

# IT IS 152 YEARS SINCE THE WORST HUNTING ACCIDENT EVER TOOK PLACE AT NEWBY HALL ON 4TH FEBRUARY, 1869. *(fourth instalment)*

On that fateful day, 11 horses and 13 hunt followers were on board the ferry halfway across the River Ure at Newby Hall in pursuit of the hounds in full cry after a fox, when it capsized. Sir Charles Slingsby (of Scriven Hall), Master of the York & Ainsty Hunt, drowned. Sir George Wombwell's perilous rescue back onto the upturned ferry by Captain Vyner was said to be "on a par with his escape after the famous charge of the Light Brigade."

Others were less fortunate. Edward Lloyd, a former champion swimmer at Eton, was too exhausted to hold on to Richard Vyner and William Ingilby of Ripley Castle, who had both swum out to rescue him. Edmund Robinson was last seen astride his hunter midstream before the beaten horse sank and was washed over the weir several hundred yards downstream. The body of William Orvis was also recovered propped up against a willow tree to allow the water to drain from his clothes, looking as if he were having a quiet nap. Eyewitnesses observed that the whipper-in was still firmly clasp his hunting whip and

had a hunting horn wedged in the breast of his coat.

The bodies of the two gardeners, Christopher Warriner and his son, James, who operated the ferry, were also salvaged to make a total of 6 human and 8 equine lives lost within the space of a few minutes. William Powter, the second whipper-in, crossed the river downstream at Boroughbridge to collect the hounds, which had lost their fox in the Newby coverts. He had the task of taking them back to kennels alone and breaking the terrible news to Mrs. Orvis.

When news of the incident became known "the intelligence of this melancholy catastrophe cast a gloom over the whole district." The following day an inquest held in the dining room at

Newby Hall returned verdicts of accidental drowning on all counts. Apparently, the local town of Knaresborough was "never so terribly visited" and when news of the disaster reached them, "men stood aghast; they could not realise a calamity so terrible."

*To be continued:*



## SCRIVEN PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



Lynne and David Wilkinson with their pony, Marika, who spread some festive cheer on Christmas Eve with a walk around the village. Marika will celebrate her 30th Birthday on June 1st this year!

### SCRIVEN PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs Miranda Armitage (Chair), Mr Gordon Reece (Vice Chair)  
Mrs Anne Bourne, Mr Ivor Fox, Mrs Wendy Sanderson

### PARISH CLERK

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## LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION UPDATE

The Government is currently considering the two proposals put forward for devolution in North Yorkshire. Cllr Carl Les, Leader of North Yorkshire County Council, has submitted a proposal whereby the County would be represented by a single Unitary Council to replace the County Council and the seven District Councils. More information is available at [www.northyorks.go.uk.strongertogether](http://www.northyorks.go.uk.strongertogether). Details of an alternative proposal have been

circulated by Cllr Richard Cooper, Leader of Harrogate Borough Council. In this proposal North Yorkshire would be divided into an East/West model which would see Craven, Harrogate, Richmondshire and Hambleton form a Unitary Council in the West and Selby, City of York, Ryedale and Scarborough would form a Unitary Council in the East. To learn more about this please go to [www.get-change-right.com/about-our-bid](http://www.get-change-right.com/about-our-bid). Formal consultation is underway.

## CITYFIBRE

CityFibre have begun installation of the fibre network within the Parish to enable access to gigabit-speed internet services as part of a Harrogate Borough Council initiative. During April the work will continue in the rest of the village and should cause minimal disruption as existing BT infrastructure will be used where possible. There will be a narrow excavation along the pavement from the mini roundabout to the village War Memorial from where most of the installation will involve an overhead "daisy chain" link from telegraph pole to telegraph pole. CityFibre will deliver an explanatory package to each household prior to undertaking this work.

## SUMMER PICNIC ON THE VILLAGE GREEN

A resident has suggested that, following the isolation of the pandemic "lockdown", it would raise village morale if an informal picnic were held on the village Green. It is proposed that this should be held on Sunday, 18th July, 2021. Everyone in the Parish is most welcome! Please assemble at around 3.00 p.m. and bring your own chair, rug and picnic with you.

## FREE DIGITAL SUPPORT HELPLINE

Do you (or someone you know) need help to get started using technology or want to build your confidence to do more online? If so, please call 0808 196 5883 and leave a message for this free service. One of a team of trained digital champions will call you back and offer friendly, patient support over the phone.

Alternatively, if you feel that you could help someone develop their digital skills and confidence go to [www.harrogate.gov.uk/getdigital](http://www.harrogate.gov.uk/getdigital) to find out how you could become a digital champion.

## CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

The village Green looked particularly festive this year during the uncertainty of the pandemic. Any donations to add to those already received would be gratefully accepted. Each year the lights have to undergo an 'MOT' which results in a costly maintenance figure. Donations should be sent to the Parish Clerk (*contact details on the front page*).

## PARKING ON THE VILLAGE GREEN

A number of complaints have been received from residents about some homeowners regularly parking alongside the village Green, albeit they have plenty of parking on their own land thus ignoring the unwritten but sensible rule that one should not park on the Green unless absolutely necessary. Scriven Parish Council (SPC) approved the following exceptions:

- When you have visitors but do not have parking space on your land or on the road outside your own property.
- When residents are having work carried out on their homes and they cannot park on their own land or on the road adjacent to their property
- When tradesmen are working on houses in the village and cannot find space to park there.

## KNARESBOROUGH TOWN MUSEUM

This ambitious project aims to raise £40,000 to set up a Museum on the ground floor of the former Castle Girls' School. To date £20,000 has been raised. This facility will tell stories of the town and its people with interactive displays, creative exhibitions, expert insights and specially curated displays. The poster campaign features Miss Winifred and Miss Dorothy Jacob Smith in their Women's Land Army uniform during World War II. Their generosity resulted in the gift of land which created the much-loved Jacob Smith Park. If you wish to contribute please visit [www.crowdfunder.co.uk/help-us-make-a-new-museum-for-knaresborough](http://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/help-us-make-a-new-museum-for-knaresborough).

## REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

On Sunday, 8th November a number of residents attended a socially distanced wreath laying ceremony at the village War Memorial.



## SCRIVEN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The next meeting will take place on **Thursday, 22nd April at 7.00 p.m.** This will be held **ONLINE** and instructions on how to join will be displayed on the village notice board or may be obtained from the SPC website.

If you would like to submit an item for the agenda please contact the Clerk preferably **7 days in advance of the meeting.**

## SUMMER PICNIC ON THE VILLAGE GREEN

This will be held on **Sunday, 18th July from 3.00 p.m.** (lockdown restrictions permitting).