

IT IS 151 YEARS SINCE THE WORST HUNTING ACCIDENT EVER TOOK PLACE AT NEWBY HALL ON 4TH FEBRUARY, 1869. *(third instalment)*

On 4th February, 1869, the Newby Hall ferry, carrying 11 horses and 13 hunt followers, was half way across 50 yards of churning brown water of the River Ure, when Saltfish (mount of Sir Charles Slingsby of Scriven Hall) panicked and leapt over the railing into the torrent dragging Sir Charles, who had kept a firm hold of the reins, with him. The ferry rocked perilously from side to side and when the remaining horses slithered fractionally downhill, the ferry was unable to right itself and plummeted "Titanic-like" into the depths. Eventually it slowly turned

before the calamity took place. Having unbuttoned his breeches so that water could drain out below his knees, he swam back into the River Ure in a vain attempt to rescue Sir Charles, who had worn himself out by trying to reach the ferry against the heavy current. Apparently, Saltfish recognized his master's red coat bobbing in the water and "sailed direct to him like a water spaniel after a glove."

Sir Charles made a last and desperate attempt to grab hold of Saltfish's mane as his horse was swept past him, but when



Sir Charles Slingsby mounted on his hunter, Saltfish

over, rearing right up into the air, thus pouring men and horses in one confused heap down into the water.

Secured by the chain, the upturned ferry came to rest midstream as riders, weighed down by waterlogged hunting kit, struggled to climb back to safety. Mr. Meysey Thompson, who subsequently wrote the account of this tragedy, had leapt off the ferry and struck out for the shore moments

that failed he sank, never to be seen alive again. The old horse, who had unwittingly precipitated the lethal chain of events, struck out bravely for the far shore and eventually got out safely. Saltfish was one of the lucky ones – all the other horses, save the mare ridden by Mr. Meysey Thompson, perished in the tragedy bringing the number of equine deaths to nine.

To be continued:

scriven-pc.co.uk

OCTOBER
2020



SCRIVEN PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



The new stone marker at the northern entrance to The Green was most generously donated by Mr and Mrs Waind who are pictured here (centre) with the Chair and Vice- Chair of the Parish Council.

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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GOVERNMENT PLAN FOR DEVOLUTION IN NORTH YORKSHIRE

The Government is currently considering how best to make more efficient use of Local Government spending and increase local involvement. This affects the two Unitary Councils: North Yorkshire and York, the District Councils e.g. HBC and all Town and Parish Councils. The overall objective is to make the Councils more cost effective and to empower local communities in decision making via Town and Parish Councils. It will entail the removal of mid-level Councils e.g. HBC and creation of direct links between the new Unitary Authority and Towns and Parishes. There is a difference of opinion in how the above efficiency can be achieved. NYCC wishes to expand their spend by taking in York to form a new giant Unitary Authority

but the local District Councils plan recommends the creation of two brand-new Unitary Authorities in North Yorkshire with an East/West divide.

Scriven PC unanimously voted to support the East/West proposal to form two brand-new Unitary Authorities rather than create the Mega Council based in Northallerton. Harrogate District would be the largest urban district in the West incorporating Skipton and Richmond. North Yorkshire West would then be in control of the Government's cash distribution for areas such as Highways, Schools, Social Services and Waste disposal currently under the control of NYCC. The two options have now been sent to Government for their consideration.

BOROUGHBRIDGE ROAD DEVELOPMENT FIELDS 435295 and 458903

These two fields fall within the boundary of Scriven Parish Council. Planning permission had already been granted to build 120 houses there which will more than double the size of the current Parish Council area. The developer is Yorkshire Housing Limited. The houses will be of two storey construction and 48 will be classed as "affordable."

Councillor Mearns and Councillor Armitage represented Scriven at an HBC Planning Meeting held remotely on 23rd June, 2020. This was held to decide the layout and style of the housing and the landscaping. Following extensive consultation with fellow Councillors the main points of concern raised were as follows:

- The danger of pedestrians walking beside the A6055 unless the proposed footpath is realigned.
- Safe entry/access to and from the

development onto the A6055.

- A suggestion that the 30 MPH sign should be moved along the A6055 towards the Farnham junction.
- Environmental issue – that trees, such as evergreen oak, fir and yew should be integrated within the new hedge to be planted adjacent to the A6055. These species absorb, trap and dilute toxic particles to maximum effect and, as well as reducing noise pollution, they would screen this new development from visitors to our historic market town.
- Lighting should be ecologically friendly for the resident bat population and the Great Crested Newt should be encouraged by suitable planting and ponds.

Whilst our representations were well received by the Planning Committee, the application was approved in principle, but

deferred to the Chief Planner to consider the footpath plans and the connectivity with the neighbouring Pastures Estate. This has been now been done.

There are now a raft of different applications coming through on HBC's website for that site as the development cannot start until certain conditions have been satisfied. Councillor Mearns, as your local HBC Councillor, can be contacted with any concerns you may have on this or any other planning issue –samantha.mearns@harrogate.gov.uk

POTHOLE REPAIRS

Repairs to the gravelled side of The Green were completed during June. Subsequent to the initial quotation, further damage to the road over the winter meant that additional repairs to those originally scheduled were required. The resulting deficit in funding was met through donations from parishioners.



As shown above, this has been a "patching up" of the most damaged parts of the road and consideration should now be given to ongoing maintenance of the private road ideally through a residents group.

BONFIRES

Following a complaint from a resident, please would parishioners be mindful of the wind direction if they intend to have a small bonfire. Whilst bonfires are not illegal, consideration must be shown to neighbours.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

The lights on the oaks have been serviced and will be brightening up our Christmas for another year. Many thanks again to our very generous benefactors.



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

On Sunday, 8th November a short ceremony will be held at the village War Memorial at 1.00 p.m. Please do give this important occasion your support as this year is the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II marked by VE Day and VJ Day.

SCRIVEN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The next meeting will take place on Thursday, 26th November at 7.00 p.m. This will be held ONLINE and instructions as to how to log on 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 7 days in advance of the meeting.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

The tree lights will be switched on on Tuesday, 1st December.