

CRAKEHALL WITH LANGTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



May 2010

Issue 29

VILLAGER PROFILE- THE TURNER AT THE CHURCH

My name is Randal Marr and I live in Langthorne, in the former Church of England Chapel of Ease, with my wife Juli. We moved here in 1986. As I was born in Folkestone, to the sound of the bombardment, my parents moved from the coast inland to Cheltenham shortly after my birth. I spent my boyhood in Berkshire, loving the countryside and the river Loddon, a tributary of the Thames. Brogglng about in the woods and messing about on the river were some of the happiest of times for me in my youth.



My first attempt at leaving the nest took me to Gravesend, training in the Merchant Navy in the catering division. After four crossings of the Atlantic, with being shoved out a door, running the gauntlet of huge waves, while taking food to the opposite end of the oil tanker, I realised it wasn't for me and returned to Cheltenham, where my father found a position for me in the Queen's Hotel. The training given and the far more appealing surroundings, plus the attractions of the town itself, inspired me to stay. Progressing through the trade, I found myself working in the Savoy. The bright lights of London surpassed anything that Cheltenham could offer. In the early 60's, in London anything was possible and I left the Savoy to run my own record shop in Shepherd's Bush. The daily deliveries of records, fresh from the press - hits from the Beatles etc was a very exciting time. It was a great place to meet people - and it was there that I met David, becoming 2 of the 3 founding partners in Candlemakers Supplies. I moved from records to selling the supplies needed for all types of candle making, wax and dye related crafts. This company, now the holder of the Royal Warrant to Prince Charles, has only recently relocated to Wales, after more than 40 successful years based in London.

I took a sabbatical, with Juli, in 1973, and we studied with the polymath, John Godolphin Bennett, at Sherborne House. With the river Windrush at the boundary of the property, there to see, hear and enjoy, the prospect of living back in Kensington, was impossible. An opportunity arose and a small holding was purchased in north Wales with another couple. However our time there was short lived, it very soon became apparent that it would only support one couple. "Networking" amongst people connected to Mr. J.G. Bennett, I soon found work in Thirsk, in a craft workshop. While selling the goods made not only in that workshop, but by other connected craft workers, the chance came in 1978 to open a shop in Ripon - The Turning Point. There we met many people from this area, having little idea that we would become neighbours. During our time with the shop I spent many summer evenings as a guide for the Ripon Civic Society, while Juli served on the committee. I provided the shop with the finished pine furniture and began wood turning, while Juli "manned" the shop and developed her display skills. As a result of our combined talents in the retail field we won the Ted Mahoney Award for Excellence, from a field of 990 entrants at the British Craft Trade in Harrogate. After moving into Magdalene House I began to concentrate on developing my wood turning skills. When my skill levels improved sufficiently I had my work assessed by The Worshipful Company of Turners, and have been placed on The Register of Professional Turners. My work has been purchased by John Makepeace, the Shaker Shop, Liberty's, and I have sent items as far a field as the United States and New Zealand. My bottle stoppers were twice part of the contents of the late Queen Mother's Christmas crackers. I enjoy the challenge of making objects to order. Photography has been an intermittent interest of mine since a young lad, and I have been taking classes and improving for the last three years in Northallerton.

NEWS FOR GARDENERS

"Yorwaste, situated at Scorton near Richmond, are a producer, of compost to the PAS100 and Quality Protocol.

The compost is available from the site at £2.50 per 50 litre bag, or 1 cubic metre dumpy bag for £15 each, these prices are collected from site, transport can be arranged, prices can be obtained on enquiry."

Enquiries to: Lindsey Skelton, (Site Manager - Tancred), Yorwaste Ltd., Brompton Road, Scorton, Richmond. DL10 6AB
Tel. No.: 01609 768848
Mobile: 07872117479

THE PARISH COUNCIL

is looking to appoint a

CEMETERY GROUNDSMAN

To work a maximum of 100 hours per year paying a salary of £750. A job description may be obtained from the clerk.

Applicants should be familiar with the use of strimmers and small powered machinery for grass cutting and hedge cutting.

The successful applicant would be expected to start as soon as appointed.

Please apply in writing to the clerk:

Mrs A Kind

12 Ashdowne

Little Crakehall

Bedale DL8 1LF

Closing Date: 15 May 2010

THE PARISH PLAN

The Council is currently reviewing the Parish Plan (see overleaf) and would ask for your views and suggestions for inclusion which you feel would be of benefit to the wellbeing of the Parish. Please contact the Clerk.

REMEMBER THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER

If you have anything that you wish included in the next newsletter, please telephone Margaret on 423658 or e-mail mightymster@gmail.com

Don't forget the village website on which agenda and minutes are published - www.crakehall.org.uk

With the coming of Summer and already new lambs and increased activity to be seen in the fields, this may be an opportunity time to remind dog-owners to be responsible when walking their dogs around the footpaths and lanes within the area.

**DATES FOR YOUR
DIARY**

ST GREGORY'S CHURCH
Café Church 9 May at 4.00 pm
in Village Hall

Family Service Plus
23 May at 10.45 am

**Wensleydale Deanery Open
Air Service at Jervaulx
Abbey with Bedale Brass
Band**

Thursday 13 May at 7.00pm
(Please bring a chair and dress
warmly. If wet, in St John's,
East Witton)

**CRAKEHALL METHODIST
CHURCH**

Craft Club Mon 2-4 pm
Drop-in Club Thurs 2-4 pm

FOCS

School Fayre and Duck Race
3 May

YOUR COUNCIL

Chairman

David Smith

01677 422908

Vice Chairman

Malcolm Gill

01677 424605

Chris Dent

01677 423862

Jonny Neale

01677 422857

David Thompson

01677 423952

John Wilson

01677 423721

Parish Clerk

Anne Kind

01677 423258

Cemetery Enquiries

Myra Shield

01677 427970

BIRD SURVEY

As this Newsletter arrives, bird watchers throughout the country are in the middle of a four-year effort to document the nation's bird life in the British Trust for Ornithology Bird Atlas Project. This will probably turn out to be the biggest mass participation survey ever and everyone can take part. This survey is the third of its kind and will show how bird populations – how many and where they are found – have changed since earlier surveys carried out in the late 1960's and again in the 1980's.

We are fortunate in having an account of local bird life from the 1970's so we can see what changes there have been in the Parish and how this compares with the national picture. Some of the obvious changes at a local level mirror national trends. In the 1970's collared doves were rare in the parish but are now common in the villages, as they are nationwide, following their rapid expansion northwards over the last 40 years. Other species that have increased nationally, like great spotted woodpeckers, magpies and buzzards, are also more common in our area than before. Perhaps the most spectacular change though, has been the rise in the number of grey lag geese. Not mentioned at all in the reports from the 1970's, these birds have expanded dramatically from a small breeding population on the moors of Nidderdale and now breed widely in Wensleydale and Swaledale, while hundreds spend the winter on local farmland.

There appear to be few species that have become scarcer since the 1970's and we are fortunate that some of the common farmland birds such as yellowhammers and tree sparrows, that have declined dramatically across the UK, are still common here. One note of caution though, is that the grey partridge, a British native, seems now to be less common than before and probably less numerous than the introduced red-legged partridge.

So how can you help with the Atlas Project? All records are valuable – the project needs to document the common species as well as the more unusual – but of particular interest are those of breeding birds. It is difficult sometimes to prove that birds are breeding in an area from formal surveys and this is where everyone in the parish can help. Some key questions are: Where do the kingfishers that live on the beck actually breed? Where do the swifts nest? What about the kestrels – we saw them a lot in autumn and winter around Kirkbridge but they are not around much in summer – so where are they then? Reports of definite breeding of all but the most common and widespread species in 2010 could make a useful contribution to this national effort and fill in gaps in our knowledge. And contributing is easy.

If you would like to know more about the bird atlas take a look at the BTO website - <http://www.bto.org/birdatlas>. You can register as a contributor and get involved as much as you like – from providing records of birds using your garden to taking part in the formal parts of the survey. It can be very satisfying knowing that you have contributed to our understanding of the nation's bird life and there is the added benefit of taking part in a world record breaking survey.

(Mark Owen, Kirkbridge)

LOCAL POLICE CONTACT:

PC Julian Sutcliffe

Bedale Police -

0845 6060247

LADIES CIRCLE

Ladies meet on the third Wednesday of each month, either in the Village Hall or the Chapel - the full programme can be found on the website. New members would be very welcome.

For more information, talk to one of the current members or contact Charlotte Steer on 424428.