



## HAMPSTHWAITE VILLAGE SOCIETY

*To preserve and improve the character and amenities of the village.  
To promote activities of interest to the members*

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21st February 2010

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This is my first report as Chairman of the Society and, inevitably, I have been reflecting on the year that has elapsed since I took on the role.

In my opening address as Chairman I said "how can there be any honour in taking on a job that nobody else wants to do? - the honour for me would be continuing where Bob MacLean left off and in leading the seventeen dedicated and hard working members of your Committee." I have to express a change of heart here because, in addition to enjoying the unfailing support from members I have met and got to know rather better so many wonderful people and I have been extremely humbled and gratified by the many positive and complimentary comments that have been expressed to me.

I also said "as you probably gathered, I believe that whatever we do, whether it be holding a meeting, event or social function - above all it should be fun. Of course we have essential business to conduct from time to time, but at the end of the day we are all retired, we are all doing this for enjoyment and if it can't be fun then it's not worth doing at all."

It is essential that the Society maintains its sense of purpose in achieving our objectives, but I have done my utmost to ensure that all our meetings and 'get-togethers' have been enjoyable. Our ever efficient programme secretary, Audrey Atkinson, has arranged excellent speakers for our general meetings whose presentations have varied from visual, musical, humorous and informative, but without exception have been excellent. Can I remind you that Audrey is always on the look out for first class speakers and if you are impressed by one you have heard at another organisation then please let Audrey have the information and contact details.

A major change to our calendar occurred this year when we decided to dispense with the Christmas Market which had reached its 'sell by date' and replace it, as a fund raising venture, with two concerts. The 'Spirit of Harmony' barbers' shop chorus treated us to a superb evening of musical entertainment in April and this was followed in October by an equally impressive concert by 'The Harrogate Band'. Both concerts

achieved a near 'sell-out' and a total of around £1,500 profit was made for the Society's funds.

Liz Mason organised two very impressive excursions - the half day trip was to the Wensleydale Creamery in Hawes with the full day excursion being to Beverley and Sledmere House. Both were well subscribed and extremely enjoyable.

Norman and Joyce have, as usual, organised a good selection of visits to orchestral concerts and shows with one of the highlights being the Christmas Concert given by the Harrogate Gilbert and Sullivan Society with the Brighouse and Raistrick Brass Band.

The Annual Dinner on 11th February 2010 held at the Millstones Restaurant was extremely successful and our thanks go to that indefatigable duo June Sarginson and Richard Walker for the meticulous arrangements and smooth running of the event on the evening. We are very fortunate in having such a good venue almost on our doorstep. This was attended by over one hundred members of the Society.

Our membership currently stands at a record 224 and we are attracting a number of members from the surrounding villages. If our fame spread any further we may have to insist on a passport, driving licence and two recent utility bills to be provided when subscriptions are paid.

As you are aware our Yorkshire in Bloom team elected not to enter the competition for reasons which have been well publicised in the past. However, this did not effect in the slightest the teams enthusiasm and commitment and once again Hampsthwaite bloomed throughout the summer. Our thanks go to Janine and her team for all the hard work and effort which this involved.

Our main project for the year was the installation of the white bollards around the northern end of the village green. Despite our best efforts two further incidents have occurred where posts have been hit, but they did prevent the green being damaged and the drivers concerned must have had some difficulty explaining away the obvious damage which occurred to their vehicles!

Thanks to the generosity of one of our lady members the Memorial Hall now has a much better quality piano which I feel sure will be appreciated by the various organisations that use it.

Paul Parker and Graham Williams continue to make tremendous progress with 'The History of Hampsthwaite' and the fruits of their labours are now very much evident on the village website. A reprint of Book 1 has been carried out and this is an exact facsimile of the edition which was produced some years ago. Sales of this have been encouraging so far, but members need to be aware that it is still available and makes an ideal present for relatives, children, grandchildren et cetera.

I should also like to congratulate and thank those unsung heroines, the ladies who work hard to provide and serve the refreshments at our meetings and functions. Some of the ladies are on the Committee, others are not, but they happily serve tea, coffee, wine, biscuits and buffets and then go on to wash up and clear up afterwards - our grateful thanks ladies for all your efforts which are very much appreciated.

I should like to take this opportunity to offer my sincere thanks to all my colleagues on the Committee who once again have provided willing and cheerful support to ensure that Hampsthwaite Village Society continues to be successful and enjoyable and goes from strength to strength. We now even enjoy the luxury of a cup of tea and biscuits at our Committee meetings!

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stuart Jennings', written over a horizontal line.

STUART JENNINGS  
Chairman

#### **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

The availability of this space gives me the ideal opportunity to inform you that subscriptions will remain at £5.00 per annum, due entirely to the prudence of our tight fisted 'chancellor of the exchequer'.

Subscriptions for 2010/2011 are now due and Richard will be delighted to relieve you of your cash at the AGM. They can also be paid at Hampsthwaite Post Office.

Please respond promptly and relieve Richard and I of the embarrassing task of having to remind you at further meetings.