



WHASHTON PARISH NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2025

Summer's Here ! – time for a BBQ – reported by Kathryn Guy

The weather was rather windy for this year's annual Parish BBQ on Saturday 5th July but we carried on regardless! The event was moved lower on the green and when a couple of light showers came, some took refuge in Granary Cottage and the hardy folk sat it out! Many thanks to Ian and Robbie for battling against the wind on the BBQ to get the food cooked, and to Rosie, Millie & Florrie for selling the raffle tickets. And of course to everyone who brought salads, puddings and raffle prizes. Great fun was had by all ages with chalk art, football, twister, rubber quoits and a traditional game of rounders to close the event. It was a lovely afternoon of socialising which is what it's all about and for those who are new to the Parish, a great way to meet everyone. To those of you who came along and those of you who couldn't make it but gave donations anyway, I'm thrilled to announce that we raised £222.42 for the upkeep of the Parish defibrillator. Added to the £200 from last year, we can now pay for the battery and new pads which are needed soon. Many thanks, Kathryn.



Chefs



Games



Food & drink



Hardy folks



Welcome Shelter

Swimming Success ! - reported by Richie Smith

Huge Congratulations to Thomas Smith, one of our Parish residents, who was recently awarded Gold Medalist in the Men's Open 1500m Freestyle at the Swim England, English National Championships held in Sheffield. Thomas stormed to victory, finishing first with a commanding 10-second lead and smashing his personal best by an incredible 21 seconds. Thomas travels to America shortly on a swimming scholarship and his college over there are delighted to have a National Champion joining them. An outstanding performance and one which the whole of Whashton and beyond will be proud of - well done Thomas !



Biodiversity Project in Whashton Parish – reported by Sally Zaranko

There's been a lot going on in Whashton as part of our Biodiversity Project. Trees, shrubs and flowers were planted last autumn and have produced a great show this year helping early pollinators, as did the increasing number of snowdrops in our woodland areas. Numerous plants have become established on the bank including primulas, bulbs and rockery plants. Wild cherry, goat willow, crab apple, rowan, hazel, hawthorn and silver birch trees have all been added around the Village Green. The autumn maintenance programme will start soon including Bobby's Bank, the back of the green, cleaning bird boxes, further tree & hedge planting, etc. We always welcome more help so do get in touch if you can spare some time.... Contact Sally or Ian.



Blooming Daffodils



Sally & John tree planting.

Holmedale Nature Network (HNN) – reported by Ian Mains

The HNN owes a huge thank you to everyone who has helped out over the past year, and what a year it's been.

- Tree and hedge planting around Holmedale, checking plants, changing guards, making good even in a 'pea sea soup' fog – see the photo!
- Riverfly monitoring across the catchment through a wet winter and into the current drought.
- Willow coppicing at Skeeby with the Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust.
- Ranunculus (water crowfoot) transplanting at Gilling West with the Richmond & District Angling Society.
- Bumblebee surveys at Newsham.
- Himalayan Balsam pulling and mapping in and around our becks, including Whashton (see the photo).
- Helping at events including promotion, catering, etc.

We are delighted at the community response, with over 100 volunteers have helped, clocking up over 500 hours of activity over the past three months alone.....and Whashton residents are well represented in this work.

A couple of dates for your diary:

- **Monday 8th September** – Animals, Vegetables, Minerals & Nature – an interactive presentation by Hannah Baker. Newsham Village Hall at 7:30pm.
- **Sunday 12th October** - Family Nature Day - hedgehog house building, crafts, activities & a quiz. Newsham Village Hall, 10:30am to 2pm. Booking preferred at £5 per family.

Check out all things HNN at ..

<https://www.whashtonparish.co.uk/holmedale>



John & Lizzie planting trees at Sturdy House Lane – in the fog !



Himalayan Balsam cleared.

Financial Update - reported by our Treasurer, John Moore

The 2024/25 Accounts have been signed off by the Auditor.

Based on the information presented at this Year's AGM, there are a couple of key points for the current year:

- The funds raised by the 100 Club continue to meet the costs of the core activities (eg insurance, website, etc). At least 50-60 balls need to be sold each year to maintain this position. The AGM agreed that next year balls would cost £25, but the prize fund each month would increase to £50.
- The cost of grass & verge cutting includes fuel, mower maintenance, etc and is funded by voluntary contributions. These are sufficient for the current year, but fresh contributions will be needed for next year.
- Donations and grants fund environmental improvements described above.
- Work on the quoits pitches is funded by a grant kindly provided by Councillor Angus Thompson, and work undertaken by the players themselves.
- Work to repair and paint the telephone box is scheduled for later this summer.
- Proceeds from the BBQ have been allocated to the Defibrillator fund.

100 Club – Winners to-date in 2025 – reported by Richard Osborne

January: 88 - Nicola & Liam, 47 - Lynne Taylor, 85 – Hazel Leah

February: 85 - Hazel Leah, 66 - Ruth Bernard, 99 – Ed Ford

March: 85 - Hazel Leah, 8 - Christine Taylor, 71 – Emma Smith

April: 51 - Alison Pittaway, 99 - Ed Ford, 62 - Jane & David Turnbull

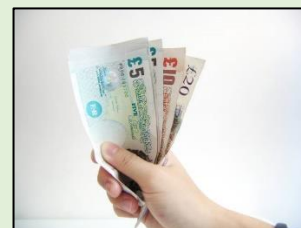
May: 74 : Sian Moore, 48 - Denise Newman, 25 – Richie Smith

June: 40 - Jane Connors, 20 - Theresa Brown, 50 – Robbie McDonald

July: 21 - Kathryn Guy, 74 - Sian Moore, 85 – Hazel Leah

August: 56 : Rosie Anderson, 29 - Hilary Osborne, 62 – Jane & David Turnbull

Congratulations to the winners, thanks to those who have recently joined, and a plea to anyone yet to participate, to contact me and join up and help support the Parish funds (rg.osborne777@gmail.com). This would be at a proportionate amount for the remainder of 2025.



Administration – Reported by Ian Mains

Annual General Meeting

The AGM took place on 4th June in Dalton & Gayles Village Hall with 16 Parish residents attending. PCSO Elliot Brown and Councillor Angus Thompson presented updates from North Yorkshire Police and North Yorkshire Council, respectively. The Meeting Agenda, Minutes and associated documents are available on our website..... <https://www.whashtonparish.co.uk>

Planning Applications

There are a number of planning proposals in Whashton, either awaiting decision or underway. Updates are readily available on the North Yorkshire Council Planning Portal.....
<https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/planning-and-conservation/view-and-comment-planning-applications>

Highways

Confirmation that dualling of the A66 will take place was recently announced, and project progress can be monitored through this link.... <https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-roads/a66-northern-trans-pennine/latest-updates/>

Please report any problems with roads, drains, floods, etc to North Yorkshire Council through this link...<https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-travel/roads-and-pavements/road-drains-gully-cleaning-and-report-flooding>

Other News

Sadly, Pam Metcalfe passed away earlier this year and she will be missed by many.

There are many residents who contribute to our community, including those who maintain the Village Green (Rob, Norman, Jonathan, John, Trevor, Ed, Richard, & Ady), manage the Biodiversity Projects (Sally, Tad, John & Janet), administer the financial affairs and the website (John, Alan, Rachel, Sally & me), run the 100 Club (Richard) and Social Events (Kathryn, Hazel, Michael) and much more..... thanks to all.....apologies if I've missed anyone!

There remains a vacancy for a Parish Clerk and I would urge someone to take up this important role.

****BREAKING NEWS****

Fun & Games – Bank Holiday Monday 25th August – Details soon !

And finally..... We hope you've enjoyed reading your Parish Newsletter – please let me know if you have any views on the content and suggestions for future issues.

Ian Mains

Chair & Interim Clerk,

Whashton Parish Meeting

12th August 2025

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