

# Great Hucklow Community Spirit News Letter

December 2007

## Voices in the Mist

By Alfred, Lord Tennyson

The time draws near the birth of Christ:  
The moon is hid; the night is still;  
The Christmas bells from hill to hill  
Answer each other in the mist.

Four voices of four hamlets round,  
From far and near, on mead and moor,  
Swell out and fail, as if a door  
Were shut between me and the sound:

Each voice four changes on the wind,  
That now dilate, and now decrease,  
Peace and goodwill, goodwill and peace,  
Peace and goodwill, to all mankind.



## The Great Hucklow and District Community Spirit Committee

would like to take this opportunity to wish all our residents and friends a very happy Christmas and a good New Year.

We would also like to thank everyone who has supported our activities in any way during the past year, for no matter what we as a committee might like to see happen – nothing can or would happen without people making it happen, taking the time and making the effort.

We believe that the creation and encouragement of community activities, events and projects which involve as many people as possible can only be good for mutual friendship and a sense of our communal identity.

We hope our efforts in 2008 will continue to help enhance our way of live in this very special parish of ours.



A sprig of jolly Hucklow holly

## Diary Dates for 2008

Two talks have been scheduled for 2008 – both held in the Nightingale Centre at 8.00pm. Admission is £3.00

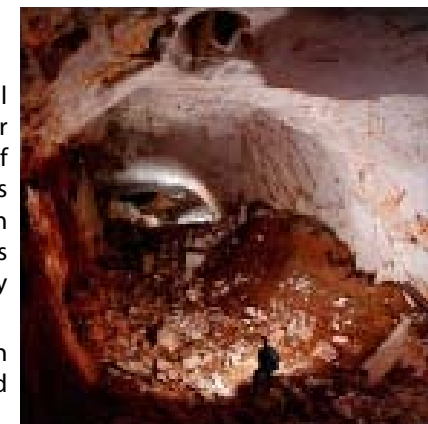
Refreshments will be available

### Sunday 20th January:

#### The Mulu Caves Expedition 2007

In Borneo, deep in Sarawak's Gunung Mulu National Park, lie the most spectacular caves on earth. Over millenia the flow of water draining from the slopes of Gunung Mulu towards the sea has cut deep gorges through the Park's limestone mountains, and within the rock itself, a complex network of vast caves has been formed. Most of these caves have only recently been explored and much is still to be discovered.

Nick Williams was a member of the 2007 expedition to the Mulu caves and this talk will be an illustrated account of his experiences there.



### Sunday 17th February: Kenyan experiences with VSO

As one of the series of winter evening events I have been asked to talk about my time in Kenya last winter.

This will be a short and informal session – not a travelogue and no pictures of large animals! I will talk a little about VSO and the work they are doing and in particular my role in rural Kenya, hopefully there will be a few slides to illustrate the work.

If you know of anyone who may be interested in volunteering with VSO please invite them along, alternatively I would be pleased to have a chat at any time.

Any profits made on the evening will be over going to Kenyan orphans.

Hester Messom

## Great Hucklow and District Community Spirit Committee

### Future Meetings 2008

Wed 16th January, Wednesday 13th February, Wednesday 12th March.

All meetings at 8.15pm in the Old Chapel Shoolroom; everyone welcome

### 100 Club Winners – October and November

N Spooner	£20	G Wilkinson	£20
P Miles	£10	K Dale	£10
S Reed	£10	S Edmunds	£10
A Stokes	£5	J Lawson	£5
M Beer	£5	T Wragg	£5

## The Great Hucklow Hobble

Shandy, Thistle, Paddy, Willy Brown and Holly. No, not the nicknames of an RAF Squadron but the assortment of hounds that accompanied us on the 2007 Great Hucklow Hobble in October. Our meeting point was Reeth in North Yorkshire to convene for a coffee and an action plan. However, any hopes of a full English breakfast that Clive and Aussie Pete had worked themselves up for were soon dashed as all of the 5 cafes/tearooms were closed.

So onwards and upwards we went to start our walk in Gunnerside. The weather was kind for the time of year, with the odd rain cloud making an appearance but the thought of that first, velvety pint was enough to keep our joints lubricated. Peter Miles, who was leading the walk, was like a mountain goat clambering over the green turf. Malcolm Hutton, the old landlord of The Queen Anne, was able to join us for the first time since the shackles of opening times and deliveries have since been removed. Stella remained in the Winnebago that has become their second home with Heat, Take a Beak and QVC for company.

The walk lasted 9 miles with a few pit stops for sandwiches. The Aussies still hold the trophy for the 'most elaborate lunch in a rucksack' as



Hobblers hobbling

morning sickness on my part could only cater for cold chicken, crisps and bread. Sorry guys. Anyway, as usual the company was good, the chat flowing and the walk passed without a hitch.

After a quick drink in Reeth at the end of the walk, we headed off to our accommodation for a quick swill and it was down to the Shoulder of Mutton in Kirby Hill for our evening meal. The host was welcoming and the atmosphere most convivial. Stella made an appearance and plenty of chat was exchanged across a hearty meal (plus wine).

All that was left was to once again thank Jeremy Hand for organising the hobble which is no mean feat, and thank you to Peter Miles who provided the directions for the walk. I'm sure all in attendance would agree.

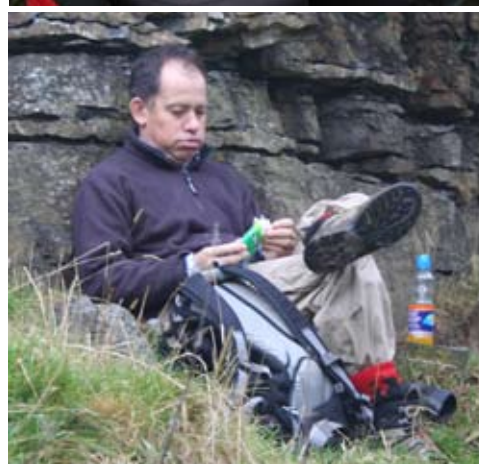
*Jackie Fee*

## A Hucklow Bonfire Night

One of the best nights of the year is Bonfire Night at Little Hucklow. Our family went to the Bonfire Night this year. We put on our wellies and waterproof coats, then we got our torches and were ready to go. The path we took had a lot of puddles, especially as we got to the end. As we got nearer we could almost see the fire roaring up into the sky, and when we got there it was even clearer. They had hot dogs, chilli, baked potatoes and some superb beefburgers. For dessert there was bonfire toffee, French bon-bons and chocolate chip cookies (I had quite a lot of them). After most of the people had eaten their dinner, the fireworks started. They were beautiful, there were so many, all different colours. A lot of my friends were there and we played a good game of hide and seek whilst playing with sparklers. After that I just chatted with my friends until dad came to pick us up. The Hucklow Bonfire was brilliant as usual and I can't wait till next year!!!

*Francesca Butcher*

## The Great Hucklow Hobblers



A few pics of some of the Hobblers enjoying their well-earned lunch stop at a waterfall just below the village of Keld

## Welcome and Farewell

Welcome to our new residents John Williams and Louise Kennedy at Candlelight Cottage – we hope they will be very happy in Great Hucklow. And farewell to Neil Spooner as we wish him well in his new abode in Castleton – it was good to see him back with us on our Christmas Lights switch-on night. (Much better than the Castleton lights!)

# Shoebboxes make a difference

I had a wonderful half hour recently. I was at the morning assembly at Great Hucklow School. I took along a friend, Freda, to talk to the children about "Operation Christmas Child 2007" i.e. Shoebboxes.

Mrs. Harrison introduced the assembly, saying Good Morning in Zulu and the children and staff replied in Zulu. Freda and I were "blown away" – what a start!

Two children volunteered to help Freda illustrate the need for Shoebboxes: one was to play the part of Mehi, a Romanian boy, and the other was to play the part of Hazel, an English girl. Freda had a sack full of presents and out they came one by one – a hat, a scarf, gloves, a doll, a yo-yo, a jigsaw, pens, pencils, a drawing book, a necklace, sunglasses, sweets, and on it went. Hazel had so many presents, she couldn't hold them all. Poor Mehi was sad, he had nothing! Freda asked the children what they thought about this. "It's not fair", they said, "It's sad", "It's awful".

Freda showed the children how they could help by covering a Shoebox with Christmas paper, filling it with presents and sending it to a needy boy or girl somewhere in the world. "Shoebboxes give hope to children caught in the midst of wars, natural disasters

and extreme poverty. They are given to the neediest of children regardless of nationality, political background or religious belief." (Operation Christmas Child 2007)

We then watched a DVD of children receiving Shoebboxes in 2006. They were smiling and laughing and were obviously thrilled with their presents. In 2006, the UK sent out 1.24 million shoebboxes, but even so, not every child in need received one.

Freda invited the children to ask questions. Hands shot up! The questions were quite amazing, intelligent, sensible and thoughtful.

Last year the children at Great Hucklow School filled 17 Shoebboxes. This year they have filled 40 Shoebboxes – a brilliant contribution! Altogether I delivered 136 boxes to the warehouse in Sheffield and this year they are going to children in Mozambique.

The Shoebboxes will make a huge difference to the happiness of many children this Christmas.

Thank you so much, and have a very happy Christmas.

*Doreen Cameron-Murphy, Little Hucklow*

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## Christmas Lights

A sincere thanks to everyone who helped organise the Christmas trees and lights, and a special thanks to Nick Williams and his crew for checking the sets of lights and cables for electrical safety. In spite of the trees being in place early it was still a bit of a panic getting the final sets of lights up and working before switch-on evening.

This year's switch-on occasion was a little different due to the uncooperative weather conditions. By 3pm in the afternoon the ground on which the marquee was pitched was already a quagmire and it would have been impossible for it to shelter the musicians and refreshment tables. The rain was still bucketing down at that point and a decision had to be made, especially as we had the band to consider – not our usual brass band (Cressbrook were not available) but a band with instruments more susceptible to inclement weather – so our sincere thanks to David Shaw for allowing us to decamp to the Chapel, and our thanks to Julie Dadson for doing an excellent switch-on without a switch!



## Excellence in the Community Awards

On Tuesday 13th November at a ceremony in the Buxton Dome, Great Hucklow Community Spirit was presented with one of the Derbyshire County Council's *Excellence in the Community Awards* – a framed certificate and a splendid glass ornament. The citation for the award said:

"The group was set up 20 years ago by young people and since then it has been involved in a number of projects and has notched up many successes. Each year the group organises the

village well dressings and wakes week, which help to fund the Christmas lights. In the past five years they have restored the Butter Cross as a focal point of Great Hucklow Village, researched the history of lead mining in the area and with the help of a grant from the Local Heritage Initiative are compiling a book and setting up a lead mining heritage trail. Adele Metcalfe nominated the group for the award."

Well done, everybody.

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## The Parish Plan

The final meeting of the Parish Plan group took place on October 15th, 2007. An update of the activities which resulted from the planning process was circulated. Copies are available from Hester (01298 971244).

The group discussed the developments related to the need for a school/village hall. To date the Trustees of the Nightingale Centre have agreed in principle to selling some land adjacent to the school and the DCC Education Department have had discussions with the school. There was agreement that nothing further could be done until the Governors and Head Teacher of Great Hucklow School had discussed the possibility further; if they wished the community to be involved this would then be taken to a meeting of Community Spirit. It was agreed that relationships between village and school was much improved and it was hoped that this would continue.

The meeting was pleased to learn that the Clerk of the Parish Council, Phyllis Walton was following up issues relating to village greens and the clearance of scrub which are the responsibility of the Parish Council rather than the Parish Plan group. Phyllis had also been in contact with the Probation Service regarding possible work to improve the footpath from Benstor Farm to the Anchor Cross Roads. They were not able to help with this project due to safety issues of working alongside a busy road. However they were happy to consider other community work which

may need doing. Phyllis will ask DCC if they will remove the old Great Hucklow signs now that all the stone signs are in place.

Promised work has been undertaken by DCC Highways Department in replacing or updating road signs. Their inspector will be visiting in the near future to check the work undertaken. They are not at present prepared to do any work on Sygnings Lane, if the surface was improved it would make a safe route to school for the increasing number attending from Little Hucklow. It was felt that pressure from the parents would have a greater likelihood of succeeding.

Two outstanding issues from the Plan are seats for the village greens and the erection of the old lane names. It was agreed that these should go to a vote at a future Community Spirit meeting, as there is now a committee member from Little Hucklow their interests would met.

The meeting unanimously agreed that the Parish Plan meeting be subsumed into the Community Spirit meeting and in the future anyone wishing to raise specific items could ask that these are put on the agenda.

Audrey Abdi thanked everyone for their hard work and commented that the last formal meeting did not mean an end to community development and new ideas would always be welcome at the Great Hucklow and District Community Spirit meetings.

# Talking Books

## Colin Greenland and the literary ladies of Great Hucklow

In 1919, in a canoe, a native medicine woman paddles her gravely wounded nephew home through the wilderness of Northern Ontario. In Leningrad, in the appalling winter of 1941, a young artist and her family struggle to survive the Nazi siege. In 1990, in Peterborough, a pair of feuding Ukrainian sisters unite to save their increasingly decrepit father from the predatory attentions of a voluptuous refugee in green satin lingerie.

The stories in question are told by Joseph Boyden, in *Three Day Road*; by Helen Dunmore, in *The Siege*; and by Marina Lewycka, in *A Short History of Tractors in Ukrainian*. What connects them is that the Great Hucklow Book Group has read them all in recent months.

There are ten of us or so, all women except me, and we meet in the enviably civilised ambience of the sitting room at Rowan House to sip a glass of wine or a cup of tea, fend off a cat or two, and discuss what we've read. Some books fare better than others. One that impressed all of us, as I recall, was *Property*, Valerie Martin's account of Manon Gaudet, an embittered Louisiana planter's wife, and her intimate, ambivalent relationship with Sarah, her personal slave – impressive not least because the story is told from Manon's point of view, and Manon is a pretty unpleasant person. Memoirs by Hilary Mantel (*Giving Up the Ghost*) and Blake Morrison (*Things My Mother Never Told Me*) went down less well: "boring, repetitive and exploitative" was one member's forthright reaction to the Morrison, and many of the rest of us wondered about the propriety, or even the wisdom, of a writer speculating in detail about the early love life of his parents. "I don't think that necessarily makes it a bad book," pronounced another member

succinctly, "but I don't want him writing it."

Though we've started to supplement our literary investigations with field trips (to Eastwood and the birthplace of D.H. Lawrence; to theatre in Buxton, at the Paupers' Pit at the Old Hall Hotel, and Shakespeare at the Dome), what we principally do is read: read and talk. We are even free of all commercial considerations, for multiple copies of our chosen titles are found for us by the resourceful Carole Newbold of Bakewell Library, supplier also to a similar group, I notice, in Stoney Middleton. At all seasons, whatever the weather, our books are delivered by Steve Vitel and Hilary Croft in the Mobile Library. They've never let us down.

Members of the Foolow Book Group, by contrast, buy all their own books, and meet in each other's homes, by rotation: each month in the home of the member responsible for nominating this month's title. A secretary presides, taking minutes which are then written up and distributed. Grand as it is, this procedure alarms the Great Hucklovians only slightly. Some of us have observed that our own conversations do get going more promptly, and stay, for a while at least, more on the point, when someone volunteers a considered introduction to the book, even a written response, perhaps, though they may well not be the person who put that book on the list. In fact, sometimes it's not quite clear who did choose some of what we read. Nobody owned up to the Blake Morrison, for instance; and I don't know if any of us had ever heard of *Three Day Road*, though most of us were very glad to have encountered it.

Intriguing as it is to read a book someone else has chosen, I've always distrusted compulsory reading. What should I read, people sometimes ask Susanna and me?

You should read, we always tell them, exactly what you fancy, and let the rest go. One of the great things about book groups, as opposed to, say, studying literature at school, or writing reviews for newspapers, is that you're in charge. You don't have to finish the thing if you're not enjoying it. "How do the events in Chapter 2," asked Tim Dowling's spoof "Book Group Help Page" in the *Guardian* the other week, "foreshadow the novel's startling conclusion? Given that you read only up to chapter 2, how can you be certain? Discuss the cover art instead."

Finished or not, enjoyed or not, different booksgive rise to different sorts of discussion. Anne Bronte's *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall* provoked a really impressive extempore

seminar on the rights and positions, actual and perceived, of women and servants in nineteenth-century England. *After You'd Gone*, by Maggie O'Farrell, called up a surprising number of memories of Gentile acquaintances marrying Jews, or vice versa, and the various reactions of parents and others. After all, book groups are principally, intrinsically, less about books as such and more about us: their readers. They're about our choices, and our responses. Anecdotes and reminiscence are absolutely relevant. Though sometimes from one corner or another of the room a plaintive voice can be heard insisting, "Yes, but that's not exactly what happens, is it, *in this particular book* –?"

## Lead Legacy

Work is continuing apace particularly with preparations for the publication of the book which will trace the history of lead mining in the Hucklow area. It is hope to have a draft completed soon in the new year and so that after necessary editing and 'tweaking' of the text and format we might see it go to the printers in the spring or early summer.

The project has taken far longer than we had originally envisaged mainly because of the time it has taken to find all the information and then to sift through it and write it up, and there is only so much time that we can expect people to give to the project, no matter how willing they may be. There are still some sections yet to be finished and illustrations acquired, but the bulk of the research we hope has now been completed.

We have not yet done anything about the design of the interpretation boards which will eventually be placed along the route of the lead rake. If anyone fancies their hand at assisting with the graphic design of these then please contact Peter Miles.

## Silence Mine

The saga continues.

With luck and a following wind the parishes of Great Hucklow and Foolow will have combined official possession of the Silence Mine site before the year is out, and then the serious work begins.

Already the pond at the bottom of the site has been dug out and is filling impressively with the right kind of water after the recent heavy rain – so it should be more than ready to receive lots of resident wild life come the spring.

The Peak District Mines Historical Society have almost finished their current project at High Rake Mine at Windmill and hope to begin an archaeological survey of the Silence Mine site in the new year.

Once possession of the site is official then we will be able to organise the volunteer work required for planned scrub clearance etc.

Although this has taken a long time to achieve it will be a very special project for our community to be involved with, and eventually a beautiful place simply to enjoy.