

# NEWSLETTER

With the compliments of the Parochial Church Council of St. Denys' Church  
Village Website – [www.ravensthorpe.me.uk](http://www.ravensthorpe.me.uk)



## GEORGE MATTS CYCLED FROM MANOR FARM, RAVENSTHORPE TO THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE

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**An epic six month journey of 17,000km through 20 countries entirely on his own. All by bicycle apart from the Channel ferry and flight from Athens to Cairo.**

There is just not enough space in this small Newsletter to do justice to George's magnificent achievement. Returning in triumph to Ravensthorpe in early April, his efforts have so far raised nearly £2800 for the **Hazel Footprints Trust**. This is a small charity which provides financial assistance for people volunteering to work abroad and help small communities. It also supports educational provision in many poor countries.

He said "I was fortunate, all my costs were met by Archive Attic, a self storage company based in Creaton, so every penny I raise will go to the charity. It's a great cause that enables young people to benefit from a fraction of the opportunities I have been fortunate enough to enjoy." To contribute and read George's wonderful blog go to [www.cycletocapetown.weebly.com](http://www.cycletocapetown.weebly.com) and follow the links.

**Some quotes from the blog:** "It has been an incredible journey and a great adventure. It's been tough, very tough at times but so worthwhile. I cycled under armed guard in Egypt, crossed deserts in Sudan, been constantly harassed in Ethiopia with chants of YOU, YOU, YOU, MONEY and pelted with stones, cycled through bandit country in Kenya and lion country in Tanzania. I've pimped myself out as a bicycle taxi in Mozambique, dealt with the financial woes of Zimbabwe and hyenas in Botswana".

"Africa is a magical place. A place where you have the freedom to live your own adventures but you have to watch your back while doing so. A place where the rules you obey are set by nature rather than bureaucrats. Cycling its length is a massive challenge. Meeting its many diverse and incredibly warm people (except for those ruddy Ethiopians!) is a great experience. It has provided me with the most amazing set of memories".

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## GARDENS & VILLAGE OPEN DAY – 27<sup>th</sup> JUNE - Jean Wiseman (phone 770548/690)

It is not too late to offer your help for this event! If you would like to join us in opening your garden to the paying public, please let us know as soon as possible. Don't be worried that you need something grand and pristine to interest people – they are often just as pleased to glean ideas for something they could achieve themselves.

We also need helpers with car parking, serving teas and washing up at the Village Hall and if you can spare an hour or so, that will spread the load.

Offers of fruit that that are languishing in your freezer and that your not going to use before the next crop is ready would be welcome for jam making – this was a great fund raiser last year. Cakes will be needed for teas and cake stall so any offers will be gratefully received.

Liz Reader will be running a plant stall again, so any spare plants, bedding and vegetables are very welcome.

Any suggestions for stalls or sideshows in gardens or elsewhere will also help us raise much needed funds for the refurbishment of the Village Hall. We have a huge sum of money to raise – **don't just leave it to someone else.**

### NOTES

**Countries visited:** England, France, Switzerland Italy, Slovenia, Croatia, Montenegro, Bosnia, Albania, Greece, Egypt, Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Botswana and South Africa.

**Longest day:** 289km in Sudan on tar roads with tail wind.

**Shortest days:** 25km battling food poisoning in Ethiopia and 49km climbing the Alps.

**Wheels:** Went through nine rims. Kept original tyres  
**Punctures:** Around five or six true punctures and a few failed repairs.

**Highest mountain:** 3,900m in the Alps but spent a week at virtually 3,000m in Ethiopia.

**Crashes:** Hit by bus in Tanzania, wheel collapse in Ethiopia and 50kph blow out in South Africa.



*Proposed New Porch and Extension for Ravensthorpe Village Hall*

**AT THE OPEN MEETING on 13<sup>th</sup> April to discuss THE WAY FORWARD for the VILLAGE HALL** the plans were shown and the costs revealed as £34,00 for the porch and stage removal. The total cost including the rear extension will be £90 to £100,000. So far something over £30,000 has been raised but at least £50,000 is needed before we can expect support from grants etc. which are largely based on matched funding.

As of the 28<sup>th</sup> April only 34 pledges have been received out of the 260 pledge forms delivered to households. **PLEASE HELP AND RETURN YOUR PLEDGE FORM**. The VH Committee has worked tirelessly fund raising and more events are planned but **WE NEED EVERYONE TO PLAY THEIR PART TO WHATEVER EXTENT THEY CAN**. The Hall is an essential village asset and the village voted for a modernised hall for the future.

**THE VILLAGE HALL AGM will be held on the 11<sup>th</sup> May at 8pm.**

**THE NEXT VILLAGE HALL LUNCH will be on Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> May at 12.30 for 1pm.**

#### **THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – 21<sup>st</sup> April**

The meeting heard reports from the various village organisations and charities as well as a financial report and the Police report. One of the issues discussed was **street lighting** led by John Matts who has surveyed each street light with a view to reducing their number as well as the length of time they are on. The lights, believed to be unnecessary, include one opposite the pub and ones in Little Lane, Scott Close and Dairy Fields. If you have any concerns or suggestions please contact him. The editor was away on family business but the minutes will be posted on the notice board and there will be a report on the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme next month.

**THE VILLAGE SHOP will in future close at 10.30am on SUNDAYS.**

#### **CHRISTIAN AID WEEK – 9<sup>TH</sup> – 15<sup>TH</sup> May**

**Ken and Barbara Ward** are organising the collection again this year. Envelopes will be delivered throughout the village and collected at the end of the week. **Please remember to complete the Gift Aid form on the envelope.**

**THE QUIZ NIGHT held in aid of the Playing Field on April 16th was a huge success, raising £500+.** At one point more supplies of wine and beer had to be brought in. The winning team was led by **Sue “the Postie” Beswick**.

**ODDS200 April draw:** £50 Mrs Ives      £20 Colin Harris      Chequers’ Accumulator now £200

**THE SHOWING OF THE FILM “KINKY BOOTS” organised by the Women’s Institute on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April made for a highly enjoyable evening. There are plans to have other film showings in the future.**

**WOMEN’S INSTITUTE MONTHLY MEETING – Thursday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at 8pm in the Village Hall.** Resolutions and Organic Products from Body Shop. New members and visitors welcome.

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL** would like to thank **Yvonne Reeve** and all the helpers who made the church look so wonderful for Easter. Thanks also for the donations totalling £65 for the Easter Lilies.

#### **CHURCH SERVICES**

Sunday	2 <sup>nd</sup> May	8.30am Holy Communion
Sunday	9 <sup>th</sup> May	11.00am Holy Communion
Sunday	16 <sup>th</sup> May	11.00am Morning/Family Service
Sunday	23 <sup>rd</sup> May	11.00am Holy Communion
Sunday	30 <sup>th</sup> May	10.00am <b>Group Service at Thornby</b>
Sunday	6 <sup>th</sup> June	8.30am Holy Communion

#### **ALTAR FLOWERS & BRASS ROTA**

Sally Barringer
Sally Barringer
Lyn Hudson
Lyn Hudson
Pat Foss
Pat Foss

*Contributions for the June Newsletter should be sent by 24<sup>th</sup> May to the editor, John Mott at 16 Church Gardens or telephone 770618 e-mail [jmd.mott@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jmd.mott@yahoo.co.uk)*