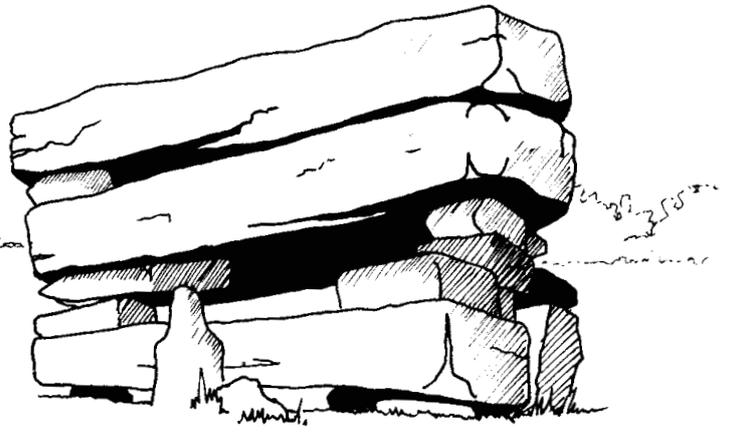


# Hunshelf Chat



April 2009

## A Eureka Moment!

Most of us want to do the best for the environment, to recycle, not cause too much strain on the planet etc; but should we champion giant wind farms or oppose them as destroying the countryside and the view? And wouldn't we rather have small scale solutions... well there might be an alternative in our area – a reverse Archimedean

screw\*. No, this is not a perverse Greek activity, but a small hydroelectric generation device, of fairly high efficiency, where the screw drives a turbine. There is a number of these being fitted to weirs around the country. As Hunshelf is blest with the River Don on its northern border there may be a suitable site for one. The newest working one to us is at the Torrs, New Mills, in the High Peak (photo). The New Mills device is 12 metres long, 2.5 metres wide and weighs ten tonnes. The fall of water is 20 feet and it produces 75kw, which is manly used by local houses and businesses. I

would not think that we would have enough fall or water volume at any individual site, but a smaller device may be practical. The installation at New Mills seems fairly expensive, and for some reason it's made in Germany, but it's essentially just a steel cylinder with a screw pattern on the outside; I'm sure that it could be knocked out by Corus (or whatever they are called nowadays). The parish council is interested in pursuing this with local environmentalists, and we are looking at suitable sites. All these are where original weirs were, of course, positioned for providing the

power for mills. The procedure for progressing this is to get the land owners interested; then to get a feasibility study carried out, which could be grant funded, and then generate local interest in pursuing it. So if you have a fall of water, we would be interested in hearing from you.

**Barry Tylee**

(\*Archimedean screw - a device invented by the Greek mathematician Archimedes (c.287-212 bc) for raising water by means of a helix rotating within a tube.)

*New Mills Hydroelectric Generation*

## Political Equilibrium

First it was Angela Smith, now we have entertained Spencer Pitfield the Conservative candidate for our "new" constituency of Stocksbridge and Penistone. Spencer had the whirlwind tour of the parish: a quick trip up to the Isle of Skye, a dip into the Delf, a glance at the Church, The Rock Inn and our playground and then he had to meet someone else.

Like others who have visited Hunshelf, he was impressed with the community spirit, the wild beauty of the Isle of Skye and the work that went into the playground. In a rash



statement, he said that he would run the Hunshelf Amble in June! We look forward to seeing him in the fell race

**David Horsfall**

## Publication Scheme

**The parish council has just had another diktat from central government. This time it is to say that we have to have a "Publication Scheme". It sounds much more grand than it is. All we have to do is to put on paper how much we will charge parishioners for copies of parish council information.**

Under the Freedom of Information Act and the parish council's own information policy, most of the parish council's information is freely available to anyone who asks. The only items that we do not reveal if asked, are commercially sensitive ones about contracts and personal information about staff (ME!)

Previously, we would have just printed out a sheet or two of paper and smiled happily.

Now we have a scale of charges. If you apply by email, then there is no charge and the data will be sent back the same way. Otherwise we charge 10p per sheet of paper: postage and packing, as they say, are extra at cost.

However, if you want to know anything, just give me a ring and I will tell you as much as I know. It is a lot simpler

**David Horsfall**

## Steel Valley Beacon Arts Looking for Members

Steel Valley Beacon Arts has started a 2 year project which hopes to combine all the Creative and Performing Art's Groups in the Valley. There have already been taster workshops in Drama, Folk Singing and Creative Writing and we are planning a short Arts Festival to take place in the Venue in July.

We are working with the Local History and Archaeology Groups, Photography, Art and Dancing and will employ professional people to lead workshops for which there will be a minimum charge.

If you are looking for a new hobby there will be 25 Community Groups

present to talk about what they can offer to you.

In May SVBA rehearsals start for Caucasian Chalk Circle to be performed in the Venue in November. Steel Valley Beacon Arts is an all age community group and anyone of any age, experience or ability is welcome to join.

Our director and music director are professional

people. All you have to do is turn up at one of our workshops which will be listed in Look Local "What's On". We have complete families, and sometimes 3 generations of the same family, as members.

**If you want to know more contact Doris Stubbs on 07960 306 539.**

## Green Moor, Water and Sewage

Concern has been expressed about the supply of water in the village. In days not too long gone by, we knew that we had three days of water stored in a buffer reservoir on the top of the bank. Now we are told that this buffer is down to 24 hours. If the power goes off, all the residents in Green Moor would be well advised to conserve as much water as possible. Most of you, I am sure, know that the water is pumped by electricity from the treatment plant down in the valley at Langsett.

As Clerk I was asked to contact various people to ask about the water supply. A BMBC councillor informed me that when the Rock Inn planning application was being discussed, this very question was raised and BMBC officers stated that there was no problem. I hope you are relieved to hear this. I cannot think of any BMBC officers who live in Green Moor, but then, perhaps that is being a bit cynical.

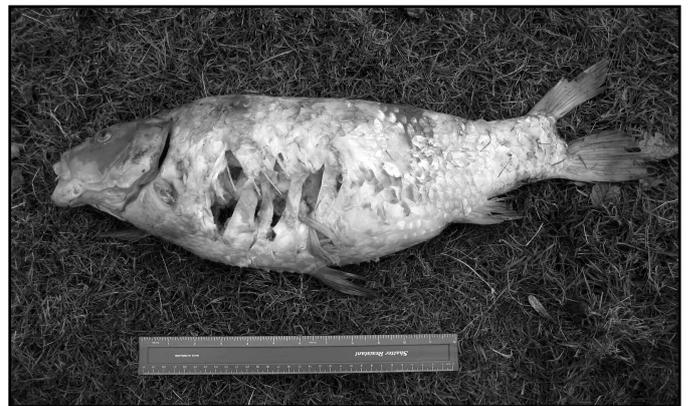
The sewage is another matter. About 30 years ago, a new sewage system was installed on Old Mill Lane, Thurgoland. As part of this system the sewage from Green Moor is sent via a large pipe down the hill and across the fields owned by Phillip and Tracey Watts. In the field, there is a manhole and it is from this manhole that sewage has seeped out. This is both unpleasant and unhealthy.

Various bodies were contacted, starting with the - Environment Agency (EA). Yorkshire Water came out all in a hurry: they do not like being got at by the EA. Yorkshire Water informed Phillip Watts that the main pipe from Green Moor (A 48" pipe) goes into the manhole and a 24" pipe goes from the manhole down the steep slope, under the river and up the other side into the Old Mill Lane system. It appears that this pipe, it is only a pipe it does not have a pump and works on the "siphon" principle, seems to be partially blocked with silt. They intended to deal with it.

I asked who would be going down the pipe with a shovel to get a very serious reply that they would use a hose with a strong jet of water. As of writing, I do not know if the work has been carried out. Perhaps someone would let us know via the Chat if and when something happens

David Horsfall

## A Fishy Tale



We made an interesting discovery in our paddock on the 19th of February. We presume that a heron had caught this massive Koi Carp in someone's pond. As it was very heavy, the heron had dropped it, and had a small meal, before abandoning it. I wonder if Koi do not make for a tasty meal.

Mike and Wendy Staples

## Yet More Isle of Skye Donations

Wyllan and I have received a cheque for £100 from a couple who wish to remain anonymous. Kathryn Battye has also turned up with another £5 from her Funky Fairy venture.

David Horsfall  
Hunshel Parish Council

### GOT A STORY?

Contact Claire Derrick, 1 Inglemount, Green Moor Road  
Tel 0114 288 7903  
claire.derrick@virgin.net

Deadline for the next edition's articles is  
25 May 2009.

# Green Moor Sports Club - Cricket News



The new season is only 6 weeks away and it looks like being a busy one. This year we are running an U'11 team for the first time along with the U'13 ,U'15, U17 and 2 senior teams. Indoor nets for both junior and senior teams have been running since early

January; Practise nights in the field will start after Easter; Another kwik-cricket festival will be held at our ground in June. This year 5 schools will be competing.

Last summer we gained a grant from "Awards for a All" which enabled us to purchase

a non-turf wicket. This has been installed during the close season. We will be able to play our U,11 and U'13 games on this if necessary. It will also be used to practise on.

The Huddersfield held their annual dinner and prize giving at Brooklands Hotel on Friday

6th March. Our 1st and 2nd team wicketkeepers - Julian Bates and Robert Davies - were each presented with the league trophy for gaining most victims last season in their respective sections. Well done.

**Ann Matthewman**

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## Penistone Workhouse and Links to Hunshelf

**I** attended a presentation recently by CS Archaeology who have been recording Penistone Grammar School's 6th form annexe for the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service. The building was formerly the Union Workhouse and this prompted me to find out a bit more about the building. I was particularly interested in this presentation since my son Robert attended the 6th form here and I was familiar with the building. As well as the information given in the presentation, I also discovered information on a website [www.workhouses.org.uk](http://www.workhouses.org.uk).

The Penistone Poor Law Union was formed in 1849 and Hunshelf was one of the 15 parishes that belonged to the union. A workhouse building was built on Huddersfield Road at Bridge End in Penistone in 1859 to the design of the architects Lockwood and Mawson. The design was a familiar one with a cruciform layout and an octagonal hub. Male and female accommodation was

separate and there was a dining room, kitchen, day room and separate laundry block; later an infirmary was built.

Evidence from the census showed that in 1881 there were 97 residents plus 14 vagrants and 5 staff. Amongst the residents at the time of the 1881 census were three who gave Hunshelf as their place of birth: Benjamin Jagger, 17 years old, was

described as an imbecile and Albert and Mary Birkinshaw who were the children of George Birkinshaw a widower who was a general labourer.

During the First World War, the workhouse was used as a convalescent home for wounded soldiers. There was a smallpox outbreak in 1928 thought to have been started from a vagrant from Barnsley with one fatality. In 1930 it

was taken over by the West Riding County Council and continued as a Public Assistance Institution and by 1948 became the Netherfields Aged Persons Home, finally becoming part of the school in 1974. Many of the original features of the building can still be seen including ornate staircases and balustrades.

**Margaret Tylee**

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## Green Moor Sandstone



This layer of sandstone was quarried in Green Moor in the Isle of Skye, Delf, California, Newbiggin and Victoria Quarries. It was exported all over the world and many of the parishioners in Hunshelf are aware that it can be found outside Barnsley Town Hall or in the yard at the Palace of Westminster.

It might just be my ignorance, but I was unaware that the Wicker Arches and Viaduct in Sheffield were also constructed of the same stone. Ah well, one lives and learns.

**David Horsfall**

# Planning Opens its Portals Wide!

Part of the joy of being Clerk to the parish council is the invitations that I receive to visit places and events. I hasten to add that, while most activities are of little relevance to Hunshelf and its parishioners, I go from personal interest and at my own expense.

So far I have been to a fascinating trip to a biomass demonstration of heating for Barnsley's council owned flats (using wood to heat the place) and recently to BMBC's central mailroom. OK, so mailrooms are not the most fascinating of places compared with a monster machine reducing massive tree trunks to small wood chips. The mailroom was a lot quieter and very civilised.

All mail to Barnsley Metropolitan Council (BMBC) goes into the central mailroom in the bowels of the Town Hall. The mail is opened by a clerk, scanned into the computer and then the computer files are directed to each department. This distribution system is somewhat at the mercy of the whims of the clerk, so a definitive person to send your letters to, a specific reference, or at least a department name on your letter is, well I was going to say advisable. It is much more important than that.

Officers in BMBC do comment from time to time that letters go astray. If you really want to get to a particular person and you know his/her email address (usually but not always of letters they send you) then use that. The mail still goes into a central pool to be registered and stored, but at least it will get to the person.

Anyhow, back to the mailroom. All the parish clerks were invited to the demonstration as much of our contact is with the planning department and planning applications are dealt with in

a very different way.

Your application arrives. The clerk opens it. This person then decides, yes, it is a planning application and should go to "The Planning Clerk". He, and it was a he, takes all the papers and collates them in a particular order. Planning applications have single sided sheets, sheets with data on both sides, maps, letters of support, plans and confidential information.. The clerk separates out each category as above and puts "spacers" in between. While maps are usually A4, i.e. a standard size, plans come in anything up to A1.(8 times the area of A4!) This is a seriously big piece of paper.

The A4 documents go into a scanner, and my eyes flashed green with envy. The speed of the scanning was very impressive. The machine can scan single sided; double sided and can separate out confidential information. All of this information goes into computer files: the confidential details are kept entirely separate from the other stuff.

The process for 10 sides of paper took about 10 seconds. The data is then stored safely in the computer and is available for planning officers to use, and for members of the public to examine. (Not the confidential stuff, which is why this is treated differently) Clever stuff. The plans are scanned on another machine, yes it is a big scanner if it can take A1 and the data is stored together with the A4 data.

It works. However, and I always like to see systems that have a human element. Planning officers, who can use a lap top computer to look up planning data even when out on site, need to have full size copies of the plans on paper. This means that for planning applications, the paper record is stored in massive filing cabinets. We were told that work is in progress to stop this "inefficient" system

Folk in Hunshelf are very much computer literate, so if you want to make an application to planning, you can do it on line via the government's web site "The Planning Portal" ([www.planningportal.gov](http://www.planningportal.gov)). I took a look at the site but it started to ask me to register etc and having no wish to build a housing estate at the moment, I logged out. If you have a minor application (TPO for example or a small extension) it might be worthwhile looking at the site

BMBC held out the promise of parish councils being able to log on to planning in the parish council meeting to look at applications and for reports, comments etc to go straight back. As one or two of my parish clerk colleagues are still using quill pens, this seems a little fanciful, but Hunshelf said immediately that they would happily try out the system when it comes on stream. I was hoping that BMBC might supply the lap top for me! One can only ask and hope!

**David Horsfall**

## The Wheel Comes Full Circle

Peak and Northern Footpaths Society has given the parish £6,000 towards the Isle of Skye Appeal. You will have seen the report in another part of the Chat. However, that is not all of the story.

Many of you will remember Ted Spencer. He lived with Nellie at the Grange at the foot of Well Hill. He was a local councillor, parish clerk, historian etc. Ted died some 5 years ago. His widow, Nellie, donated a generous sum to the Isle of Skye appeal, partly to commemorate Ted.

Ted was into finance. Stocks and shares interested him, and because of his background in commerce, he had considerable skill with the Stock Market. So much so that his long time friend and walking companion GHB Ward appointed him as trustee to look after his sister Emily. Ted acted as trustee for many years, until at about the age of 90 he decided that he could no longer rely on his contacts, knowledge etc. He therefore relinquished the task and took well-earned retirement.

Eventually, Emily died and the trust money then went to two walking organisations to "Look after the interests of walkers in the Hallam area". One of these organisations was the well known Ramblers Association (RA) with which Ted had been associated for many years. The other was the less well known, but very active Peak and Northern Footpaths Society (PNFS). Ted had been associated with them as well. So much so that PNFS erected a sign on the Cricket field to Ted.

It is from PNFS that we received a grant of £ 6,000 for the Isle of Skye.

As we said, the wheel goes full circle, from Ted to Ted.

**David Horsfall**

# Tales from The Isle of Skye

Very few of our present day residents in Green Moor would dream of setting off to walk over the hills to Stocksbridge via the Isle of Skye to go to work. As part of the research into the background of the Isle of Skye for a funding application, we came across two stories of life in earlier times.

The first involved Elsie Steele of New Houses. Elsie worked at Fox's Steel Works. Rumour has it she was a crane driver, and that would seem to be in keeping with her indomitable spirit. Elsie set off at five o'clock in the morning in the dark, to walk over the Isle of Skye to Stocksbridge to get to work for a six o'clock start. On her way over the hills, she managed to lose her footing and tumbled down the bank breaking an ankle on the way. She picked herself up, dusted herself down and completed

the walk over two stiles and three fields with a complaint that should have been treated in hospital. The ladies of Green Moor were and are made of tough stuff!

The second one came to light when I phoned a Mr Alan Froggatt. Alan, now in his 80's was born in Office Fold and lived in New Houses until he was 11. A year after his birth, Harry Froggatt, Alan's father worked at Stocksbridge Works. Alan's mother had borrowed a sewing machine from her mother and Harry set off to

take it back on his way to his night shift. In the mists and rain, he lost both his way over The Isle of Skye and his footing and finished up at the foot of the old quarry workings. He was discovered the next morning by his wife, who went looking for him carrying young Alan. She organised workmen to rescue him from the deeps. He came up out of the abyss on a door as a makeshift stretcher. Where the men came from is a mystery as the quarry was shut by this time. Neville Roebuck suggested that it

closed around 1910.

Harry Froggatt, lucky to survive the fall, spent two weeks in hospital and some time recuperating from his close encounter with death. Alan said, and this did not surprise me, that the "Good people in Green Moor were very supportive of my mother while my father was ill" He mentioned in particular the Waltons.

The sewing machine is still at the bottom of the infill material tipped in the 1950s.

**David Horsfall**

## Quarries

A bit of historical research led us to the Hunshelf Enclosure Act of 1813. Most of us remember from our school days that the common land was fenced off and "given" to various people. Hunshelf was no different. Much of the land went to the local big wig, but four small pieces went to the "Parish Surveyors" to provide road stone for the upkeep of the roads and paths.

The Playground is built on one. Psalter Hill, presently leased to David and Phyllis Dowkes is a second and is on the roadside between Underbank and Cranberry. The Outlook is also leased as it is the third ex surveyors quarry that belongs to the parish council. The Outlook is at Sharp Royd Nook and is leased by Mrs Broadhead. The fourth one is just over the hill and is now in Stocksbridge. As you go over Pea Royd it is on the left hand side of the road.

Because these quarries were given to the parish

officers, i.e. the Surveyors, they have been handed down via Penistone UDC and Barnsley MBC to the Hunshelf PC.

We hope that the hand drawn map of Green Moor in 1937 produces well in black and white. The map came from Mr A Froggatt with a letter explaining that he left Green Moor many years ago.

You might like to note the

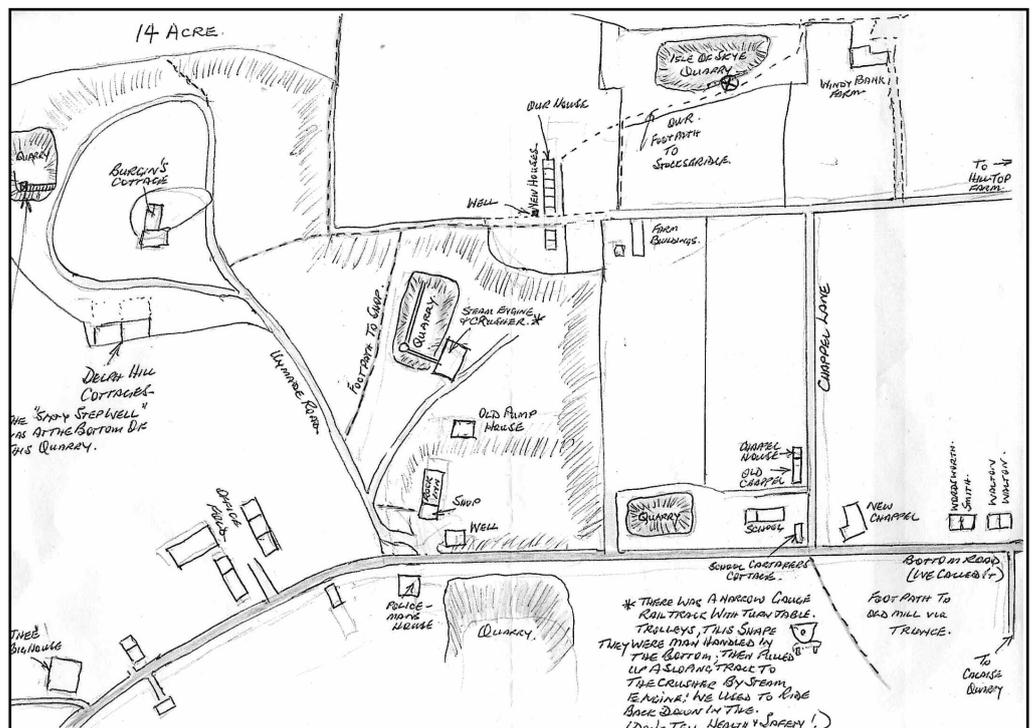
cottages in the Delf, two sets of them, the police station just below Ivy Green, the shop in the Delf Quarry, the "Old Pump House" in the same place, the school caretaker's house where Maple Corner is now, the location of the "Sixty Step Well" in the corner of what is now the Delf.

In another article in the Chat, Mr Froggatt refers to

his father Harry, falling down the Isle of Skye Quarry. You will find that he has marked the spot for this as well as a cross in a circle. We would like to thank Mr Froggatt for his map and his pictures.

**The Friends of the Isle of Skye**

*Map of Green Moor @ 1937*



# Green Moor Church - A Busy Time

Green Moor Church has had a busy timetable. During Lent we joined each Sunday, with the Churches Together in Stocksbridge and District, (CTSD). All proceeds from these lunches will go to this year's President's Charity which is a new children's bereavement support group called Rainbow.

Maundy Thursday (7 April) saw our CTSD friends joining us here at Green Moor Church for a brief Service before a walk to the cross up at Hill Top Farm where we had another short Service. After this Service

hot soup was served in the Providence Room back in Church.

Many of you joined us for an enjoyable picnic and Circuit Sports on the Delph Field last Year. This event this year will be on 10 May

with the picnic at 1.30pm and the sports at 1.30pm. A Service follows at 4.00pm led by Rev Erica Begin. You will be most welcome to join us at any of these events.

**Doris Stubbs**



## Winter 2009 - and did it snow!

### Coppicing, Hedgelaying and Tree Planting

The Friends of the Isle of Skye have managed to get £646 of grant to coppice some more of the Delf; to finish the hedgelaying on Well Hill; to plant a couple of large trees with the very young members of our community and to arrange for a talk by an environmental specialist. No details as yet, but watch the notice-board.

**David Horsfall**

## What's On Hereabouts

### THE VENUE, Stocksbridge

**Kings of Swing**  
Sunday 19 April  
Rat Pack party with the Kings of Swing Orchestra and special guest Lynn Kennedy.

### Mostly Autumn

Friday 24 April  
Don't miss the opportunity to see again the UK's finest progrock bands.

### Retake That

Saturday 25 April  
A tribute to one of pop's greatest bands.

### Rock Club presents Magnificent 7

Friday 1 May  
The recently recharged Magnificent 7 return.

### WestEnders

Saturday 2 May  
Six West End singers, who have appeared in more than twenty of the most famous musicals to hit London, come together to perform some of the West Ends most popular songs.

### Flying Feathers

Wednesday 6-9 May  
Swads present Flying Feathers a farce by Derek Benfield.

### Night of Clairvoyance with Joanne Gregory

Thursday 14 May  
Joanne is an extremely gifted clairaudient Medium.

### YOUR CHURCH

#### Circuit Sports and Service

10 May, 1.30 pm on the Delf, followed by a Service at Green Moor Church at 4 pm.