

Skelton Village Trust Newsletter Autumn 2008

Dear Member

Welcome to our Autumn Newsletter distributed by hand or email to members of the Trust.

The six months since our last newsletter has seen the Trust involved in a number of activities. A watching brief was maintained on the now defunct proposal to construct a so-called eco-town between Skelton and the north York ring road. Skelton village signs on the A19 were repainted and some of the public benches around the village were refurbished. A new village noticeboard was made by members of the Trust and placed outside the School. More trees were planted, in partnership with the Parish Council, and a Sunday morning was spent planting bulbs in different parts of the village. The Public Right of Way south from Skelton to Rawcliffe was walked and a report made on its condition – which was satisfactory – to the City Council Footpaths Officer.

An update on the Village Design Statement is given below.

We shall start our programme of speaker and social evenings in late November. This season our subjects range from Robin Hood to the York Local Development Framework so variety is guaranteed! All we now need is your continuing support for these events.

Philip Butler
Chairman

Speaker Evening November 26th 7.30pm Village Hall Eric Houlder - "Robin Hood, Yorkshireman: the truth about the world's most famous outlaw"

Eric Houlder has visited us on two previous occasions when his subjects were Coaching Days on the Great North Road and Aerial Photography in Archaeology. His presentation this time promises to be both very different and – it seems – quite controversial. This is also our Annual Social Evening and the ticket price of £5 includes a bread and cheese supper and a glass of wine. Tickets are available from committee members (contact details at the end of this newsletter) and from the village shop. Bows and arrows to be left at the door.

Village Archive

Oral Histories. About 25 years ago the Skelton Village Trust made several very interesting tape-recordings of the early memories of some of our oldest villagers. We feel that it is now time to do some more, so if you or any of your friends have lived in Skelton most of your life we would like to hear from you. If you could help this project in any way or suggest suitable people, please get in touch with the chairman, the archivist Nancy Spratt or any member of the committee.

Village Design Statement

During the summer and early autumn the draft Skelton VDS was commented on by a large number of organisations, agencies and council departments. The Steering Group considered all the comments and modified the text of the document where it felt necessary. None of these changes was substantial, most comprising rephrasing or adding further explanation. Illustrations were added.

The final draft was approved by a meeting of the City of York Council Planning Committee on October 23rd. Our VDS now has the status of an Interim Planning Statement and forms a material planning consideration to be taken into account when submitting or reviewing planning applications for proposed developments in Skelton.

The Steering Group will now proceed to arrange printing and distribution to all Skelton households and other interested parties.

Village Trust Website

During the period 18th Sept - 18th Oct 2008 the website has had 90 'hits'.

82 from all around the UK including York (7), Edinburgh, Croydon, Watford, Blackpool, Manchester and Plympton. (4) from the United States including Wisconsin and New York, (1) Canada, (1) Australia, (1) Sri Lanka and (1) from the Netherlands.

The average time looking at the site is 2 minutes, average pages viewed per visit is 5 and a third of these visitors have looked at the site before.

If you haven't viewed the site, do try and have a look. WWW.skeltonvillagetrust.org

SVT and the use of E-mail

The committee still feel that e-mail is the way forward for communication. If you would like to receive information by e-mail or if you have changed your e-mail account, please send an e-mail to the committee member responsible for communications and publicity Derek Jackson (Jmoorlands975@btinternet.com) so that we can update our records.

Membership

We are sometimes asked by members if they can do anything to support our activities. Here are some well meant suggestions – views to any committee member please.

Any suggestions for further improvement work around the village (bear in mind our limited resources)?

Our February speaker evening is a return visit by the Yorkshire Film Archive. Any suggestions as to their subject matter?

We are always on the look out for interesting speakers – suggestions most welcome.

Finally, we really do welcome new blood on our committee. Nominations are not due until next May so we're starting early. We meet about six times a year in each others homes. Our discussions are lively and the work not onerous. Do think about putting your name forward to either the Chairman or Secretary. Previous members also very welcome.

Programme for 2008/9

26 th November 2008	Speaker Evening Robin Hood Yorkshireman Eric Houlder
25 th February 2009	Yorkshire Film Archive
6 th May 2009	AGM and Speaker: York Local Plan Martin Grainger

Committee Members

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