

# CRAKEHALL WITH LANGTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



November 2009

Issue 27

## VILLAGER PROFILE – GEORGE BREWSTER

When the title 'Webmaster' is mentioned, a mental image of a 30 something, trendy young man springs to mind. However, Crakehall's very own Webmaster turns out to be a gentle, more mature man, but obviously completely up to date with the modern IT world.

George was born in Anerley, South London, where he lived with a brother and sister. His father, who was a market gardener, died when George was an infant. However, George inherited his interest in gardening, and particularly growing vegetables. Many of you will be familiar with the exceptionally tidy allotment within the village, which George tends in partnership with a near neighbour, and which keeps George and his wife Gloria, self-sufficient in vegetables.

George left school at 16 and went straight into employment as a finance clerk. Two years later he joined the RAF and thereby began his travels, both in the UK and abroad. He spent time in 1956 at Dishforth and in the mid 1970s at Catterick. His overseas postings included Germany, Zambia and Singapore. It was in the RAF that his computer skills were developed and on leaving the RAF in 1978 he took up a post as a Senior Lecturer in Computer Software and again travelled the world. His highlight was to teach computer programming to students in Moscow, with the aid of an interpreter! George took early retirement from this in 1989 and became self-employed, until finally retiring in 1999.

In 1991 George and Gloria returned to Yorkshire and moved to their present address. Determined to settle quickly into village life, George soon became Secretary of the Cricket Club in early 1992 and Treasurer the following year. During this time he was instrumental in raising funds to build the new pavilion which was completed in 1994. He continued in both posts until 1999. However not the sort of person to remain idle for long, George was, at this time, also on the Village Hall Committee and had joined Bedale Proboscis Club and the following year, Bedale Bowling Green Society (of which he is currently a Committee Member and is responsible for maintaining their website). George was also involved in the development of the Parish Plan for Crakehall in 2002.

George's involvement with the village website came when a number of villagers who owned holiday accommodation approached him about the idea of advertising their properties on the internet. George spent the next 6 months on a very steep learning curve to understand website design and taught himself the necessary programming language. The website went live in March 2000 and since then has doubled in size, incorporating most aspects of village life. The website was Highly Commended at an awards evening in 2008 to 'Celebrate Outstanding Community Projects' organised by Yorkshire Rural Community Council and one only has to read the comments left by people who have visited the website, to realise the high regard in which it is held. George enjoyed many forms of sport throughout his service career and since, including football, rugby, hockey, squash, cricket and played county level badminton for a period from 1978, also becoming an All England Badminton Umpire. He continues to play both badminton and bowls regularly, but now finds himself more often at weekends supporting his grandson, who plays for Yorkshire under-15's at cricket and is also talented at green bowls.

Many of you will not realise the time that is involved in keeping a website regularly updated and the difficulty of obtaining the necessary information to do so, but in George, Crakehall has a much valued and dedicated webmaster working away quietly in the background.

NOTE – George would be interested to know how many villagers visit the website regularly, so if you do, can you just check in to the visitors book – no need to leave name or address, just mention you are a villager. This would be much appreciated. Thanks



## BREAD-MAKING –

### TRIED IT? WANT TO LEARN? OR AN EXPERT?

Have you ever made bread, or wanted to make bread, or are already an expert and would be interested in sharing your techniques and recipes. If the answer is yes to any of these questions, would you be interested in joining a Bread-making Fun Day in the village? It is hoped to run something of this sort in the near future, with the idea of getting together a nucleus of bread-makers within the village. As a regular bread-maker myself I know that the thoughts some people have regarding bread making 'it takes too long', 'all those hours kneading', 'it's much too difficult' are untrue. With merely a bowl and a fork plus ingredients it probably takes five minutes preparation time and then you can get on with something else while it is rising (or proving as the experts call it) for the first time. Then a couple of minutes to knock it back – then in the oven. Who can resist freshly baked bread?

With Crakehall Mill looking towards getting the mill operational again and then restarting regular milling of bread flour, this would provide an ideal opportunity to source locally produced flour and also reduce your intake of additives. So throw away your bread-makers and come and join in to see how it's traditionally made. Young or old – all would be welcome. If you would be interested in a Bread-making Day or just to let us know who the village breadmakers are, please contact Margaret on 423658 or e-mail mightymster@gmail.com

## Stalwart villagers seek pastures new

Many of you will have noticed that Trevor & Audrey Spence of Weirside have got their house on the market.

Trevor and Audrey have lived in the village for many years and I could not let this moment pass without recording my personal thanks and those of the Parish Council to Trevor for the many hours of voluntary work over those years he has undertaken in keeping the area around the Weir so tidy. This has not been an easy task as it has involved cutting the banks approaching Blind Lane and the bank alongside the Crakehall Beck. Over those many years he never sought recompense for the number of strimmers he has worn out, which I understand now line his garage wall!! He does not even seek verbal thanks for his efforts, preferring as he has said to me on many occasions to make his contribution to keeping that part of the village attractive for all to enjoy. It is that kind of quiet, unassuming endeavour that helps to make Crakehall the attractive village we all enjoy. Trevor we will miss you when you eventually move, you will be a hard act to follow. We wish you and Audrey health & happiness for the future; I know you will be keeping a watchful eye on the village that has been your family home for so long.

Kindest Regards, David

## APOLOGIES–

*In the last newsletter I omitted to say that Jonny Neale runs the family business in conjunction with his brother, Martin, for which I apologise.*

***N.B. Don't forget the Crakehall website on which agenda and minutes are published:  
[www.crakehall.org.uk](http://www.crakehall.org.uk)***

## 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](mailto:mightymster@gmail.com)*

**Please help Save Crakehall Under Fives**

Crakehall Under Fives was founded 35 years ago on 23 September 1974 by a handful of local women, with the first AGM convening at Mrs Lumley's house in the village. Over the years it has blossomed into a high quality provider of pre-school care and education for 2-5 year olds with highly trained staff. Crakehall Under Fives are proud to have been awarded the North Yorkshire County Council Quality Assurance Gold Award for Excellence in 2008 and received high praise in their most recent Ofsted Report. Unfortunately, the group has now started to run at a loss and the funds have begun to dwindle away – simply due to current low numbers of children attending, increase in running costs, resources and equipment. It is vital that we keep this essential community resource for local children going. We can only do this by trying to make savings where we can and attempting to raise much needed funds. A dedicated Fundraising Committee for the Under Fives has estimated that £5,000 needs to be raised by Christmas 2009 to keep the group running. We would like to ask for members of our community, whether they have used the group in the past, will in the future or can just see how vital this playgroup is, to please support our upcoming fundraising events. Most importantly, of course, please encourage any parents of preschool children to come and visit Crakehall Under Fives and use this excellent community facility.

**Planned Events**

Saturdays 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> October – Bag packing at the Coop in Bedale 10.00am – 4.00pm  
 Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> October – Halloween Walk – 5.30pm – 6.30pm. Playgroup children and mums in Halloween dress will be calling round Crakehall to collect envelopes dropped round several days before.  
 Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November – Autumn Fayre at the Village Hall– 10am - 12.30pm. Stalls to help you start your Christmas shopping.  
 Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December – 7.30pm until late. Christmas Quiz and entertainment at the Village Hall – tickets will be £6 and will be advertised shortly.

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**ST GREGORY'S CHURCH**

Café Church 8 Nov 4.0 pm  
 Village Hall  
 Children's Confirmation -15 Nov  
 6.30 pm  
**(Note at St Patrick's Church)**

Alzheimers Carol Service-10 Dec  
 (time to be confirmed)  
 Christingle -13 Dec at 4.0 pm  
 Nativity Family Service  
 20 Dec at 10.45 am  
 Christmas Day Service  
 25 Dec at 10.30 am  
 (please check exact timings)

**CRAKEHALL METHODIST CHURCH**

Craft Club Mon 2–4 pm  
 Drop-in Club Thurs 2–4 pm  
 Carol Service 20 Dec at 6.30pm

**BEDALE ART CLUB**

"ASPECTS OF ART"

21 November 10.30-4.0pm  
 At Crakehall Village Hall

A sale of work by 20 artists from Bedale Art Group,

including original paintings, cards, silks, jewellery and craft work.

An opportunity to get ahead with your Christmas shopping and meet the artists.

Refreshments available all day, admission free

**VILLAGER TREKS ACROSS DESERT**

Bryan Mason, a member of St Gregory's Church, Crakehall, has just returned from the Sinai Desert where he climbed Mount Sinai and then trekked the desert for a week to reach the Red Sea. Covering 20 kilometres a day, in temperatures of over 90 degrees, he followed the steps of Moses in the wilderness from St Catherine's Monastery, the traditional site of the burning bush where Moses was commissioned to return to Egypt and bring the children of Israel out of slavery and into the Promised Land.

The experience involved the guidance of Bedouin guides, sleeping under the stars and locating shade in the midday sun for lunch breaks. Camels were part of the expedition carrying the water since a minimum of 3 litres a day was required daily for each person. Blisters formed part of this unforgettable experience and so it was much relief to plunge into the Red Sea at the end of the trek and enjoy some gentle snorkelling.

The trek was on behalf of the Embangweni medical missionary hospital in Northern Malawi and for its work in the bush amongst many HIV/AIDS sufferers. Over £30,000 has been raised at the time of writing. Bryan is particularly grateful to friends in Crakehall and Langthorne that have contributed to his present total of £2,600.



Crakehall Leek Show held its Annual Show in September on a bright sunny Saturday. The show was well supported and the standard of leeks continues to improve each year. The winner this year was Mark Cockburn, 2<sup>nd</sup> George Johns and 3<sup>rd</sup> Chris Dent. Crakehall School's entry was Highly Commended.

**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**

On Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October members of Crakehall Guides joined guides from Bedale, Northallerton and Romanby to go to the Big Gig at Wembley Arena.

We met at the coach depot at 6.30 am to travel down to London. On the way we watched a film and did karaoke.

The acts that performed were Pixie Lott, The Noisettes, JLS, Tinchy Stryder, Scouting for Girls, The Saturdays, Alexandra Burke, Chipmunk and Alpha-beat.

The arena was full of guides, many of them had pink flashing ears which looked great when the lights were out. We all had a great time. My favourite acts were Pixie Lott and Scouting for Girls. We had lots of fun.

Charlotte

**LOCAL POLICE CONTACT:**

**PC Julian Sutcliffe**

**Bedale Police -**

**0845 6060247**