

# SEATON ROSS TIMES

January 2007

*Local businesses and useful services. Last issue featured the **Derek Lumley's Shop**, this issue it's **Mark Blackburn Motor Engineers***

Mark's garage is down the lane between The Old Mustard Mill and West View in North End. It is open from 8.30 am to 6.00 pm Monday to Friday and 8.30am to 1.00pm Saturdays. Mark's premises are fully equipped to deal with any make or model from classic Austins to BMWs. Servicing, general repairs, tyres, anything you need to run a car is there PLUS a new MOT facility. There is also a breakdown recovery service and a courtesy car. Tel: 318171

### **Calling local artists**

If you are an artist and would like to meet up with fellow artists to paint, draw and exchange ideas etc. ring Eric Jackson on 319369 for more information.

### **Seaton Ross Village Hall Presents -**

The Elvington Players in an evening of musical entertainment entitled 'Around the World in eighty ways'.

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2007 at 7.30pm with a baked potato supper and raffle. Adults £5.00, Children £1.00. Tickets available from Peggy: tel 318613.

### PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 22 February at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

### **HELP TO KEEP YOUR VILLAGE TIDY**

Please help to keep the village tidy by joining our clean up on Sunday 25 March, meeting at the Village Hall at 1.30pm. Gloves and bags will be provided and a cup of tea at the end. It makes a big difference! If you would like further information please ring Sally on 319223.

### **This issue is sponsored by:**

Mark Blackburn Motor Engineers. Tel. 318171

Please can we have items for the March issue by the  
15th March to

Jane Henley or Anna Sheldon ([aa.sheldon@virgin.net](mailto:aa.sheldon@virgin.net))

# PAST TIMES

10 Squadron (Shiny Ten)  
Melbourne Airfield  
1940 – 1945

The airfield at Melbourne was originally only grass, beginning life in 1940 on a very temporary basis and the first bombers to arrive were twin-engined Whitleys.

There were no permanent buildings and it became necessary that in order to carry on as a heavy bomber airfield, improvements had to be made. In 1942 the airfield was closed and concrete runways constructed to cater for the heavy four- engined Halifax Bombers. The main runway was 5500 feet long, which was well above the average runway length, and in addition permanent buildings were constructed.

Melbourne airfield became the home of 10 Squadron playing a very important part in the RAF's strategic offensive during the Second World War. For the whole duration of the Second World War 10 Squadron operated from Melbourne being the only Squadron stationed there which was quite unique.

A major problem and hazard to the pilot and crews flying from Melbourne in World War 2 was fog. The Vale of York suffered with fog and still does to this day.

Melbourne was unique in being the only base operational in Yorkshire to have the system of Fido (Fog Investigation Dispersal Operation). This was a system of using heat to clear the fog by burning petrol from pipes laid along the side of the runway. It was very expensive in the use of petrol – the first occasion at Melbourne used 102,000 gallons but was hugely successful by improving visibility.

Landing a Halifax bomber at night was no easy task even in good weather with the pilot relying on instruments until only a few feet from the ground. The tunnel of light created by Fido was a welcome friend on returning home after a bombing mission. Crews were lucky to last a dozen missions and thereafter lived on borrowed time.

There were also the personnel who looked after the aircraft the “ground crew” who worked in all kinds of weather and often in winter in freezing conditions to service and maintain the aircraft. They formed a close link with the aircrews and often met in the local pubs at Melbourne and The Blacksmiths Arms in Seaton Ross, which was, renamed “The Bombers” after the war. The Blacksmiths Arms at Seaton Ross was the firm favourite of the aircrews and ground crews. Aircrews would often talk of the delicious Sunday afternoon teas (Scones with Jam) served at The Blacksmiths Arms in Seaton Ross. 10 Squadron were the residents at Melbourne for the duration of the war and eventually transferred to Transport Command in 1945. 10 Squadron was replaced by 575 squadron replacing Halifax bombers with Dakotas and joined by RAT flight (Radio Aids Training Flight). In late 1945, 575 squadron moved to another base and in 1946 the RAT flight left and the airfield at Melbourne closed. Today the airfield is within a working farm and is private property. Several of the old buildings have been restored and the restoration of the control tower is a splendid job. The large aircraft hanger, which housed the bombers, can still be seen from Mill Lane.

A fitting and honourable memorial has been erected at the main entrance to the Melbourne airfield in memory of the very brave personnel who gave their lives in the service for their country during World War 2.

Malcolm Young – Seaton Ross - 2006

### ST EDMUND'S CHURCH

During Lent there will be a Lent Course on Wednesdays - 28th Feb, 7th, 14th, and 21st March, in the Old School HOSM, 7.30pm to 9.00pm

**'YOUR VILLAGE CHURCH - what do you want from it?'**  
**Thursday 15th March, 7.30pm in the Village Hall.**

For centuries St. Edmund's has served the village of Seaton Ross. But do you know how we do this? Come and discover.

Everyone in the village is warmly invited to this open evening put on by members of the church. We want to tell you about what we do, and how we try to serve the community. There will be a few guest speakers. We also want to hear your views about your church. There will be a chance for questions and listening.

So please put this date in your diary and come and be our guests. Includes refreshments.

### VILLAGE HALL

- The **150 Club Winners** for November Bonus Prizes were Mr & Mrs Brockhouse, Miss V Benson, J Law, Mr & Mrs Marsden, Mrs P Hesketh, D Roberts, Mr & Mrs Winlow, Mr & Mrs Bulmer, Mrs A Murr. For December Mr R Hambly, Mr & Mrs Shaw, Mrs A Pears, Mr & Mrs Frazer.
- **1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2007 Village walk.** A good time was had by all – and £57 was raised for the Village Hall. Thanks to Malcolm Young for leading the walk.
- Collecting for the **150 Club 2007/8** will start in March. Thanks to all our loyal supporters this year and in previous years. If you don't already have a ticket or tickets and wish to support the Village Hall and possibly win one of the monthly prizes please ring Eva Gardham on 318539.

The **Village Hall** is available to all village residents for parties, events, etc. at £6 per hour. For bookings please contact Peggy Hesketh 318613. A number of successful events have been held recently. When you book the Hall you are allowed time for setting it up to suit you and we make sure it is warm for the start of your booking.

### Dates for your Diary

Mon	22 <sup>th</sup>	Jan	Pilates. 6.45-7.45pm Village Hall. <i>Every Monday</i>
Wed	24 <sup>th</sup>	Jan	Bowling. 7-9pm Village Hall. <i>Every Wednesday</i>
Sun	28 <sup>th</sup>	Jan	Holy Communion. 9am St Edmund's
Sun	11 <sup>th</sup>	Feb	Holy Communion. 9am St Edmund's
Mon	12 <sup>th</sup>	Feb	Craft Club 7.30-9.30pm Village Hall ( <i>Pilates starts 6.30pm</i> )
Sat	17 <sup>th</sup>	Feb	'Around the World in 80 Ways' 7.30pm Village Hall
Tue	20 <sup>th</sup>	Feb	YCA Mr E Cont Beverley Minster. 7.45pm Village Hall
Thur	22 <sup>th</sup>	Feb	Parish Council Meeting. 7.30pm Village Hall
Sun	25 <sup>th</sup>	Feb	Holy Communion. 9am St Edmund's
Wed	28 <sup>th</sup>	Feb	Lent course. 7.30pm-9.00pm HOSM old school
Sun	11 <sup>th</sup>	Mar	Holy Communion. 9am St Edmund's
Mon	12 <sup>th</sup>	Mar	Craft Club 7.30-9.30pm Village Hall ( <i>Pilates starts 6.30pm</i> )
Thur	12 <sup>th</sup>	Mar	<b>'Your Village Church'</b> 7.30pm Village Hall
Tue	20 <sup>th</sup>	Mar	YCA Mr Horner Make a Wish Foundation. 7.45pm Village Hall
Sun	25 <sup>th</sup>	Mar	Holy Communion. 9am St Edmund's
Sun	25 <sup>th</sup>	Mar	Village Clean up. Start 1.30pm Village Hall

### GENERAL INFORMATION

**Seaton Ross Yorkshire Countrywomen's Association** hold their monthly meetings in the Village Hall on the 3rd Tuesday in the month at 7.45 pm  
 Further details can be obtained from Joan Spencer (318463)

Holy Communion is celebrated in **St Edmund's Church** every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month at 9am.

The **Pilates Group** meet on Mondays 6.45-7.45pm in the Village Hall – fee £4 per session, £11 for 3 booked sessions - mat provided. All welcome.

The **Bowling Club** meet on Wednesdays 7-9pm in the Village Hall – fee £2, equipment provided. New members/beginners are always welcome.