

Easter Sunday

This year's family Easter event at the Queen Anne was a great success - lots of people and a fantastic variety of Easter artifacts. A great social occasion for all who attended. Many thanks to Glenn and Angela for hosting it.



A few pics from our Easter Parade at the Anne



Great Hucklow Community Spirit NewsLetter April 2008



Spring is here – or nearly – and apologies from the ‘editorial board’ for being a little late with this edition of our NewsLetter, endemic sloth and post winter torpidude being the only excuses we can think of.

We hope that you find this occasional organ of communication at least useful for keeping up with events in our community, but we also would like to think that we make at least some of it interesting or amusing. Moreover, we also hope it might become more of a vehicle for your voice and would wish to hear more from you – giving you, our readers, a chance to air views on any community related issue rather than it be us filling up space with what we think you might like to read. Illustrations or photos would also be very welcome.

So, if you have any burning issues you would like to share with others, then

please don't hesitate to send them in; subjects might include, off-road vehicles, planning issues, use of paths, news of events, things you would like to see happen or make people aware of, or just some thoughts on any aspect of living in our very special community.

It doesn't have to be a 'burning issue' – a piece of light hearted fun or comment would be just as welcome.

Please send contributions to Peter Miles, typed, hand-written or word-processed (preferably), at Ash House, Great Hucklow (email: peter.miles@hucklow.net).

Two views of Spring:

And Spring arose on the garden fair,
Like the Spirit of Love felt everywhere;
And each flower and herb on Earth's dark breast
rose from the dreams of its wintry rest.

~Percy Bysshe Shelley, "The Sensitive Plant"

Spring is not the best of seasons.
Cold and flu are two good reasons;
wind and rain and other sorrow,
warm today and cold tomorrow.

~Author Unknown

Some Diary Dates for 2008

7th May – Great Hucklow C of E Primary School Quiz Evening – at The Bull's Head, Foolow, with supper.

The school students are also putting on their version of the musical 'Oliver' towards the end of the Summer Term. Watch the School Notice Board (opposite the bottom of School Lane) for further details of both these events.

13th July – Our 4th Annual Fell Race Event – non-running volunteers for marshalling, time-keeping, refreshments etc will be required.

A reminder that Gala Week this year is from 10th to 17th August.

Sunday 10th - Table Top Market

Thursday 14th - Well Blessing and Potato Race Judging

Friday 15th - Buggy Run

Saturday 16th - Gala Day

Sunday 17th - Cricket Match

During the summer months there will be wild-life walks in the area arranged by the Peak District National Park Rangers and Vision Project.

The Nightingale Centre is also putting on some wild flower walks between Sunday 8th and Tuesday 10th June. Watch the Community Spirit notice board for details of these events.

Annual Parish Meeting and Parish Council AGM

The Annual General Meeting of Great Hucklow Parish Council will be held on Monday 19th May in the Old Chapel Schoolroom preceded at by the annual Parish Meeting. This is an opportunity for any parishioner to have their say on parish matters, to raise issues or ask questions of the Parish Council about any of its rights, duties or policies. A Parish Council is there to serve its parishioners and would be happy to hear from you.

Thanks again to John Whatley

Last year a good deal of time and energy was spent by volunteers in clearing the area of land on the Windmill corner. The work helped to open up a glorious view over Bradwell Dale and towards the Hope Valley. To assist people in taking time to enjoy this view John Whatley has very generously donated two large tree trunks and has had them placed on the northern edge of the land so that you may sit and contemplate whatever while enjoying the panorama before you.

Thank you again, John, for your continuing generosity to our community.

Great Hucklow and District Community Spirit Committee

Future Meetings 2008: Wednesday May 21st, June 18th, July 16th.

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

Current Committee Members: Audrey Abdi (Chair), Peter Miles (Hon. Secretary) Richard Johnson (Hon. Treasurer) Anna Whatley (100 Club Hon. Treasurer/Secretary), Eunice Jennings (Minutes Secretary), Dinah Johnson, Lesley Shaw, Hester Messom, Patricia Miles, Roy Walker, Janet Persey, Gillian Beer

Village Internet Alive Again

It could tell its own story of travels around the village. Hailed and launched at the Queen Anne café style, then unceremoniously tucked away in a corner at Conformance (the Old Chapel). It emerges once more in the Library of the Nightingale Centre.

A very warm welcome awaits you there. There are 2 computers – Broadband-WiFi-Software includes Microsoft Office and Photo Elements. An excellent Laser Colour Printer-Scanner-Fax-Photocopier. Prices are minimal and donations are asked for to cover running costs only.

An 'A' board standing outside will advertise its availability. Alternatively just call in and let a member of staff know you are there or phone ahead to Julie on 01298 871218.

Thanks go to Nick Williams for housing the equipment at very short notice for an uncertain number of weeks.

A very big thank you to Julie Dadson and the Nightingale Centre for giving the IT facility a new home and supporting its use by the community. Funded by PITH (Pub is the Hub) Derbyshire Dales Leader + Access Fund and Peak District Community Planning



Grant Scheme, it's an excellent facility and it just remains for us to make full use of it.

We would welcome any initiative for tuition e.g. on Word Processing, Spreadsheet, Photo Elements. Please contact a member of the committee if you can offer any help with these.

Dinah Johnson

Village Talks

Two recent very successful illustrated talks arranged by Community Spirit at the Nightingale Centre not only informed and entertained good audiences but also helped us to make contributions to worthwhile causes.

In January Nick Williams took us on a sometimes hair-raising trip to Sarawak's Mulu caves, and shared with us the delights of exploring bat caves, vast underground tunnels and chambers, as well as the associated wild life, not all pleasant, to be found in the surrounding jungle. Money raised from the evening went to help the

work of preservation of the Mulu Caves.

In February Hester Messom talked about her work last year with VSO helping a community in Kenya – a timely talk for us as it helped us relate to the difficulties that Kenya was experiencing in the post election period. Again, money raised from the evening will assist schools and aid care for orphans in the area.

Thanks to all who supported the talks, and to those who organised the refreshments.

If you have a talk you could offer for the future, please let us know.

Silence Mine

The 5 hectares of land known as Silence Mine is now officially owned by the Parishes of Foolow and Great Hucklow – which means that every elector of the two parishes is now a 'stake-holder' in the project.

The day to day management of the site is delegated to the Silence Heritage Site Management Committee and Trustees, which consist of representatives from both communities, and Nick Williams of Conformance Ltd was recently elected leader of this management team.

There has already been a great deal of work done by professionals and volunteers at the site in clearing much of the overgrowth of brambles, and other scrub vegetation, and in the near future it is hoped to restore the path through the site so that access will be less difficult than hitherto.

At the bottom south-west corner of the site the newly restored pond is already attracting wildlife, and it is hoped that the opened up

areas of grassland will soon be burgeoning with a profusion of wild flowers.

The Peak District Mines Historical Society have already begun work on the site of Silence Mine itself and have revealed some very exciting indications of what might emerge eventually from their explorations. They welcome visitors during their digging days – the first Saturday of every month

The site will require ongoing conservation work in the years ahead, so please don't be shy in coming forward to help when it is requested. If you would like to be included on our list of conservation volunteers then please make contact with Nick Williams at Conformance Ltd.

It is hoped to arrange a couple of spring Birdsong Walks on the site in the company of Andrew Carmichael. These events will take place at dawn, so be warned, and watch this space, or more likely the village notice boards for further information.

The 'official' Peak Park photograph taken of representatives of the two parishes and the PDNPA at the hand-over of the title to the Silence Mine parcel of land.



It's your piece of land now – go and have a look at it and enjoy it.



*Work in progress – Silence Heritage Site
Digging out the pond
Scrub bashing and burning parties
PDMHS archaeological dig
Tree felling
One of the cleared areas*



The Great Hucklow and District Community Spirit 100 Club

This club has been going for many years and has helped to raise a significant amount of money during that time which has helped towards many of our village projects.

Most of you will be familiar with the system – each member of the club (upwards of 100) pays in at least one pound per month (cash, cheque or direct debit will do very nicely, thank-you) and every month 5 members' numbers are drawn from a bag for the five monthly prizes of £20, two of £10, and two of £5. New numbers are assigned to the contributing members each year. Nobody makes a fortune but at least our organisation but is a reasonably painless way of guaranteeing an income for Community Spirit to help towards our various activities. If you are not a member and would like to be, then please contact our excellent 100 Club Secretary/Treasurer, Anna Whatley on 01298 873

Lucky winners for the past few months:

December 2007:

59	G Wilkinson	£20
77	K Dale	£10
84	S Edmunds	£10
63	J Lawson	£5
21	T Wragg	£5

January 2008:

29	P Jennings	£20
16	C Slater	£10
2	Betty Wragg	£10
75	M Carter	£5
67	M Waterhouse	£5

February 2008

42	S Aldridge	£20
58	P Tapping	£10
19	P Brown	£10
40	P Williams	£5
10	S Tanner	£5

March 2008

20	P Cartledge	£20
97	R Walker	£10
92	A Stokes	£10
4	C Robotham	£5
67	M Waterhouse	£5

A Pic from the Past

This photograph is of the rear of what is now called 'The Old Manse' (Angus Stokes' house) as it looked over 40 years ago. The garden is almost completely devoted to vegetable growing – and the gardener? He is still with us and still growing magnificent vegetables – the master gardener himself – Mr Gerald Binks.

We hope that Gerald will again exercise his expertise at the judging of our Great Potato Race in Gala Week.



Kanccha Sherpa

Earlier in the year a group of us were privileged to meet this extraordinary young man who comes from a remote village high in the Himalayas; it is a two-day walk followed by a five-hour bus journey to the city of Katmandu where he went to school. Later he lived in India where he studied for his A Levels.

Born into the lowest Sherpa 'caste' he has by dint of truly heroic efforts gained sufficient qualifications to be accepted as a medical student at Manchester University. Fees for the course are £12,000 a year and he must make continual efforts to raise this. He has received some help from the Nepalese Children's Trust (who attend our Gala Day each year) and in his spare time he works as a waiter at a Nepalese restaurant in Manchester; a small party from Hucklow enjoyed an excellent meal there recently.

When his studies are completed his ambition is to return to Nepal and work in his home area which has never before had a doctor. His grandmother does not even know what a doctor is. We are hoping that Kanccha will attend our Gala Day this year so that more of us can get to know him.

"Speed the Plough"

Another opportunity to watch a performed reading of one of L du Garde Peach's Derbyshire comedies was presented at the Nightingale Centre in March, this time one from the 1950s entitled 'Speed the Plough'.

Many thanks to the local volunteers for taking on the reading of the parts, and we have been assured that the audiences enjoyed their performances. Two newcomers to our band of 'Players', Ed Moore and Sacha Tanner, certainly brought a touch of class to the performances and will no doubt draw crowds of admirers should they wish to be part of future presentations. The 'old stagers' double act of Madame Audrey Abdi and Dame Phyllis Walton as usual had them rolling in the aisles, and it was great having a father and son duo in the persons of John and Tom Hilton. Clive Lee brought just the right touch to his character, and Colin Greenland as the sinister grasping entrepreneur revealed that he is indeed a man of many parts. Bob Butcher portrayed the coffee stall character to a 'tea' and provided some extraordinary live sound effects. Becky

Winstanley gave us her usual superb role as the village 'lass'.

The plot of the play showed how adept L du Garde Peach was in picking up topical issues and running with them. This play pursued the possible consequences of the proposed establishing of a road racing circuit around a quiet unspoilt country village, and the shenanigans of the various interested parties in the making of money from it. In the 1950s there was in fact a proposal to create such a road racing circuit around the area of Hartington which caused a local furore, and closer to home there was a proposal by Ferodo of Chapel-en-le-Frith to set up a test run course for their brake technology on the roads around Great Hucklow. Neither proposal was successful.

Thanks to the Nightingale Centre for the use of the Charles Peach Hall for the performance and to the providers of the interval refreshments. Some proceeds from the performances will be contributed to the Unitarian "Send a Child To Hucklow" charity.