

# Tankersley

Parish Newsletter



Wentworth Castle

Wharnccliffe Silkstone Colliery

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# Tankersley

Parish Newsletter

Spring 2009



**Cover:** Stag on frosty morning

## Contacts

### Editorial

Editor—Richard Garforth  
editor@tankersleypc.org

### Advertising

advert@tankersleypc.org

## Publishers

Hot Metal Press  
Elsecar Heritage Centre  
Wath Road  
Elsecar  
Barnsley  
S74 8HJ  
**Tel:** 01226 740498  
**Fax:** 01226 350201  
**Email:**  
info@hotmetalphess.co.uk

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Opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of Tankersley Parish Council

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## Bonfire Update

The bonfire this year has raised a total of **£563 for the community centre**.

Thanks to all who turned up to collect wood, and build the bonfire, to the ladies in the Community centre providing refreshments on the night and to the firework organisers. Without you all volunteering your time and energy, great events like this would not happen.

A few points regarding the bonfire that have been raised by people:

Tankersley Parish Council organise and buy the fireworks for the community, arrange to collection of wood, rent the ground from the council and arrange the cleanup, entry is free and you do not have to pay anything. The **Community Association** open the Welfare hall and sell refreshments etc and organise a raffle to raise funds to support the hall.

Please note, we do not collect wood from the kerbside, it seems a rumour had started saying leave out in the street any wood you would like burning, unfortunately we do not have the manpower to do this , but you are welcome to bring your wood and put it on the bonfire, before it gets dark.

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## TPC Vacancy

There is a vacancy on the Parish council. Please contact the Secretary if you are interested. Please write to the Secretary, address at back of this newsletter.

## Update on Warehouse

The controversial warehouse on Wentwork industrial park has not yet materialised, work started and the land has been levelled and graded, but work seems to have stopped at present. The hydrobrake adjacent to the Stoneleigh and stone row court estate has also ceased.

Barnsley Planning department are currently asking the owners if the hydrobrake is safe in its current state, and trying to ascertain when it will be complete.

There is also another planning application for site in progress. At time of going to press the application has not been finalised but we expect something soon. For updates please check the new web site.

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## Footpaths

Thanks to all who sent in emails in support of upgrading and repairing the footpath between Pilley village and the industrial park. This was recently tarmaced, so hopefully no more dirty clothes, stuck push chairs and nasty falls.

The causeway along New Road near the new 'Station House' and the junction of Lidgett Lane has been installed. This will remove the need to cross the road on a dangerous bend to stay on the causeway, thus making travel to school safer for children.

## Motocross Update

The owners of the Motocross track and facility which opened over the Summer in Tankersley, adjacent to the Travelodge, have decided not to apply for retrospective planning permission, at this time. Barnsley Council has asked them to return the site to its former state, which the owners have done and the enforcement officer has visited the site and was satisfied with the remedial works done.

Recently the owners of the site have approached the TPC, and may be looking into a similar use for the site, involving running Motorbike trials organised by the Barnsley Trials Club, as well as the Motocross Racing. There were discussions regarding noise, access, environmental concerns.

TPC has a difficult job in balancing the needs of the community, with the interests of bikers. We would love to hear your thoughts, would you be in favour or against these proposals?

**Please let us know.**



*What is your Magical Memory?*



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## The Chairs Report.

Helen Reckless updates us on developments since the last issue

Last year was a busy year for Tankersley Parish Council, and 2009 looks like being no different. Already so soon into the New Year we have had to make a big decision regarding Broadings Woodland. Many of you may have seen contractors working there already. The woodland had become very overgrown and desperately needed a major thinning out programme. I need to warn everyone that the woodland will look very different after its completion however it will be more accessible and hopefully be able to be enjoyed by many.

Moore Lane Remembrance Garden was

rededicated last year in a lovely service, with his worshipful the Mayor attending, shortly new gates will be installed which will complete the transformation of the garden that has been a 2 year project to bring it back up to a more pleasing ambiance.

We hope that many of you are enjoying the new footpath that was recently installed on New Road; this has taken the Parish Council nearly 4 years of working with the borough and pushing to get done. The Parish Council hopes that the new footpath has created a safer walking route to school.

The tennis courts are currently under refurbishment and should be ready to use just after Easter, the funding for this project has come from the Youth Capital Fund I worked with a group of young people to write the bid and they were successful early in the new year, the total cost for the refurbishment is £60,000 and I feel is a very important grant for Pilley and Tankersley. When complete it will have football nets, basket ball nets and a tennis court facility.

As I write this it is snowing, by the time you get this I hope the weather is improving and we can benefit from the wonderful spring bulbs that have been planted within the villages over the last few years and enjoy a little spring sunshine.



## Editors comments

Richard Garforth

**W**elcome to another issue of the Tankersley Parish Newsletter.

Thank you for your letters and emails following the last issue, and to those who found the website and sent me useful feedback. This newsletter will always require your contributions to be successful, and if you have any ideas for articles, or you would like to write an article then please contact the Editor.

Geoff Parkin has kindly sent in an article with some fantastic pictures of old Pilley for you to enjoy.

If anyone else has pictures of Tankersley/Pilley from years gone by and would like to either have them in the newsletter or on the website let me know.

For the Internet site, I would like to know

about any community events you run, that you would like to be advertised (free of charge) on the there.

Please keep sending in your pictures. Here is a picture from Nigel Speight taken from Lidgett Lane showing the location of a pot of gold in the mound at the bottom of Pilley.



**T**he Birdwell, Tankersley and Pilley Crime and Safety Group meets at 6.30 pm on the third Thursday of every month, alternatively at Tankersley Welfare Hall and Birdwell Methodist church

If you have any views on how your community is policed or if there are any specific issues that concern you why not come along and discuss them with your local police team.

The dates for the next four monthly meetings are:

May 21	Birdwell Methodist Church
June 18	Tankersley Welfare Hall
July 16	Birdwell Methodist Church
August 20	Tankersley Welfare Hall
September 17	Birdwell Methodist Church



- Do you have an up and coming party?
- Do you wish to start some daytime or evening classes or give a lecture?
- Do you wish to find a venue for a concert or hold theatre practice?
- Do you wish to hold a meeting or a series of meetings?

## **Tankersley Welfare Hall**

If you need a venue for any of the above types of event or any other form of function, Tankersley Welfare Hall will probably serve your needs.

### **Now with Full alcohol licence**

Rooms of all sizes from Main Hall (with stage), to compact ones for user friendly meetings can be booked, at very reasonable rates, subject to availability by contacting.

**Marjorie Clegg on 01226 745162**

**Roy Jennings on 01226 74112**



# *Tankersley Bowling Club*

Tankersley is lucky enough to have its own Bowling green, where crown green bowls is played, by the members of the Tankersley Bowling Club, usually from April to October.

The Club has in the past attracted a diverse age group, from teenagers to spritely pensioners, and this being a highly skilled, but gentle and non-contact sport everyone competes together. The competitive nature of the sport is demonstrated by the club members regularly competing in matches in the Barnsley district league. Pairs play on Monday night, and singles on Thursday.

Would you be interested in having a go? New members are always welcome. Why not drop by, the bowling green is at the side of the community centre?

The Tankersley Bowling club was recently awarded a grant of nearly £5000 from the Coalfields regeneration trust, this grant will buy new equipment to maintain the bowling green, in perfect condition. It also plans to buy bowls to loan to new members.

The Coalfields Regeneration Trust (the Trust) is an independent grant-making organisation that was established in 1999 to improve the quality of life in Britain's coalfield communities

The Trust has awarded over £150 Million in British Coalfields and aims to support Social and Economic regeneration in the coalfields of Britain.



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# A MUGA in Pilley Pocket Park?

Richard Garforth



## Multi User Gaming Area. (MUGA)

- A clever use of space to fit in
- Five-a-side football,
- Basket Ball,
- Tennis,
- or any ball similar ball game

**T**he last one had been vandalized, when someone stole the netting from one side of it rendering it useless, the Parish Council struggled to have it repaired due to the cost, and the users of the park have mourned its loss for a few years, being a much used facility.

There was no where to play Tennis as the balls could not be contained within the court. However due to the efforts of the young people of Tankersley a new one has been installed in the same location.

**T**he funding has come from the Youth Opportunities Fund; this is a pot of Government money for young people to spend in their area and is overseen by Barnsley Youth Services.

**Y**oung people have to bid for it and a panel of young people decides which projects will be worth while. A group of young people that used to attend the Tankersley youth club, worked on a bid for the money and were successful . The project total is nearing £60k so is a major investment of facilities for the parish. The Parish Council would like to thank the young people of Tankersley and Pilley who went out of their way to apply for grants and the Youth Opportunities fund.



wentworthcastle  
GARDENS

# The Wonder of Wentworth

**W**entworth Castle Gardens opened fully to the public in May 2007, following one of the biggest landscape restoration projects ever carried out in the UK. The gardens, parkland, monuments and buildings were all saved from total ruin thanks to over £16m of funding; the largest benefactor being the Heritage Lottery Fund, who gave a remarkable grant of £10.35m towards the project.

The estate dates back to the 11th century, when it was owned by the Everingham family. The last family member to own the estate was Captain Bruce Vernon-Wentworth, who sold the house and 60 acres of gardens to Barnsley Corporation in 1948. Before work started restoring the estate, public access was only possible during the spring bank holiday weekend, when visitors were allowed in to marvel at Wentworth's spectacular collection of Rhododendrons.



The results of the restoration are truly remarkable and well worth a visit. Rare formal gardens have been re-instated and National Plant Collections of Rhododendrons, Camellias and Magnolias thoughtfully enhanced. Many of the estate's 26 listed buildings and monuments have now been repaired and opened to visitors for the first time.





**S**tainborough Castle is perhaps the highlight of any visit - a wonderful majestic gothic folly, which sits proudly at the summit of the gardens.

Built in 1730 by Thomas Wentworth as a playhouse for his 4 children, it is one of the largest gothic follies in the country. If you have the time and the energy, climb the castle tower, catch your breath, and then enjoy the breathtaking views across the garden and park!

Beyond the gardens over 500 acres of historic parkland can be explored from the Monument Trail, a new 2-mile path taking you through the beautiful countryside of Stainborough and linking several restored follies and native woods. The parkland has been enhanced recently with the introduction of both red and fallow deer, which were last seen in the Parkland over 100 years ago.

Exciting events are very much part of the annual programme at Wentworth and there is a huge variety of activities to suit all tastes and interests.

Guided tours are extremely popular, especially tours of the mansion, Wentworth Castle, which operate during the summer months.

You can even get married on the estate and have your photographs taken in the beautiful historic grounds.





A new children's playground opened last summer in an area of the old walled garden, and contains an exciting collection of fun equipment, including a miniature castle and slide, rope ladders, swings and zip slides.

The Long Barn Visitor Centre was originally an 18th century barn before its impressive restoration. It is now home to the gift shop, admissions and visitor information desk and café. The café has become a popular destination for lunches, tasty snacks and daily specials, and it also offers a range of meals for smaller appetites.

Wentworth Castle Gardens are open daily from 10am.

- Adults £4.50,
- Seniors £3.50,
- Children (5-16 yrs) £2.50  
Children (under 5) FREE.

The Parkland is free, but to park your car costs £3.00.

For more details, please contact Wentworth Castle Trust: 01226 776040 or visit our website at [www.wentworthcastle.org](http://www.wentworthcastle.org)



## Wharncliffe Silkstone Colliery ~ Pilley Pit

Geoff Parkin recalls Pilley as it was when the Colliery was open

**M**y early recollections of Pilley Pit were in the late 1940's. The Pit was Pilley and Pilley was the Pit. Life revolved around it and it seemed at the time that this was the boundary of the world.

The most dominant feature of the Pit was the Pit-Hill, and it was said that you could see York Minster on a clear day from its highest point. Behind the Hill were railway sidings, which fed through to Birdwell station (now the Company Shop) and eventually

over a bridge at New Road, and onto Birdwell, under Sheffield Road to join up with lines serving Rockingham Colliery. There was also a bridge at the bottom of Pilley, where railway lines from the Pit crossed New Road into sidings which joined the railway lines passing under Lidgett Lane and Knoll Cottages and then onto Birdwell, passing under the Walk, Sheffield Road and again joining up with the lines from Rockingham Colliery. Shunting engines - I recall one called "Sentinel," who used to

charge up and down the sidings to the Colliery with rows of wagons, ready to be sent down the railway line.

The road up to the Pit – along past Stone Row Cottages, entered the Pit Yard, past the Post Office Row. There was a shop on the corner – Ellaways, Tom and Bessie ran it – which sold most everyday household items. The Pit Yard had a triangle of lawn in front of the offices and “check” office, and the weighbridge. There was also a row of cottages right in the yard just before the roadway into the Blacksmiths Workshop, Fitters Shop and the

Joiners Shop. My Auntie Nellie lived in one of these cottages, and on the left of the roadway near the Blacksmith Shop stood one of the Pit Head Gears. To a six year old this was incredibly huge. The Blacksmiths Shop was my biggest adventure. Dad was Foreman Blacksmith and I used to go down at breakfast time on a Saturday morning. There was an open-hearth brazier- quite large for heating up metals etc. and Dad would let me operate the blowers to heat up the coke bed ready for work whilst he and the other blacksmiths had their break. That was amazing on a cold winter’s





day! Round the corner stood the cooling tower – a large wooden structure with water always cascading down it's inside. Past this was the "Club" which had a concert room, bars and snooker all there for the miner's welfare.

Behind the colliery was the Coking Ovens – a real sight when the ovens were emptied into steel wagons awaiting shunting down the railway sidings. On a winters day my Mother would send me on my bike to the gate to clear a cold by breathing in the tarry air!

Pilley Green was always busy with NCB Lorries running between the Pit Yard and Hermit-Hill Drift

mine. Sometimes carrying equipment, sometimes men in the open back lorries. I remember Ellis Walsh, Raymond Hague and Harvey Ainsworth driving these vehicles. It was always busy at shift change with buses bringing workers from outside the village – Lal Furness from High Green was a regular contractor.

I remember the Pit Hill slipping in the early 1950's and this caused a lot of disruption. Gradually the landslide was cleared, but somehow the view never seemed quite the same.

My Father retired in November 1972. He was the last working man

at the colliery and helped demolish the old buildings.

This is only a very brief account of a short period in the entire life of Wharncliffe Silkstone Colliery. Its history began long before me, and there are bound to be many interesting and amusing stories



about life in and around Pilley and of course today the site is occupied by an Industrial Park, oddly referred to as Wentworth Industrial Park.

Geoff Parkin 2009





## Broad Ings Wood.

Necessary work to regenerate the woodland

**Y**ou may have noticed work going on in the wood recently. This work , involving thinning and felling, was being carried out on behalf of Tankersley Parish council to improve the wood.

The effect of thinning is to encourage, a deeper and fuller crown and encourage longer life and greater stability for years to come

Felling is undertaken in order to, allow light to reach more of the woodland floor and encourages natural regeneration and regrowth of woodland species. It provides space and light for new trees and also allows the removal of potentially hazardous trees.

For many years Broad Ings has lacked the benefit of having these works done. The Parish council sought professional advice and the necessary work has now been carried out. This will ensure that the stock stays healthy for years to come, it will also allow people to safely enjoy the woodland. It may look a little battered and damaged now, but it will return to a better condition as it regenerates. The wood has been sold for firewood for log burning stoves, and heating systems.



**Ed Marsh , Chainsaw operator working in Broad Ings Wood.**



***Tankersley Parish council is pleased to announce their new web site.***

On the site you can find all the information regarding the Parish Councils work. There are calendars, and event listings, minutes from Parish meetings, and we hope it will become a resource that the Community can use to promote itself on the internet. This will supplement the Newsletter, not replace it.

Are you having an event?

Are you a local club or society that operates in Tankersley and Pilley? If so you can have your information put on the site, free of charge.

Have you a Business in our area?

Would you like some information, or an advert placing on our site? Please let us know, or see the site for more details

Any funds raised from the Website, are ploughed back into the community. So have a look, let us know what you think.

<http://tankersleypc.org>

# Tankersley Welfare Hall

## Weekly Timetable

Monday:	Painting	9:30am-3:00pm
	Ladies Club	6:00pm-8:30pm
	Karate Club	7:30pm-9:00pm
Tuesday:	Parent & Toddlers	9:15am-11:15am
	Senior Citizens	
	Tea Afternoon	1:30pm-3:00pm
	Chinese Physical	
	Culture	7:00pm-9:30pm
Wednesday	Ladies Club	6:00pm-8:30pm
	Karate Club	7:00pm-8:30pm
Thursday:	Parent & Toddlers	9:15am-11:15am
	Young Farmers	
	(Fortnightly)	8:00pm-9:30pm
Saturday:	Worsborough	
	Dance Club	6:30pm-9:30pm
Sunday:	Arabic Dance Club	10:30am-1:30pm

## Other Events

**4th July Tankersley Gala. The Annual Tankersley Gala organised by the community Association. This years promises to be the best yet. Bands, stalls, entertainment. See web site or posters in village for further details**



# St Peters Church Spring events

- May 30th**      **Open Day at St Peters Church. Refreshments and stalls. Come look around the Historic Church and take the opportunity to view the registers**
- July 11th**      **Garden Party at St Peters Primary School.**
- July 12th**      **Clyppings service at 3pm St Peters Church. Award of Fenn Bibles and shared Tea.**



For the past few years the Tankersley, Pilley Environment Group have been working in the village to make the area a more pleasant place to live. Footpaths and overgrown woodland have been cleared, benches and 'name' stones erected and litter picked up. Probably most noticeable over the Spring weeks and months will be the thousands of snowdrop, crocus and daffodil bulbs we've planted brightening the verges. Our immediate plans are more undergrowth removal in the small

coppices at the back of the Pocket Park and installing another bench (donated by Tankersley Golf Challenge) at the junction of New Road and Tankersley Lane.

My name is Audrey Shearn and my husband and I moved to Pilley ten years ago. Some of you may have seen us walking our two whippet girls – the ones who wear coats! We became part of TPEG right at its start having seen an advert in the village shop. Along with the other members we enjoy thinking up and carrying out projects to improve our surroundings. We are fortunate in having a chairman who is experienced in the paperwork and liaising with the Council side of things. Grants and donations have meant we haven't had to do any fundraising. We each pay in £1 at the monthly meeting to cover room hire and petty cash. The meetings are enthusiastic discussions for an hour while deciding what we might do next. The December meeting also includes sherry and home-made mince pies!

**BUT** : we are few in number and more members would be very welcome. New participants may bring other ideas for projects and more man(or woman)power to whichever projects they want to join – nothing is compulsory. It's not easy to walk into an established group but we are very friendly and informal.

Interested? Then please join us in a room at the back of the Welfare Hall on the second Monday of each month at 7pm. Or – if you see us walking our whippets do stop and talk to us.

## Competition time

### 6 Prizes to win

**E**xclusive draw for readers of The Tankersley Newsletter. Local Tankersley author, Victoria Howard, has kindly donated several copies of her brilliant books in a prize Draw.

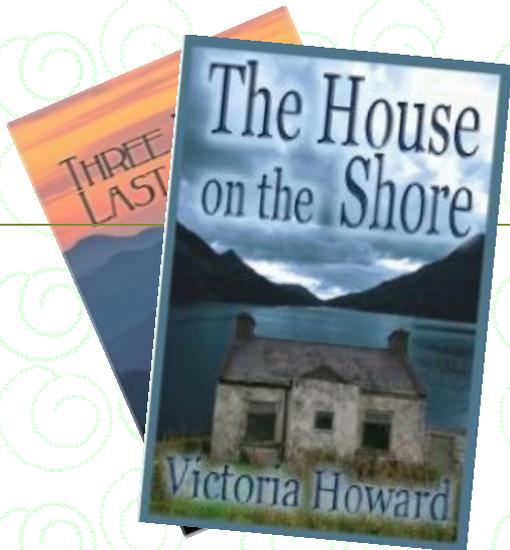
Her latest book, "The house on the Shore" is shortlisted for 2 major Romantic novel awards.

The Draw Prize is a copy of both books, with 5 runner up prizes of "Three Weeks Last Spring"

To Win one simply email

[competition@tankersley.org](mailto:competition@tankersley.org),

with your name and address, one entry per household.



If you do not have email put your name and address on a post card and send to :-

*Spring 2009 Competition  
The Croft  
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or

Do you use the Welfare hall, do you run a class?

Promote it here. We can design your article or advert, just let us know what you would like to say.

Next Issue  
Summer 2009



## **Bench donated by Tankersley Golf Challenge and installed by TPEG**

**P**ictured above is the new bench kindly supplied by the Tankersley Golf challenge and installed, at the junction of New Road and Tankersley Lane, it by TPEG

Thanks to Tankersley Golf club and TPEG for this.

Every year, in spring, the bulbs planted by TPEG, wipe out the dreariness of winter with a riot of colour. At the last TPC meeting we discussed various ideas for small projects to brighten up Tankersley and Pilley,

We have the Village Marker Stones in place for the Tankersley and Pilley villages.

We decided to throw open the question to the people of Tankersley. What would you like to see to improve your area? The parish covers a large area, and the residents from the all areas will need to send in ideas.

Ideas so far include

A competition for the best Front Garden, or front of house,

Installing Planters, Hanging baskets etc.

Removing the weeds from kerb edges

Please send your ideas to us and we will publish the results in the next issue.

Email the editor@tankersleypc.org or write to the Parish Clerk, address opposite.



# *Tankersley Parish Council*

The Parish Council normally meet on the 3rd Monday of each month in the Parish Chambers within Tankersley Welfare Hall. Anyone wishing to attend and raise an issue is most welcome. Alternatively you may also contact us via the Parish Clerk

<b>Chairman</b>	<i>Helen Reckless</i>	<b>Councillors</b>	<i>Jock Jones</i>
<b>Vice-Chair</b>	<i>Paul Simpkin</i>	<i>Carole Smart</i>	<i>Terry Woods</i>
<b>Parish Clerk</b>	<i>Helen Charlesworth The Croft 1 Worsbrough Village Barnsley S70 5LW (01226) 321295</i>	<i>Thelma Brotton</i>	<i>Paul Reckless</i>
		<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Richard Garforth</i>
		<i>Marjorie Clegg</i>	<i>Andrew Belk</i>



## *Tankersley News And Post Office*

*Joanne & Darren*  
*01226 742246*



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