



Sheriff Hutton Village News



Number 674

December 2025

Items for January's Village News must reach the editors no later than
6th December for us to meet the printer's end of year production schedule.

Parish Council

The Parish Council met on the 13th November 2025. Councillors present at the meeting were Penny Bean (Chairman), Marcus Oxendale, Sally Wright, Philip Lazenby, Dave Smith, Sam Warriner & Ed Stephenson.

The following new planning application was received for consideration this month: -

ZE25/01076/FUL 1 Woodend Cottages Ashbank Lane High Stittenham.

Change of use of bed and breakfast with owners' accommodation (use class C1) to dwellinghouse (use class C3). Change of use of annex accommodation to residential and self-catering annex. Change of use of agricultural land for associated car parking to parking for annex and part domestic curtilage.

Decision – No Objection.

The following new planning decisions were received this month: -

ZE25/01041/GPAGB New Manor Farm Lilling Low Lane West Lilling

Change of use and conversion of agricultural building to form 3no. dwellinghouses (Use Class C3) two bedroom.

WITHDRAWN.

ZE25/00894/PIP Cape Farm Daskett Hill Sheriff Hutton

Erection of 1no. dwelling for agricultural workers.

REFUSED.

ZE25/00733/FUL 18 Alan Farnaby Way Sheriff Hutton

Erection of storage shed (part retrospective).

APPROVED.

Christmas Lights

The date for the Christmas lights switch on was incorrectly stated in the last Village News. The correct switch on date will be Saturday 6th December @ 4pm.

Church End Road Closure

The parish council have been made aware by North Yorkshire Council of the following planned road closure in January 2026:-

Church End, Sheriff Hutton

Excavate approx. 250m of trench in C/way, Verge and Footway to install new QL Duct, tobies and chambers.

The Restriction will be in place for a period of 12 days between 12th January 2026 and 23rd January 2026.

Next Meeting

The date of the next Parish Council meeting will be Thursday 11th December 2025 in the Miss Ward Room at the Methodist Church @ 7.30pm.

Louise Pink, the Parish Clerk, can be contacted regarding all Parish Council matters at sheriffhuttonparishcouncil@gmail.com or on (01904) 861131. 13 White Rose Avenue, New Earswick, York. YO32 4AG.

Super-Mobile Library - No service in December due to the Christmas Holidays

The next visit will be on Friday 9th January 2026 10.00 am – 12 noon

The mobile library can be used as a drop-in facility to select or return books as it used to be before the pandemic. If you wish to request a specific title, please browse our online catalogue at <https://capitadiscovery.co.uk/northyorkshire> and place a reservation using your borrower number and your PIN, selecting 'Supermobile' as your pick-up location. There may be a small charge for this service. Free downloads of eBooks, e-audiobooks and magazines are available from our website at www.northyorks.gov.uk/digital-library If you are not a member of our libraries, you can join at the SuperMobile Library. It is FREE! For enquiries, please call 01609 533878 or email supermobile@northyorks.gov.uk For more information about library services visit www.northyorks.gov.uk/libraries or download our library App. Search for: North Yorkshire Libraries in the App Store or Google Play.

Do you need help with doing things online? – e.g. emails, online forms, applying for a blue badge or bus pass, access websites etc. Help with basic online issues is now available in the mobile library on its regular visits. Just call in and ask.

The Friends of Sheriff Hutton Village Hall

"Christmas is Coming" say the Friends of Sheriff Hutton Village Hall

The Annual Christmas Coffee Morning & Jigsaw Exchange takes place on **Friday 12th December** from **10am to 12pm** in the Village Hall.

Please come along for a festive coffee morning with home-made Mince pies and Christmas cake. It's also a chance to catch up with friends and neighbours and have the opportunity to stock up on jigsaw puzzles for the festive period or for a perfect Christmas gift. All profits will go to the Village Hall.

* If you have any raffle or tombola prizes to donate for the Christmas Coffee Morning please contact Sandra on 07889 867397 or Barbara on 07811 259184 *

The November Jigsaw Exchange and Coffee Morning was well attended and raised £151.

The Village Hall Needs Some New Friends

The *Friends of the Village Hall* is a small, friendly group which runs a number of activities to raise funds for some of the costly improvements (the building is now over 40 years old) and the 'nice to have' extras which make the hall the great community asset Sheriff Hutton has. Our year-round activities are:

- running the ever-popular monthly Jigsaw Exchange sessions
- organising the annual pre-loved Book Sale each October
- managing and operating the Village Hall 200 Club

In all, the Friends activities raise around £4000 each year – a valuable contribution to the hall from easy-to-run and enjoyable activities.

Why not come along and join us. For more information get in touch with Sandra on 07889 867397 or Barbara on 07811 259184 or have a chat with one of us at the next coffee morning and jigsaw exchange.

Sheriff Hutton Ladies Group

Our November meeting was very well attended, and Chris Cade presented A Christmas Carol, as usual he kept us all entertained with his production.

Wednesday 10th December is our Christmas lunch at the Worsley Arms in Hovingham, for all those going please meet there at 12pm.

Wishing everyone a Happy Christmas

Any further information please contact Anne 07391515299 or Gail 07711079653

St Mary's Church, Marton in the Forest

We have 2 services planned for December:

Sunday 7th December at 3pm: Celtic Worship - a reflective service for Advent and
Sunday 14th December at 3pm: Carols by Candlelight followed by festive refreshments - a special early carol service to warm up our vocal chords and briefly step away from the chaos of Christmas preparations! There will be signs out to direct you to extra parking spaces. Everyone is very welcome to join us for either or both of these services.

The church and churchyard will remain open daily over Christmas and New Year, and visitors are always welcome to come and soak up some peace and quiet with a warming cuppa. Christmas can sometimes be tinged with sadness, so you are invited to add a decoration to our Christmas Tree, in memory of a friend or family member. There are labels on the altar if you would like to add their name and some spare decorations too. We will check the church daily for prayer requests or you can contact the Prayer Net via martonintheforest@gmail.com

Everyone from Marton Church wishes you a peaceful Christmas!

Methodist Church

Services in December:

7 th	10.30	Rev. Ann Vaughan - service includes Holy Communion
14 th	10.30	Mr Stephen Leah
21 st	Carol Service 6.30pm - No morning service	
25 th	9.30am	Christmas Day service
28 th	10.30	Mr David Marwood

Other activities

Every Wednesday 9.30am - 10am - prayer and quiet meditation in the chapel.

10am - 11.15am Coffee morning - come along for coffee, tea and biscuits. No charge.

Not on 24th or 31st December - restarts 7th January

Film Club

Thursday 11th December 1.45pm for 2pm start.

Showing a film about a homeless man and his cat Bob and how they teach each other about Christmas spirit along the way.

Rated 12. 90 minutes.

Refreshments available at the start. No charge.

Christmas services and events:

Sunday 21st December 6.30pm - Carol service followed by coffee and mince pies. Come along, sing carols and bring your friends and neighbours.

Christmas Eve 24th December Christingles 2pm -for all the family. Crafts and Christingles. Join us for some Christmas eve fun and then a short service at 3pm.

Christmas Day 25th December 9.30am - short service of carols and readings to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Notices for St. Helen's

What is happening over Christmas

We have lots of lovely events and services over the Christmas period – something for everyone.

Saturday, 29th November – Victorian Christmas Market 11am-3pm. This is always a fabulous event with lots of stalls with a brilliant choice of Christmas presents, Bonnie and Fiona's pre-loved jewellery stall and of course Sally of Bluebell Café fame. Not to be missed!

Monday, 22nd December – our Village Christmas Celebration with folk Christmas carols, traditional carols and poems with the ever-popular Drummers and SHOC (Sheriff Hutton Occasional Choir). There will be a cash bar and complimentary mice pies, sausage rolls and other nibbles. The bar opens at 5.45pm and the singing starts at 6.30pm. This is always a really popular evening, and we look forward to seeing you there.

Christmas Eve – Carols in the Churchyard – we usually end up singing in the church entrance as it has been too cold and/or wet to be outside. One year it even snowed! Join us for carol singing – you choose what to sing and Andy will be accompanying us on the keyboard. There'll be complimentary mulled wine and mince pies and we start at 11am. Children and dogs welcome. The children's area and dressing up box are always there, and we have Christmas outfits too, to help entertain smaller children.

Christmas Day – this is a family Holy Communion family service. You choose the carols too! Children welcome with as many Christmas presents as they want to bring. It's a friendly and relaxed atmosphere and please don't worry about children making a noise or moving around. The service starts at 10.00am.

In other news - it was lovely to welcome Amelia and Oliver Thornton-Berry back to St. Helen's for the christening of their daughter, Clementine Charlotte Grace. Amelia and Oliver were married in the church three years ago, so it was very special to have Clementine baptised there. Her parents, grandparents, godparents, close family and friends promised to support her as she grows up and in the future. The church looked lovely with candles and beautiful flower arrangements complete with little orange clementines.

Festival Church status

We had a really good meeting about how the church could be used more by the community with a group of village people co-ordinating various events. Ideas that came up were a Christmas Tree festival (sadly too late for this year), a flower festival, a toys (through the ages) festival, music events, beer festival, a murder mystery evening, another wedding dress display with christening gowns too, a remembrance concert, bake-off, a wedding fayre, pop up meals, history talks, arts in the pews with traditional crafts too, a treasure hunt to name but a few. The idea is that we will meet in the new year and plan a programme for the next 2/3 years so watch this space. It would be brilliant to have the church used more often and different people involved with the various events.

It was also felt that such events would be a good way of further bringing village groups together and working in a co-ordinated way around the events.

The pews were discussed with some people saying that weren't helpful as they segregate people and also prevented flexibility when it came to staging events. Others felt they added to the charm of the church. It was agreed that we needed to explore what was possible with the pews given that the church is a Grade 1 listed building i.e. a feasibility study. Parking was also discussed, and it was recognised that this was an issue, perhaps limiting attendance at events to local people.

Festival church status isn't about money because even if there was no income coming in, there is enough money to cover the next 7 to 10 years. We have reserves which are put aside for the building. What we are short of is people. Festival church status means we would have to have a minimum of 6 services each year with an emphasis on festivals e.g. Christmas, Easter, harvest, Remembrance and so on. Our plan would mean more than that. The church would still be available for weddings, baptisms and funerals. The idea is that it would free up time and space to concentrate on community things.

One of the next steps is to explore what a Community Trust, which would be part of the Festival Church model, would look like and what its responsibilities were. We do know that it would focus far more on the community and how the church can be used.

It felt a very positive meeting and huge thanks to everyone who came and to those who volunteered to be on the co-ordinating group. We will start pulling things together in the new year and planning next steps. We will keep you updated.

St Leonard's, Farlington

And so, we come to the end of another year and look forward to all the joy and happiness which Christmas offers us including, at St Leonard's, our *Carols by Candlelight* and *Christmas Day* services.

But, following close behind is a new year with new beginnings to look forward to. This includes our celebration of the start of the farming year which we celebrate with our *Plough Sunday* service and Ploughman's Lunch on January 11th 2026.

But, for now, A Very Happy Christmas to you all from all of us at St Leonard's.

Services at St Leonard's in December

There are four opportunities for joining us this month:

Sunday	14 th	10.30am	Shortened Matins (BCP)
Friday	19 th	6.30pm	Carols by Candlelight followed by seasonal refreshments
Thursday	25 th	10.30am	Christmas Day. Our much-enjoyed celebration of Christmas for all the family embracing a shortened Holy Communion
Sunday	28 th	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) – the only service in the Benefice

St Leonard's Christmas Grand Prize Bingo

Friday, December 5th in Sheriff Hutton Village Hall

Eyes Down at 7.30pm Join us for a Fun, Fundraising Evening!
(please note – there will be no cash prizes) - Great Fun and Fabulous Prizes

Children's Shoes Boxes and IDAS

Our annual target is 100 x Christmas Shoe Boxes, and we did it, 106 packaged and delivered to the collection centre. This year, boxes from the UK will be heading to Albania, Eastern Europe, Ghana, Central Asia, west Africa, Malawi, Moldova, Ukraine, and the Balkans.

Our donations received this year have surpassed what we have had in previous years, so a very big thank you to all who contributed. The excess has created quite a pile for IDAS (Independent Domestic Abuse Services), the Yorkshire based charity who house women and children fleeing abuse.

Together with the local Babes and Toddler Group that use the Village Hall, we are running December's Christmas Market Café on the 14th. If you can help in any way, please get in touch. We need the usual: volunteers on the day, cake baking and of course people coming along with festive spirit and tucking into a bacon or sausage sandwich.

Once this fundraiser is done, we can then share what donations have accumulated to help towards the carriage of the Shoe Boxes, and the purchase of more for next year.

Melanie (hm99960@rocketmail.com)

Sheriff Hutton History group

Our speaker last month was Glennis Whyte who told us all about "The House built on Love & Chocolate". This was the story of "Goddards" – the Terry family home – and of the Terrys who built it and their family. The origin of the Terry's Chocolate business was a firm of confectioners founded in 1767 which eventually became "Terrys" and by 1867 was managed by Joseph Terry, who died in 1898.

Joseph had married twice which became a cause of internecine strife in the later years of the family with difficulties for the children of his first wife. His son Thomas, father of Noel, died young and his grandson Noel fell in love with, but was forbidden to marry, Kathleen the daughter of another Terry's manager. After a long period of separation and the exchange of a massive archive of letters he did eventually marry her in 1915, and it was with her in 1927 that they had Goddards built and furnished.

The house (which is in Dringhouses down the Tadcaster Road) is now in the care of the National Trust and is a fine example of Arts and Crafts architecture designed by Walter Brierley. The furnishings – an amazing Georgian period collection – were left separately to the York Civic Trust and are now in Fairfax House in York.

Altogether this was a most interesting talk, copiously illustrated with images of the house and garden and a strong incentive to go and visit the gardens when they are open next year.

Upcoming

There are no talks in December & January: the next meeting will be at 2pm on February 25th when we will again welcome Malcolm Brooks to tell us about the Rise & Fall of the Berlin Wall.

Thank You!

At this time of year, we'd like to say a big thank-you to all the people who have supported the History Group and its activities through 2025 – without your support there would not be a History Group! We would also like to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year – and we will hope to see you in February.

Entry to our meetings is free to members or £3 on the door to visitors and includes refreshments.

For further information contact Meg on 07732 008557 or Linda at linda@turner.stargate.co.uk or Peter Brown at peterbrown222.brown@btinternet.com

Message from the Jumbles

If you have received your December Village News before the end of November a reminder of our last two fund raising events of the year. The Preloved Jewellery Stall at the Christmas Fair on the 29th November and the Swinton Brass Band Christmas Concert on Sunday 30th November at 2.30pm at the Village Hall. The amounts raised at these events and the total raised during 2025 will be published in the January Village News.

Thank you so much to everyone who supported both these events and all our fund raising during the past year. We hope you feel able to continue supporting us through 2026 which is our 40th birthday. Our first Jumble Sale of the year will be on the 14th February in aid of the Bowling Club. So please save your unwanted good quality clothing and bric-a-brac until then. If you find it difficult to do this please contact me to see if we can help with storage.

HELP! We have been so lucky over the years to have had the left overs from the sales collected for free, enabling the maximum possible amount raised to be passed on to worthy causes. However the lady who took this on last year finds herself unable to continue. We are, therefore, looking for someone else to take away left over bric-a-brac and toys. Are you able to help us? The left overs are in good condition and ideal for someone who does car boot sales but they need to be collected immediately after each sale. Our only other option is to pay a disposal company which can be quite costly and therefore reduce the net amount raised. Please contact me if this might be of interest to you.

Finally from all the JUMBLIES we wish you a very MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR
Penny Bean 01347 878392
Sheriff Hutton Jumbles

Turning cast offs into cash

Royal British Legion – Poppy Appeal

The total raised for the Poppy Appeal this year from the Sheriff Hutton Area was £1,488.16 which included £202 from the collection at the Remembrance Day Service at the Parish Church. Sincere thanks to everyone who bought poppies and Poppy related items, and those who attended the service.

My thanks to Giles Shepherd Cross for continuing the House-to-House collection in Whenby and Skewsby which increases year on year.

Thanks also to Claire and Barry and staff at the Post Office which is the main outlet and to the Highwayman Inn.

Thank you to the children and staff at the school who so enthusiastically support the Appeal.

Thank you also to Joan Armitage and Laura Oakley who continue to help with counting the money.

The reconciliation seemed so much easier this year, despite the ever-increasing paperwork that has to be completed

Your donations help to provide the invaluable service the Royal British Legion provides for those who have served and are currently serving in the Armed Forces.

The Remembrance Garden in The Square provided a brilliant focal point in the heart of our village with many small Remembrance Crosses being placed there. Unfortunately, some of the poppies have had to be “retired” as they suffered badly in the downpours so we will need new ones to supplement the stock for next year. If you can knit or crochet, we would really appreciate your help.

Contact Barbara Grinham on 878476 if you need a pattern.

Penny Bean- Honorary Poppy Appeal Organiser.

Sheriff Hutton Bridge Cricket Club

The club held it's AGM on Tuesday 28th October at “The Bridge” the committee was re-elected with the addition of Caroline Bell as Head of Women's and Girls cricket. The club captains were re-elected with the exception of the fourth team which is to be confirmed. Mr Roy Piercy remains as President.

It was reported that the junior section remains strong with numbers increasing year on year which presents its own problems -mainly coaches at all age groups which will allow the club to field two sides at all age groups. If anyone in the locality is interested in contributing time on a regular basis to help with coaching, get in touch with Andrew Bell via the website.

More good news on the recruitment front with Olly Shepherd joining us from Acomb. Olly is a Yorkshire U16 opening bat with several county hundreds to his name, he is another on the list of more than promising youngsters who will play Yorkshire League cricket at “The Bridge” and is a very welcome addition to the playing strength. There will be more recruitment over the winter.

The work that was carried out on the wicket is now in “full bloom” with the re-seeding all germinated and already being cut. It promises to be a cracking surface next year.

Extensive work has been carried out on the Castle ground Pavilion with new doors and windows together with internal works. Central heating has been installed at the “Bridge” which will add some comfort in those early spring months not to mention frost proofing the pavilion through winter.

Good luck to England in the Ashes series and good luck to our internationals Matty and Wills.

The Wonder of the Ordinary: Luke's Christmas Story

The account of Jesus's birth in Luke's gospel is grounded in the lives of ordinary people. At its centre is the idea that God reaches into the busyness and simplicity of everyday existence, inviting the unremarkable into a remarkable and transformative story. This is not a tale of the mighty or the powerful, but of ordinary people joining in God's extraordinary plan.

Consider Mary, a young woman from Nazareth, an unremarkable, insignificant, farming village in the north. Probably in her teens, she was not famous, wealthy, or influential. Yet, when the angel Gabriel arrives with the extraordinary message that she will bear God's son, she says 'yes'.

Mary's 'yes' becomes the opening act of the most world-changing event in history.

Joseph, too, is no celebrity. He is a carpenter, a tradesman, quietly committed to doing his best for his family. It is through Joseph's courage and faith in saying 'yes' to God when it would have been so easy to say 'no', that Mary and Jesus are protected and cared for.

The shepherds, perhaps the most ordinary of all, also play a pivotal part. Their lives, spent on the margins and often ignored by society, are interrupted by an angelic announcement of great joy. They receive the good news before any king or priest, and their response is an immediate and wholehearted 'yes'. They leave their flocks, hurry to Bethlehem, eager to witness God's work, and then become the first to share the news, filled with simple, contagious joy.

Luke's gospel highlights that God does not require worldly greatness. Instead, God seems to delight in using the everyday, the humble, and the overlooked. The birth of Jesus takes place amid the ordinary sounds and smells of a stable, among animals, hay, and straw, with no grandeur or ceremony, only the willing presence of those who said 'yes' in their ordinary circumstances.

This message remains relevant today. Each of us, in our 'ordinariness', is invited into God's story. We may not feel special or gifted, but the gospel teaches that our availability, not our ability, is what matters. This Christmas, as we celebrate, let us remember that God's love reached into a stable, and it reaches into our lives still, inviting us to take our place in the story, just as we are. There is wonder in the ordinary, and in it, we find ourselves at the very heart of Christmas.

May you be truly blessed this Christmas. Reverend John.

Friends of Sheriff Hutton Village Hall 200 Club

The winners for the monthly £25 prizes each, are: 56, 89, 187, 224 and 236. Congratulations to all.

Remember, Membership opportunity is now open – so get in touch

If you want to get involved in this great fundraiser which gives you the opportunity to win your money back, the chance to sign up is now.

All that is needed is:

A simple form needs to be filled in and returned

The annual payment of £20 can be paid by cash, cheque, bank transfer or a standing order can be set up.

Before the end of the year, you will be allocated a Membership number (your entry number for the monthly draws in 2026)

Then sit back and wait to see if you are one of the lucky winners in 2026.

A reminder of what can be won

Drawn by the Parish Council, the winning numbers have the chance of cash prizes over the year, including: £25 each month, £50 twice a year, £100 twice a year, and £150 twice a year. How many of each vary because it depends on the membership numbers, but the total amount given out is at least 50 percent of the total prize fund.

Any questions or interest in joining, please get in touch now, the opportunity is only available until Friday December 12th. Many thanks, Melanie. Email hm99960@rocketmail.com Mobile 07721 891758

Sheriff Hutton Village Market

It was a lovely autumn day for our November market and there was a wonderful atmosphere as people browsed, shopped, ate, drank and chatted inside and outside the hall. Thank you to all who visitors, our stallholders and to Welburn School who ran the café this month.

Our final market of the year, the Sheriff Hutton Christmas Market, is on Sunday 14th December 10.30am to 1.30pm. As it's our last market of 2025, we want to go out on a high! We'll have Easingwold Town Band, mulled wine and hot spiced cider / apple juice, and lots of stalls for Christmas food, drink and artisan gifts.

The December café is being run as a joint effort in aid of the local Christmas Shoebox Appeal, IDAS (Independent Domestic Abuse Services) and the Village Babies and Toddlers Group. Please come down and support us and join in the Christmas cheer!

Market Café fundraising opportunities for 2026

We still have a few dates available in 2026 for local clubs and village groups to run the café at one of our markets. It's a simple and enjoyable way to raise funds — your group keeps all profits from the café takings on the day. If you can gather a team to run the café and provide cakes to sell, we'd love to hear from you.

We provide:

- Clear, step-by-step guidance
- A fully set-up café ready for you to operate
- A dedicated contact for any questions
- You could also potentially look into sharing the slot with another group.

To find out more or to register your interest, please email mail@shvm.co.uk as soon as possible.

Call out for new Committee Members

So just one more village market before we break until March 2026 (phew!) but the behind-the-scenes work continues. Next year we plan to continue moving the market forward despite being in challenging times. A few committee members are standing down after significant commitment to the market in recent years. So, we are looking for new faces to join the committee and take on a role. Our committee year starts again in February. If you're into planning, admin, social media, or new ideas to grow the market — get in touch at mail@shvm.co.uk — we would love to talk to you.

Gardening Club

As there is no meeting in December, we wish everyone a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

The club would like to thank all those who contributed to raising £720 from the village market cafe in October. This event helps to keep subscriptions from rising whilst paying for inflation in speakers' expenses.

On a more negative note, and as no one has come forward, as yet, to take on the lead roll there will not be a Village Show next year. There is a good support team in place, but a coordinator is essential. We would like to thank Amanda for bringing it all together for the last six years.

We look forward to January 2026 the start of another gardening club year.

sheriffhuttongardeningclub@gmail.com

Sheriff Hutton Nature Group

It's nearly time for our last evening talk of 2025 as below; hasn't this year rushed by.

3rd December - Dark Skies – Why they Matter - Richard Darn

Come and find out about dark skies with Astronomer and Dark Skies Adviser Richard Darn. Richard will be talking about how to rethink the way we use light. Excessive artificial light negatively impacts wildlife, human health and the environment. Did you know that well designed warm-toned lighting enhances safety and reduces crime? Or how to take steps to look at becoming a Dark Sky Friendly Village. All welcome. £3 non-members. Our talk will be followed by Tea and Coffee and seasonal treats. Sheriff Hutton Methodist Church Hall at 7.30pm.

We will then take a break until 04 February 2026 when we return with our next evening talk entitled Turtle Doves from North Yorkshire to Senegal given by Richard Baines of Yorkshire Coast Nature.

Review of the year and looking forwards:

The Nature group has recently signed up its 60th member from Sheriff Hutton and surrounding villages and further afield. We are all linked by an interest in the nature around us. We meet up to enjoy evening nature talks and, in the summer, outdoor excursions. It is also great to link with fellow enthusiasts and to share information and ideas to help nature.

This year we had our most popular visit to date to Forest of Flowers at Huby, contrasted by our visit with limited numbers to Strensall Common to see and hear the shy Nightjar.

For talks we have featured from hedgehogs to remarkable Yorkshire trees, and from Farmland Birds to hearing a members talk about REGUA, a reserve for the conservation of the Atlantic Forest and its biodiversity in Brazil. We have plenty planned for next year.

Any ideas for 2026/27 Nature Group Meetings and Events:

We are already starting to look at our programme of outdoor events for next summer and evening talks for next autumn onwards. If you have any ideas for an outdoor event or evening talk please let us know as we would love to hear from you.

If you would like any more information on the Sheriff Hutton Nature Group, please contact Sally on 01347 878272 or email our group at shnaturegroup@gmail.com

STOP PRESS

Village News reaches you every month without fail but it doesn't *'just happen.'*

The Parish Survey conducted earlier this year showed a very high level of appreciation of the News.

If you would like to help with getting the News to peoples' doors – whether it is being involved with Editing, Production or Distribution - please contact us.

You can email villagenews@sheriffhutton.co.uk or call
Richard & Wendy Haste (01347 878581), Brian & Lynne Shepherd (01347 878310)
Melanie Hunt (01347 878711) or Hazel Leeson (01347 878152)

We would love to hear from you



Sheriff Hutton Hedgehog Project



Latest update on members and the project

We have now signed up 88 people to the hedgehog project including those locally and also some outside the area who have a particular interest.

Our project will continue next year; both collecting local sightings and also with more outreach and raising awareness on hedgehogs and linking up as a community. We may also be reaching out to groups further afield. We will keep you updated on this.

Hibernation time

Many hedgehogs are hibernating, but some are still around and would appreciate access to water and suitable food. Hedgehogs out at night and behaving normally are fine to be left to themselves. If you see a hedgehog out in the day it will need help. Please secure in a box with a blanket, water and a covered hot water bottle which it can move off if it gets too hot, take a photo to show size and condition and contact a hedgehog rescue. The British Hedgehog Preservation Society (BHPS) have a current list of local rescues with spaces on 01584 890801. Many are full currently.

Winter sightings

If you do spot a hedgehog this winter, please let us know! Your sightings help us keep our records up to date, especially if it's in a new location. Be careful when tidying your garden as hibernation nests can be hidden under leaves or vegetation.

Christmas presents

It's a great time to think of a hedgehog themed present to support hedgehog research and bring enjoyment. Peoples Trust for Endangered Species (PTES) and BHPS have examples, or you can buy a hedgehog house or feeding station.

Sightings

We are working on the latest sighting records sent in and preparing these to be sent to our local ecological data centre. So, we will be giving an update soon.

Not Joined Yet? We'd Love to Hear From You!

Whether you've seen hedgehogs, want to borrow a wildlife camera, or just fancy learning more, we'd love you to join our project and help build a better picture of our local hedgehogs.



Contact Us: sheriffhedgehogs@gmail.com | 01347 878272 |



Village Ramble

There is no village ramble in December but we will kick start the new year with a refreshing walk on Thursday 29th January, details of which will be in the January newsletter. Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year to all in 2026.

Sheriff Hutton Village Hall Decarbonisation Project

During the past few years, we have taken some major steps to improve the hall's energy efficiency by installing the large photovoltaic array, replacing single glazed windows and doors with high performance low-E double glazed windows and installing more efficient electric water heaters. The next, most effective step in this process is to replace the oil-fired boiler by installing two different types of Air Source Heat Pump, comprising a heating and cooling system for the main hall space and a second system that will be connected to the existing hot water and radiator network for the ancillary kitchen and meeting rooms. These systems will be supported by additional photovoltaic panels and battery electricity storage together with improved thermal insulation with the aim of eradicating all Co2 emissions. As a direct consequence of increasing the thermal insulation of the building, we will have to replace the existing acoustic wall and ceiling finishes, and we will also be changing the lighting throughout the building to LEDs in order to reduce energy consumption.

The project is ready to go, having benefited from an initial grant from Net Zero Hub which has enabled us to complete a feasibility study and a fully costed design report with detailed drawings and specifications. These have been used as the basis for invitations to tender being issued, with a subsequent short-list of contractors having been decided on by Trustees. We estimate the cost to be in the region of £324,000, the vast majority of which we will need to raise from grant funding or other external funding sources. Further details are below.

We had hoped to undertake these works in the summer of 2026, which would include replacing the old boiler as this has been on its last legs for some time. However, to date we have not been able to secure any significant funding, and the old boiler has also recently been condemned necessitating the purchase of a new boiler as an interim solution. We expect the hall to continue to be open on a "business as usual" basis until at least Autumn 2026.

Thank you for your continuing support of this valuable community asset. You can help by emailing us at secretary@sheriffhuttonvillagehall.co.uk to express your support for the project, supporting fundraising activities or by making a donation directly to the Hall Decarbonisation Project.

The Trustees of Sheriff Hutton Village Hall: Alan Turner (Chair), Claire Wesley, Drew Foster, Moya Ingold, Nick Page, Philip David

BACKGROUND to this Decarbonisation Project

The Village Hall was built in 1980, to the energy standards at that time. Since then requirements have increased enormously, and the energy use of a building now is about one fifth of what it was in 1984. In addition, the cost of crude oil has gone up by 286% from 1984. Over recent years the Village Hall Trustees have been taking steps to improve the thermal efficiency of the building, and to lower its carbon emissions. They have; installed photovoltaic panels to generate electricity and income; replaced single glazed windows and doors with efficient double glazed ones; and they have installed more efficient electric water heaters. In 2023 the Village Hall was part in a project run by North Yorkshire Council to look into decarbonising Community buildings. This was followed up by a more detailed assessment of the Hall in 2024. Following that, Trustees secured a grant of £11,300 to fund environmental consultants D3 Associates, to work with them, to develop a detailed design to make the building carbon neutral. This is something that we can do to help to address global warming, and it will shield the Hall from rising fuel costs. The design was completed in January 2025, and competitive tenders were invited for carrying out the building work. The total anticipated cost is £324,000 The Trustees are now working to try and raise this money, mainly through grants. The Hall does have some reserves, but we need to raise as much as we can from within the Community. We are committed to implementing the project, to do our bit to tackle global warming and to create a more robust, sustainable building for the future. The proposed works involve; Increasing the building's thermal insulation where possible. Removing the oil fired boiler. The Hall will be heated by an air-source-heat-pump, with convector fans at high level. This will be able to both heat and cool the main hall.

The rest of the building will be heated by a second heat-pump, that will heat the existing radiators. Additional photovoltaic panels will be added over the Kitchen roof, and electricity storage batteries will be installed to allow us to use more of the power that we generate. As a result of increasing the

Continued over

insulation in the Hall, the acoustic tiles to the walls will be replaced with the acoustic timber slats, and the ceiling tiles will be replaced with a perforated acoustic plasterboard. All lighting, including the Stage Lights, will be replaced with LED fittings, and hot water will be provided by instant electric water heaters. It is thought that the building work will require the Hall to close for up to 8 weeks, and it is impossible to predict how long it is going to take to raise the funding. But Trustees will keep the Community informed of progress and will give as much notice as possible as to when the works will take place. You can help by writing to or emailing the Village Hall to express your support for the project. Please tell us why both the Hall and carbon reduction is important to you. You can also help by supporting the fundraising activities of the Friends, or you can make a donation directly to the Hall Decarbonisation Project. For more information or to comment, please email; secretary@sheriffhuttonvillagehall.co.uk

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING US TOGETHER WE WILL MAKE IT HAPPEN

Sheriff Hutton Bowling Club

Cumulative social advantage: is this the secret to a long, happy, healthy life?

Scientific research is accumulating evidence that having lots of money is associated with slower ageing(!!) – but so is another factor that will cost very little. It just involves spending plenty of time hanging out with family, friends and neighbours. And this is where SHBC comes in!

According to the most recent [study](#), being socially engaged can have a profound impact on epigenetic aging - epigenetic means how your interaction with your environment influences your gene expression. This study found that sustained social activity is associated with more favourable biological effects, including slower epigenetic aging and reducing signals that cause inflammation. In essence, this means that regular social interaction turns on your 'young' genes, turns off your 'old' genes and reduces any inflammation you may have in your body, helping you heal more quickly and reducing pain.

We are very aware of the reasons that people give for not trying bowls:

- I'm very busy at the moment
- I'm too young to play bowls - I'll take it up when I'm older
- I've never been any good at sport
- I don't like competition
- I used to enjoy sport, but bowls isn't active enough for me
- Bowls! Me....really??? 🤔

But the sociable interaction, community involvement and the spice of gentle competition available at the Bowling club provides the ideal environment for all generations - if you're older, you can turn your 'young' genes back on; if you're younger, you can slow down the activation of your 'old' genes.

Are you sure bowls is not for you?














The new outdoor season will begin again in April, but if you are in a rush to slow down the aging process and reduce the inflammation in your joints (or elsewhere in your body), then do come and play indoor bowls during the winter on a Wednesday afternoon at Ryedale Indoor Bowling Centre in Norton.

A warm welcome is always assured, indoors and outdoors.

Check us out at www.sheriffhuttonbowling.club

SHBC Annual Awards Dinner at The Highwayman

The Annual Awards Dinner took place on Friday, 7th November, at The Highwayman. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening with excellent food, a warm atmosphere, and wonderful hospitality. Our thanks go to Lisa, Ian, and all the staff for making the event so special.

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Regular Activities

Sun	10.00am	Morning Service	Parish Church but check in church for details			
	10.30am	Morning Service	Methodist Church			
Mon	10-12.00	Knit and Natter	Miss Ward Room			
				5pm	Back to Fitness	Village Hall
				6pm	Bootcamp	Village Hall
				7.00pm	Badminton	Village Hall
Tues	9.15am	Pilates	Village Hall			
	12.30pm	Lunch Club	Village Hall	7.30pm	Pilates	Village Hall
Wed	9.30am	Yoga	Village Hall			
	10.00am	Drop-in for Coffee	Miss Ward Room			
	10.00am	Ladies Tennis	Tennis Club			
Thurs	9.45am	Babes & Toddlers	Village Hall			

Additional Dates to Note - December

Wed	3 rd	7.30pm	Nature Group at the Miss Ward Room at the chapel, Dark Skies – Why they Matter
Fri	5 th	7.30pm	<i>Grand Christmas Prize Bingo</i> in aid of Farlington Church, Sheriff Hutton Village Hall
Sat	6 th	4pm	Christmas lights switch on in The Square
Wed	10 th	12pm	Sheriff Hutton Ladies Group Lunch at The Worsley Arms
Thurs	11 th	1.45pm	Film Club in the Miss Ward Room
		7.30pm	Parish Council meets in the Miss Ward Room Methodist Chapel
Fri	12 th		Annual Deadline to join Friends of Sheriff Hutton Village Hall 200 Club
		10 -12	Christmas Jigsaw Puzzle Exchange and coffee morning in the Village Hall
Sat	13 th	10.30-3.30pm	Spinning Group meets in the Miss Ward Room Methodist Chapel
Sun	14 th	10.30	Village Market at the Village Hall with café by Babes & Toddlers & Children's Shoe Boxes
Fri	19 th	7.30pm	Bowls Club Bingo in the Village Hall
	19 th	6.30pm	Carols by Candlelight at St Leonard's Church Farlington
Sun	21 st	6.30pm	Carol service at the Methodist Church
Mon	22 nd	5.45pm	St Helens Village Christmas Celebrations
Wed	24 th	11am	St Helens Carols in the Churchyard
		2.00pm	Christingle crafts at the Methodist Church

Dates to Note 2026

Jan	6 th	10-12	Super mobile library in the Village Hall car park
	16 th	7.30pm	Bowls Club Bingo in the Village Hall
	31 st	6pm	Elastic Band Concert, Village Hall, in aid of The Rainbow Trust
Feb	4 th	7.30pm	Nature Group at the Miss Ward Room at the chapel – Turtle Doves from North Yorkshire to Senegal by Richard Baines of Yorkshire Coast Nature
	14 th	2pm	Jumble sale in aid of the Bowls Club in the Village Hall
	25 th	2pm	History Group – Malcolm Rooks – The Rise and Fall of the Berlin Wall
	20 th	7.30pm	Bowls Club Bingo in the Village Hall
Mar	20 th	7.30pm	Bowls Club Bingo in the Village Hall
Apr	17 th	7.30pm	Bowls club Bingo in the Village Hall

To Hire the Village Hall, call 07894 734446 or email SHVHbookings@gmail.com

To contact the Village News production team email villagenews@sheriffhutton.co.uk

or call Richard and Wendy Haste (878581), Brian and Lynne Shepherd (878310),
Melanie Hunt (878711) or Hazel Leeson (878152)

**And Remember - Items for January 2026 Village News must reach the editors
no later than 6th December**