictures to make us smile! Left, from Joyce Robinson, shows her great-grandson George Midgley, aged two, and his beautiful rainbow collage to encourage us. Right is a baby rabbit snapped very quickly by Anne Britton during a walk through Fish Pond Wood.



NORTH MOOR NEWS



Here are two lovely photos from **Susan and Alan Bartlett at Rowe Howe Farmhouse**, showing a very inviting VE day feast and a cute nest belonging to a pair of blue tits, which have set up home in an old water pump in the garden.



Says Susan: "We have been watching Mum and Dad go back and forward as they raise their chicks. They fly in through the smallest space in the top of the pump. The nest is not visible with the naked eye so we took this picture using the flash on an iPhone.

Secondly we have all recently celebrated the 75th anniversary of VE Day. Rowe Howe Farmhouse looked splendid that day bedecked with an original Royal Navy Warship Union Flag. It was a warm sunny day and we had a victory lunch in the garden with victory cupcakes from Glaves the butchers."

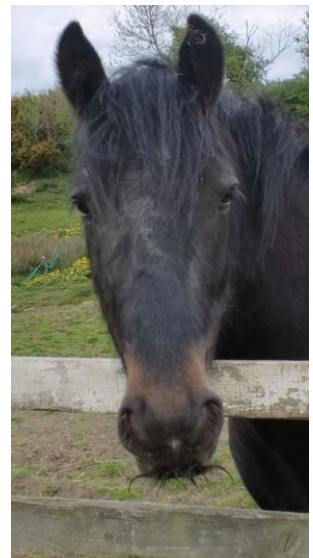
Also, from Ingrid Ashman (who sells eggs, home-made preserves and plants from her garden gate) "We always say, 'so far, so good' whenever anyone asks how we are. Thus far we have managed to keep healthy and every morning I wake up and feel well, I feel grateful, given what others have gone through. We are very fortunate to live where we do with so much to do and glorious countryside to enjoy, right on our doorstep. Our garden and growing the summer bedding and basket plants has kept us more than busy! The recent cold spell saw temperatures plummet to at least -2C up here on the hill and Austin was getting up at 1.30 a.m. to run gas and electric fan heaters in the tunnels and not getting back to bed until 5.30! We are just keeping our fingers crossed there are no more climatic challenges this summer. The lack of rain has meant a fair bit of watering, especially in the new flower beds I have created this year, where plants are not yet fully established. We have heard turtle doves in Wykeham Forest recently (before the great winds!) so they seem to be back which is great – we didn't hear any at the North Moor end last year. On the first warm, and windless, night we will go out to listen for nightjars."

And finally: A very warm welcome to new North Moor residents Mark, Vic and family.



BAD HAIR DAY ...

One of the minor inconveniences of the lockdown has been the lack of access to hairdressers and barbers. Here are two Ruston residents for whom the absence of hair and beauty treatments to deal with fringes and whiskers is clearly not a problem. Hairy and proud!



FROM THE ARCHIVES..... #2

These excerpts from the diaries of past headteachers at Wykeham School show how viruses and illness were affecting our communities nearly 120 years ago.

1902:

Elizabeth and Maud Sawdon returned to school this week after being absent for 10 weeks through Scarlet Fever. The attendance is very poor this morning. Only 51 present, 20 absent. Upon making inquiries I find that nearly all the absentees are suffering from a kind of influenza cold. Several now present are coughing and sneezing.

29 Apr – Attendance is below average this week. Sickness, swollen faces, scabs and sore throats are rather prevalent.

1903: 14 Dec – Reopened school after being closed for a month. There have been over 80 cases of measles in the two villages. I am afraid the epidemic will seriously affect the progress of our work for the last quarter.

1905: 16 Jan - Re-opened School today. Attendance very poor, only 44 present out of 76. Whooping cough is still prevalent. School work is now suffering from this cause.

1909: 17 Feb – A very infectious kind of Influenza cough is prevalent among the children. Never during the last six years has the attendance been so seriously affected as during this winter.

5 April – Owing to an outbreak of Chicken Pox at Ruston Dr Candler Hope ordered the school to be closed for a fortnight.

19 April – Dr Candler Hope has closed the school for another week owing to there being some fresh cases of Chicken Pox.

USEFUL COMMUNITY CONTACT DETAILS

Twitter @NYorksPolice-Force Twitter
Facebook North Yorkshire Police-Force Page
Local Beat Manager PC595 Graham Bilton graham.bilton@northyorkshire.pnn.police.uk
Community Support Officer Ria Lockey ria.lockey@northyorkshire.pnn.police.uk
Highways 01609 780780 **Dog Warden** 01723 232323 **NHS** 111
Action Fraud 0300 1232040 **RSPB** 0300 9990101 **Crimestoppers** 0800 555111

AND FINALLY..... : Some REALLY cheesy jokes.....

How did the Welsh cheese cross the road? **Caerphilly....!**

How did Shakespeare's Hamlet begin his cheese-themed speech? **"To brie or not to brie, that is the question"**

What's a pirate's favourite cheese? **Chedd-aaaaargh, Jim lad!**

The next edition of WRNM News will be due out in **SEPTEMBER 2020**, so please submit any contributions (articles, photos, poems, recipes, memories, for sale notices, etc) by **23 AUGUST**. Thank you!
Anne Britton (britters54@gmail.com) or **07866106093**