

Upper Wensleydale Newsletter
Issue 100—January/February 2005
(Abridged Version)

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Sue Duffield, Harry Dinsdale and Issy Pratt (kids'
page), Angela Le Grice, Sue Harpley, Peter H. Jack-
son, Tony Philpott, Pam Robinson, Lorna Ward.

SLAVES CELEBRATE!

The cover photograph shows some of the many past and present volunteers of the Newsletter committee, writers, local contacts and distributors who gathered in Askrigg to mark our 100th issue.

Begun in November 1995 as just three issues to support and explain to the area the aims of the newly formed Community Partnership (and paid for by it), the then very small committee was persuaded to continue – without computer or printing facilities and even worse, without money! So with borrowed computer time, interest-free loans and a refurbished printing machine the real fun began. Teething troubles were manifold, ‘steep learning curves’ were the order of the day, ink flowed freely, usually over the hands and the floor, financial pressures continued and the growing committee had to ‘gel’.

However, with foot-slogging round local businesses, councils and any grant-aiding bodies that could be located, things began to settle down and we became financially secure. It soon became an expected journal, distributed with the papers or picked up in local shops and the pubs, with its ‘empire’ expanding by request to Preston and Redmire, West Witton, over to the top end of Swaledale and Cowgill in Dentdale, and trouble if it didn’t arrive on time. Articles flooded in, and still do, from what seems to be a wonderful area for writers, would-be poets and artists. Its circulation now reaches the majority of households. With its avowed intention to “inform, educate and entertain” it has gone from strength to strength with about fifty people closely involved in various ways and another forty at our distribution outlets.

We have featured on TV’s ‘Dales Diary’ and came in the top seven finalists for local magazines and journals in the ‘Country

Life’ nation-wide competition.

Being entirely voluntary, we return as much of our income as possible to the community:-Newsletter seats for each parish council (where locals can sit and read it!), grants to students going to higher education, and our Bursary Scheme whereby a selected year 12 (sixth form) student becomes a committee member and writer for a year, as well as several one-off donations as funds allow. Almost from the start children and young people have been involved; giving computer advice!!, preparing the ‘Kids’ page’ and writing in from each of the area’s schools and youth clubs. Regular articles are now well-established with local organisations keen to advertise and report their events, and about 150 local characters have been featured. The editorials, to which the committee gives much attention are often discussed, as are the annual ‘April fools’ which trick the unwary. The frenetic slavery at the end of each month, where volunteers manually collate, fold, staple and distribute – and hear the gossip un-printable – is a real highlight.

We are so glad that what began with such difficulty now runs very smoothly, mind you not effortlessly, and its avowed intention of holding the area together seems to work, and even provides enjoyment for its very committed volunteers! New ideas still come to the fore and we look forward to its continued success under the ever-watchful eye of its ever-youthful mascot- Eunice the Ewe.

We thank you all very much for your support.

PHOTOGRAPH

(Heads from left to right): Cathy Bennett, Tony Philpott, Tom Purvis, Sue Duffield, Ruth Annison, Janet Purvis, Michael Parr, Lorna Ward, John Raine, Gillian Muir, Norma Fowler, Derek Nevill, Issy Pratt, Ian Fowler, Harry Dinsdale, Sue Harpley, Alan Watkinson, Eunice, Peter Wood, Debbie Allen, Joan Rice, Barry Wilcox, David Jackson, Rima Berry, Jack Sutton, Mavis Armstrong, Gwen Clark, Nancy Sutton, Sue Lightfoot, Gavin Edwards, Janet Jackson, Nadine Bell, Kate Empsall, Peter Jackson.

EUNICE



In the last issue Eunice was in Christmas mood and was to be found by the Bells at the top of the yellow insert.

The lucky winner, who is always quick to phone in, was **Amelia Hunter** from Hardraw.

Now can you find Eunice this month?
(Not the big one on the front cover!)

NEXT ISSUE; 101

The March issue will be produced on February 23rd and 24th and will be distributed between February 25th and 28th

**Deadline for copy:
THURSDAY FEBRUARY 17TH**

GIFTS TO CELEBRATE

The Newsletter began in **1995** and to mark this we are presenting each boy or girl born in that year who lives in the Newsletter circulation area a £10 book token.

We receive many articles written by the children in our primary schools and we are glad to be able to encourage literacy. This scheme applies also to those **living in our area** who attend Dent, Leyburn or Gunnerside Schools. The gifts are being presented through the schools.

Drop-off points and contacts

for news, articles, reports, letters, what's on dates, competition entries, suggestions and comments:

Hawes	Alan S. Watkinson, Old Station House. Tel: 667785
Gayle:	Lorna Ward, East House. Tel. 667405
Bainbridge	Hammond's Butchers Tel: 650631
Askrigg:	Rima Berry, 8 Mill Lane Tel. 650980
Carperby:	Margaret Woodcock, Bella Cottage. Tel: 663488
West Burton:	Nadine Bell, Margaret's
+ postal subs.	Cottage. Tel: 663559
Newbiggin:	Lynda Bayne, Meadow Barn. Tel: 663324
Aysgarth:	Garage; pro. tem.
Redmire:	Ann Holubecki. Tel: 622967
Thoralby:	Elaine Miller, P.O. 663205 (Thanks, Elaine. New contact)

CARD THRO' ME DOOR.

If you think this is the beginnings of a poem by Pam Ayers I'm sorry to disappoint. This is by way of an appreciation to those readers who responded so favourably to my piece in the November issue on my hobby of "pillar box spotting".

Firstly CJLB's written response last month cannot slip away unnoticed. But then, as the Christmas cards began dropping through the letter box, two cards in one day were from a nice couple who have connections in Garsdale but who live in Cheshire. It turns out that the lady is a bit of a ...box spotter herself and remembers the box on Garsdale Station being smashed up because it was no longer required.

I find this all so fascinating and thank everyone for sharing and making a little part of our social history more enjoyable.

Barry Wilcox

FAN OF POST BOXES

I too am a big fan. I used to be a post woman in Luton, sorting mail, and in Lincoln, collecting mail. I collected from Supermarket boxes; they are plastic and many a time they are split. My worst box was where you had a steel gauze glove to protect you from hypodermic needles. If pricked, postmen would be waiting six months to see if they had got AIDS.

You had the joker putting dog muck in, making delivery late. Up here we have beautiful boxes in stone walls, different altogether and a joy to work. No fears! God's own country! Keep looking out for Victorian boxes.

Janine Burrows

BEST BUILDINGS

The winners of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority's Best New Buildings competition – launched to mark the Park's 50th anniversary – will be announced in early spring.

Judges have been making further visits to the 10 finalists and have picked the best in each of the four categories in the competition, which attracted 60 entries.

An awards ceremony is now being organised to announce the winners and will draw to a close a year of anniversary celebrations in the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

The Best Buildings competition winners will be picked from the shortlisted buildings, which were:

Best new house(s) or extension – Lynchets, Conistone, and Listers Cottage, Malham.

Best conversion – Peggleswright, Dent; Kilnsey Old Hall; Guys Villas, Long Preston; Feetham Holme, Grinton.

Best new non-residential building – Bolton Abbey Estate Office and West Burton Village Hall.

Best new farm building – Raisgill Farm, Buckden; Bushy Lodge Farm, Starbotton.

**GIVEN AWAY-
And a little Editorial!**

The *Tsunami* in the Indian Ocean has taught most of us a new word; quite possibly it has also opened the way for a really new global concern leading to greater fairness and justice which we must hope will continue. As we go to print, money is still being raised but we include here totals so far, together with other donations made to various charities over the Christmas period. Two interesting thoughts came the other day; “Charity begins at home” we often have said, maybe meaning we learn it there, from where it goes on; it is also becoming clear to us all that there is really only one ‘home’, the world, one planet earth, on which we all have to fair-share its resources.

St. Oswald’s for Tsunami, Bishop of Ripon’s appeal for Sri Lanka	£ 600+
St. Oswald’s for Christian Aid	147
Askrigg Village Hall event and donations; Tsunami, see article on page 33	2050
Hardraw church. Church of England Children’s Society	70
Hardraw church for ‘Stop2night’ Darlington	100
West Burton Chapel for NCH Action for children	467
Hawes Toy service for Salvation Army, see page 39	365
Hawes Advent service for Malawi, see page 7	190
Hawes Market Hall concert; Macmillan Cancer Relief See page 9	1300
Plus Barclays Bank community donation	750
Hawes Carol singing for Friarage Hospital	92
Hawes churches together coffee morning for Asian Tsunami	860
Newsletter for UNICEF ‘School in a box’	500
Aysgarth Chapel; Children in Need and Children in Distress	228
Stalling Busk; for Children’s Society	60
Gayle Christingle and carol singing (part): Daisy Chain project; autistic children and King’s Club	207
Gayle Fellowship events; Asian Tsunami	300
St. Andrew’s Aysgarth for Salvation Army	
Redmire and Castle Bolton <i>ditto</i>	300
Thornton Rust for Air Ambulance	135
Thornton Rust for Tsunami	500
Richmond Red Cross branch: truckload of clothes left on January 7th (Please note, money now preferred to unwanted clothing)	

These of course are only the organised events—and there are more to come; many individual donations have also gone direct, especially to the Tsunami appeals. We have been asked to stress that wherever possible please send donations to where they can be **gift-aided**, if you are eligible, so that tax can also be added to the gift.

**UPPER DALES CHRISTMAS
FESTIVAL 2004**

Members of Hawes Lights Committee would like to extend thanks to the generous people who contributed both financially and in the giving of their valuable time to help make the Christmas Festival a success. There is a lot of behind the scenes preparation throughout the year to come up with the finished product, and without the help of the local community the Festival would not happen.

I am sure I am not alone in saying that, should this day ever come, it would be a very sad thing for the town. A number of visitors have been heard to say that they plan their winter visit to coincide with the Christmas Festival.

We are always grateful for any assistance we receive, so if you feel you would like to be involved in any way please contact **Kevin White on 667236.**

Once again thanks to all and the Lights Committee would like to take this opportunity to wish everybody a very Happy and Peaceful New Year.

Maureen Emmins

OPEN GARDENS

Not yet, they’re all flooded! But please note that Carperby has set the date for this year: **Sunday, July 3rd.**

BITS AND BOBS

David and Goliath

As a dales resident now entering a fifth year in Worton I've recently been in a minority amongst some of the local footballing fraternity. It cannot have escaped your attention either in the newspapers or on television that mighty Newcastle United had played their 3rd round F.A. Cup fixture away to lowly Yeading. So why my predicament? Let me put you in the picture.

It so happens I was born and educated in Yeading, even worked there during the late 1960's. Yeading forms part of the thriving town of Hayes 10 miles west of Central London. 5 miles to the south of it lies Heathrow, an ordinary quiet Middlesex village - until 1944 when the Air Ministry commandeered a tiny airfield belonging to the Hayes based Fairey-Aviation company and spawned the world's busiest airport. To the north sits Yeading consisting of approximately 1½ square miles of 1930s housing and one time home to Eric Blair (alias George Orwell). Oh yes, and a non-league football team that would rival Bedale Athletic. Most of its players are on a £10 turnout fee which is pure peanuts compared to the Geordie's annual wage bill that would keep the Yeading club afloat for the next 577 years. Yes, you've guessed it, I'm talking seriously small here. Minute in fact. So minute that the fixture even shifted venue to Loftus Road in order to televise the match. Something I never thought I'd see during my lifetime.

Unfortunately, from a Londoner's viewpoint, the dream of a giant-killing act often associated with cup competitions never materialized. But rooting for my home roots, merely savouring the prospect of a famous victory was reward enough. I have to point out, that out of two sets of supporters at half-time, I bet I know whose finger nails were the shorter. **Rob Bennett**

BUSY TIME FOR FIREMEN

When looked at through the devastation of the Asian Tsunami, or even Carlisle, we've got off quite lightly but even so our fire crew in Hawes was out six times in six days last week. (It was only out 28 in the whole of last year!) 1½ metres of water were pumped out at the Green Dragon, Hardraw; two people rescued between Appersett and Hardraw; four people (van and car) at Aysgarth Bottoms; flooded house at Thoraby; and they were first on the scene at a canoe rescue at Keld where the canoeist with a broken leg was then airlifted to Middlesborough.

The station is about to be the envy of its neighbours with the delivery of a replacement fire engine only four years old from Harrogate, with far better capability in accidents: rescue pump, winch and lighting. The last replacement was in 1993.

Damage caused by wind and water meant much of our area was without electricity for a long time. Long sections of roadside walls around Appersett have been washed away, a 25 metre stretch of the wall alongside Hawes cricket field has been washed out to its foundations and distributed right across the pitch and a falling tree has devastated a 4WD vehicle on Old Gayle Lane. Roof and window damage at YDNPA offices at Bainbridge and basement flooding meant relocation of all staff but the service was maintained and staff are now back. Rather worryingly the new houses being built at West End Askrigg were flooded to a depth of about 4 feet

(Photo: PHJ)



THIS MONTH'S FEATURE

Glenys Marriott and her husband Ray moved to Newbiggin-in-Bishopdale from Southport seven years ago, because they both had connections with the area and wanted to return. She retired as a director of Manchester Health Authority and started her own Management Consultancy business. Glenys was well known in the north-west for her work with patients' groups, making health services more responsive to their needs. One of her interesting jobs last year was working for the Department of Health in reviewing how the NHS nationally responded to support the patients (military and civilians) who returned to the UK during the Iraq war.

Glenys got the family history bug the first Christmas after she moved here when she and Ray met Alan and Ann Hartley from Thoraby. Ann is a well-known researcher and she encouraged Glenys to start her own family research. After five months, she realised that although there were well-publicised facilities at the County Record Office in Northallerton, there was also a less well-known resource at the Dales Countryside Museum in Hawes. Glenys also began to recognise that there was an even bigger resource in the huge amount of knowledge of the area and its families, held by local people. However, there was no means of accessing and sharing this wealth of information, and she decided to try and organise a way of making it available to a wider audience. Her idea was to develop into the Upper Dales Family History Group.

The first six months was spent meeting all the key researchers in Wensleydale and Swaledale, people like Ann Holubecki and her sister Jose Hopper, Denny Minnitt, Lucy Hinson and Marion Moverley,

Marion Kirby and Evelyn Abraham, and gaining the support necessary to set up the Group. Glenys then made formal proposals to the Friends' Committee of the Dales based at Hawes, and the Cleveland Family History Society, to support a new family history group in the area. Both groups were supportive, and the Cleveland Society agreed to make her group a Branch and to help fund it.

The first meeting of the new group took place at the Dales Countryside Museum four years ago and about fifty people attended. Glenys was amazed and impressed at the breadth and depth of the knowledge these people had and the sheer enthusiasm of these accomplished researchers. A small group volunteered themselves to steer the group. One of the aims is to help people further their research and share problems arising from their lost 'rellies'. What was clear was that the group started to grow and gained confidence that it could not only survive but also flourish.

Glenys realised that because of the distances people would potentially have to travel, a different approach would be required to ensure the group reached as many people as possible. She therefore went to night classes at Leyburn and learned how to set up a web site, ably taught by Jane Patience, which she continues to run. Dave Trusson from Marrick volunteered to start an e-mail group for the Branch, and today it has around 300 members worldwide with over 10,000 queries and answers in its archives. This way of communication alone has generated many visits to the Dales from around the world and it has proved to be a wonderful way of exchanging information. Tracy Little in Reeth, a local reporter, agreed to do the publicity for the group, and posters started sprouting across both

dales advertising the next meeting.

Early on in the group's plans it was decided to hold a 1st anniversary celebration by organising an exhibition at the Dales Countryside Museum. This gave members something solid to aim for in their research, and encouraged them to share what they had discovered. Fifty-eight exhibitors took part, coming not only from the dales, but from Ambleside, Lancashire and the East Yorkshire Coast to take part. As Glenys says... "the quality and range of the research was stunning" – whole family trees, family history hookie rugs, and photographs, went on display for 10 days, and hundreds visited to see them. The exhibition included some photos supplied by Fremmie Hutchinson, one of the last miners in Swaledale, who did manage to turn up to see them. This was in fact his last major outing before he died later that month. As part of the exhibition there was a query board with photos of missing connections and by the end of the exhibition every missing connection except one had been solved! The exhibition generated lots of enthusiasm and was supported by both locals, and those from outside the area. One American visited and stayed 2 weeks, ensuring that he met many previously unknown local relatives.

The Dales Countryside Museum proved to be an excellent venue for regular speakers, but because of the distances some people were travelling, it was decided that a second venue was required. The Key Centre at Middleham was approached, and later the Fremington Sunday School in Swaledale became a third venue.

Although the e-mail group was developing well, some members were not computer literate, or did not have email so a computer club was set up at the Middleham Key Centre. This proved very

popular, with an average user age of sixty-five, and with two members over ninety using computers for the first time! Members were shown how to access useful research web sites and search engines, helped to use software specifically for genealogists, and learnt how to scan photos and other research documents. Some went on to do formal computer classes, whilst others enrolled for the family and local history classes run by Marion Moverley, all at the Key Centre. For others, all they needed was the confidence of being shown how to access the data they wanted to find, and the drop-in nature of the club ensured they didn't have to sign up for formal lessons. *Glenys's story will be continued in the next issue of the Newsletter*

We thank Lorna Dales for this feature and for her committee work. With her family she is about to move to France. It's surprising the lengths people will go to to escape our committee! Good Wishes.

LEAFLET EXCHANGE

Because of this year's early date of Easter, the annual Leaflet Exchange for accommodation providers will take place on **Tuesday February 22nd** from 11.00am to 1.00pm at Tennants Auction Rooms, Leyburn.

WEST WITTON

The evening of mulled wine and music was a great success and raised £190 for village hall funds.

ST DAVID'S DAY TEA DANCE

Action Medical Research are holding another tea dance at the Bolton Arms, Leyburn on **Tuesday, March 1st from 2.00 to 4.00 pm** with the excellent Mike Rose Trio in attendance. Tickets are £5 and obtainable from the Bolton Arms or by ringing **553457 or 01677 422879**

M.Mason

SNAIZEHOLME IN WINTER

Nature watching this month has been mostly the 'peering at Squirrels and birds at their feeders' sort, but on the morning of January 13th I put on my boots and went to look at our small nearby Larch wood. The wind in the last week's storm had uprooted about 17 of those 38 year-old trees and some are lying flat on the ground, and some leaning precariously against other trees. It is a very sad sight. There are great holes where the roots have been torn out of the ground, and it is impossible to count exactly how many have fallen. It is hard not to worry about the Red Squirrels and small birds that may have been in these trees during the storm. The Squirrels are especially happy in the larch. The small cones suit them very well, (they are too small for Grey Squirrels). Fortunately other groups of larch in our woodlands were undamaged by the storm.

It is around this time of year that the Squirrels are preparing for the birth of their young, so we hope very much that no drays were destroyed. Supplementary feeding is particularly important for them now and their arguments at the feeders become even more intense.

We are greatly fascinated by the numbers of Woodcock we have in the woods just now. I have written before about the Woodcock family I saw last summer close to the house, and the Woodcocks to be seen roding over the woodlands after sunset, but now many are to be seen feeding on the woodland edges, and getting up and jinxing away when they are disturbed. Looking in the Migration Atlas, we think that these little winter visitors may well have come from Russia.

We are also seeing and hearing more of the Buzzards. Listening and watching I wonder if they are young birds searching for a nesting site. Although we saw a pair quite frequently last year I think that their

nest was elsewhere, but I hope that this pair will choose Snaizeholme.

The little birds that come to the feeders are sometimes being bothered again by Sparrow Hawks. The feeders are well surrounded by thick bushes and the Sparrow Hawks are not apparently being very successful, but it makes the little birds a bit nervous. The bird food still reduces very quickly.

I have heard no recent report of the Short Eared Owl which could often be seen hunting in Widdale, but the Kingfisher still flashes about at the bottom of Ranelagh Ghyll.

I haven't heard a Blackbird singing yet, (and several of both sexes come to the feeders), but Robins, Wrens, Dunnocks and Tits are already thinking about spring very musically - and the days are beginning to lengthen - just.

Jane Kemp

FAX WARNING

Among several scams that are troubling businesses and individuals, Trading Standards have alerted people of a recent one "FAX BACK" which involves, if you respond, a heavy cost.

There is a **fax preference service** available: **www.fpsonline.org.uk** or **phone 020 7323 4266**

PIANO WANTED

The Aysgarth Choral Society which practises in the Aysgarth Institute is in need of a replacement piano, in good condition. Anyone who can help is asked to contact the secretary, **Sue Foster 667424**

HIGHLIGHTS REMEMBERED

Taking one year each, members of the Newsletter committee have done a 'Pick of the 100 issues' since 1995. How much do you remember?

A hat-trick for Hawes

The powers-that-be designated Hawes as 'a village with more than 1000 residents'. We know better of course; it's a town. Why else would there be Town Head and Town Foot?

But never mind... placed by others in this category Hawes has been proud to win, for three years running, the Best Kept Village competition. Once again there was a ceremony in the Penny Garth car park when a few folk in chains (Round Table chairmen and RDC chairmen) brave the biting wind to congratulate the people of Hawes and in particular Eric (Ikey) Bell, on keeping streets, car parks and public toilets consistently clean and tidy, and maintaining attractive floral displays.

... To celebrate the award, a rare tree of the eucalyptus family was planted— it should grow to 120 feet high, but perhaps not in Ikey's lifetime.

The year? March 1997. But what of the tree?!

Lodge yard

Lodge Yard, in the centre of Askrigg on the north side of the main street, consists of a number of properties belonging to different owners. Some of the property is in desperate need of restoration and there is a feeling amongst many of the villagers that it would be a great shame to allow the historic buildings to deteriorate further, in particular the old stables where John Pratt kept his racehorses, and the Wool Room.

A planning application has been submitted by the Holiday Property Bond for 21 units to form a holiday complex.

Another application for extensions to Lodge Cottage has been refused twice and has now gone to appeal.

A site meeting was held on 23rd May, and was attended by National Park Committee members and members of the public. Concerns have been expressed over the size of the development, possible expansion in the future, the poor access and traffic due to intensification of use, and the social and economic impact on the village.

Can you date this? What do Askriggians (or are you Askriggites) think now?

Summer '98!

It rained and rained and rained—
The average fall was well maintained
And when the tracks were simply bogs,
It started raining cats and dogs.
After a drought of half an hour,
We had a most refreshing shower,
And then the most curious thing of all,
A gentle rain began to fall.
Next day was also fairly dry,
Save for a deluge from the sky
Which wetted the party to the skin,
And after that— the rain set in. **Anon**

Suggestions aired in 1997

"An Upper Wensleydale Quality Initiative for service providers"

"Seek the early restoration of rail link to Garsdale. Provide a Wensleydale 'Hopper' bus on both sides of the dale."

Hawes bypass gets go-ahead

(Extract 1998; which month?)

At last, after years of speculation, the dream has come true. Yes, we are finally getting a by-pass for Hawes.

... In the past the main stumbling block has been the inability of the Council to negotiate the purchase of a wide enough stretch of land for a dual carriageway—E.C. funding is not available for single carriageway roads. But this obstacle was neatly sidestepped when a member of the Highways Committee suggested a simple solution: “Why not have one carriageway passing to the north of the town and a second to the south?” This plan was cleared with E.C. commissioners and already the necessary funding has been promised.

Editorial issue 60

This is being written as the weather has taken up, the mood around seeming a bit more optimistic, and we thought FMD might be relegated at last to a footnote in this piece; then we hear the very disturbing news of at least eleven outbreaks in the Settle and Malham Moor areas. It just shows that you cannot be too careful with this disease. The effect on visitors and tourism in these very popular areas is bound to have knock-on effects with big questions about when paths will be re-opened.

... Just as we can't ignore FMD neither can we ignore the elections- although a bit of calm, rational radio, TV and newspaper debate would be better than screaming headlines, sound bites and half-truths. For our part we have invited the three General Election candidates and the two local County Council candidates to give you, through this Newsletter, a message. We hope they will reply by the deadline date! This is all the election material there will be in these pages!

1996 - In the beginning

When asked to look through the first year's issues of the Newsletter, I knew it would prove fascinating. I was not wrong and soon found sufficient interesting material to fill many pages. I've had to be very frugal.

In Issue No.2 a short piece starts “Mobile phones used to be a fashion accessory for yuppies, but now they are finding practical uses throughout the land - EXCEPT in our area...Something must be done!”. A lot of water has passed under that bridge.

Jim Vincent prophesises in Issue No.3 that “The Internet is not going away. In fact, it is going to influence the way in which business, education, entertainment and communication are conducted from now on and a long time to come... introduce the Internet to you and show the facilities, benefits and sheer wonder of a worldwide communication system that is available to us all.” After 100 issues we all can now have Broadband! A issue or so later contained the first ‘Virus Warning’ for ‘Good Times’.

Away from new technology, Issue No.4 had a delightful piece entitled “Five Generations” concerning the Blades family. “The oldest living member of the family, 96 year old Jessica (Jessie) Blades, has just become the great-great-grandma of Brandon Lee Acton, which makes Pinky a great-granddad and James Robert Blades (Bob) a granddad. Pinky told me some entertaining tales of the old days in the Dales and how he, and two of his sons, ‘went to get wives from Swaledale’ ”.

I was amused by the July short quip - “Overheard in the bank” - ‘Can you give us your post code please?’ ‘No, I nivver write to anybody’ “.

Under “Pub News” in November it was reported ... “The Crown, Askrigg - Disappointed LA (Lindsey Annison) drinks the last pint of McKewan's 80/-”. Theakston's of Masham had delisted it.

HIGHLIGHTS REMEMBERED

Big bird on strike

Sunday evening last week the phone rang. "Is that Alan? It's Pinky 'ere. D'ye want summat funny for t'newsletter?"

Well in these sad times (*It was Foot and Mouth year*) I thought it was worth a try. "Come and hear a singing goose", he said. Not quite sure about this, but willing to give it a go, I agreed.

"Come up into t'yard before eleven or twelve". So on Friday morning, not quite sure who would have the last laugh, I went up beside the Spar shop in Hawes and called "Is Pinky about?" He wasn't. "He'll be up in his zoo" I was told and made my twisty way up. "Dad, Dad, are you there? Dad, Dad! He'll be somewhere about."

Sure enough there was a goose, a gander and four goslings plus hens etc. "I'll wait."

So apparently this bird (the gander actually) sings as St. Margaret's clock strikes! It was about five-to and goose and gander assembled and turned Mecca-like to face the church. At two minutes to, Pinky arrived. "Come in to t'incubater shed, it'll be warmer."

On the first stroke, as if by magic, the gander accompanied the strike! By the time we got to about the sixth strike, clock and gander were nicely synchronised....

YK2

(Isn't hindsight wonderful!)

All County and District Councils have been asked by the Government to prepare contingency plans for the Millennium. This is not because of panicking, it is realistic planning. Emergency Plan documents for parishes in the NYCC are being prepared now at County Hall. ...

Government Departments, in the main, are not Year 2000 compliant, and industry sectors such as electricity, water and telecommunications are running well behind on their preparations.

The infrastructure ...runs the risk of collapse... When one falls, others will follow. Recent news stories about armies on the street are a likelihood but they will be there not only to curb the panic and civil unrest which could follow an infrastructure collapse, but also to ensure that essential services are restored.

... The feeling up here seems to be that we are completely self-sufficient. However, the likelihood of some disruption to our normal lifestyles is now pretty much accepted world-wide.

...If nothing happens, well so be it, but stocking up on basics won't harm any of us. Just in case.

(Tell you what; there seem to be more potentially devastating computer viruses about now, than when this was written in January 1999. Ed)

HIGHLIGHTS REMEMBERED

Joan Ingilby Appreciation

(In this year 2005 when Marie Hartley celebrates her centenary here are a few extracts from a visit we made when she spoke to us following her friend Joan's death; issue 55 December 2000)

... "Now get the spelling right- it's funny-I-n-g-i-l-b-y", said Marie. Proud of her Yorkshire-ness and born at North Stainley Joan had a mixed and varied schooling including a spell at Thornborough Hall in Leyburn when she was only seven (but that was the start of a love of the hills, especially of Wensleydale, and there was a time at a French school in Edinburgh.

"But how did you come to be together?" I asked. Well Marie and Ella (Ponetract) were both in the Wetherby Ambulance Service and Joan had some evacuees staying with her who wanted to join, so the contact was made and the friendship began. Joan moved to Askrigg after the death of Ella and the working partnership had begun. "I think I'm a workaholic", said Marie, "But Joan also lived for her work."

... It was talking with the people they visited which was Joan's delight... people always seemed willing to talk because they wanted their lives and times recorded. Joan was a great note-taker and could touch type which was a great advantage. In fact not one note has been destroyed and they are all categorised in two large filing cabinets which are most likely to find their way to the Yorkshire Archaeological Society in Leeds who see them as an invaluable archive.

... Of all their books they (Joan and Marie) considered 'Yorkshire Village' the most enjoyable as it 'made their name'

... Joan's main interest was literature. "She was a Trollopian!" said Marie, "and Jane Austen."

It is not well known that as a poet Joan published in 1994 her works mainly written

in the 30s and 40s under the title: Poems; Strange Places; Rhymes for Children and others- with decorations by Marie.

... We can read elsewhere of their great achievements, their honorary degrees and awards, but in the morning sunlight in the study I glimpsed **them**.

... As someone has recently written "**Their influence has been great and good**"

And from last year

Our National Park celebrated its 50th anniversary with events throughout the year, and in August we had our first of occasional pieces from Matt Neale, one of the Rangers.

Housing was never far from the headlines and 'How to buy half a house' was featured. In July the plans for development of the Hawes Auction Mart were presented and we were pleased to report sightings of red squirrels not only in Snaizeholme but in Gayle and Appersett.

'Favourite places' have appeared for several years and 2004 included Doreen Raw's '... and people'. "We should be so grateful that we live in such a beautiful area and that the local people around are so kind and helpful."

The Upper Doredale Newsletter
Month of Janus in the Year of our Lord
1000

To celebrate the Millennium Issue 45 in January had 'two front covers'- one at the back as shown above. It was a while before some readers realised they all had the same issue!

Aelfric of Appelsaeta wrote:
NECESSARIA

I have just come back from a visit to one of the huge monasteries over to the east and thought I should pass on some useful tips about keeping clean and healthy. They call their latrine pits NECESSARIA and seem to think it wise to locate them downstream from where they live.

Up here most of us still have them just by the back of the houses, and what with all these apples, plums and cherries to eat up before they all rot we seem to be attracting some worse smells than usual. The monks seem to think that some of our diseases and infections might come in some way from the waste. They also have started doing what the incomers from the Danish areas do— they bathe EVERY WEEK instead of five times a year as prescribed, and have started to comb their hair each Saturday. This does seem to keep down the fleas.

Can I also recommend this. If you drop your food on the floor, pick it up, make the sign of the cross over it, give it a good seasoning, then it will be fit to eat again. You must trust in your faith. As for the 'rotting' diseases like leprosy make sure you do not touch those that have them. The monks are working on a plan to build 'hospitals' away from where they live, to keep everybody else safe.

Oftsaid?

Then Jesus took his disciples up the mountain and gathering them round him taught them saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven
Blessed are the meek
Blessed are they that mourn
Blessed are the merciful
Blessed are they that thirst for justice
Blessed are all the concerned
Blessed are you when persecuted
Blessed are you when you suffer
Be glad and rejoice for your reward is great in heaven; try to remember what I am telling you."

Then Simon Peter said, "Will this count for continuous assessment?"

And Andrew said, "Will we have a test on it?"

And James said, "When do we have to know it for?"

And Philip said, "How many words?"

And Bartholomew said, "Will I have to stand up and say it in front of the others?"

And John said, "The other disciples didn't have to learn it by heart."

And Judas said, "What is it worth?"

And the other disciples likewise.

Then one of the Pharisees who was present asked to see Jesus's aims and objectives, and his list of priorities, and inquired of Jesus his profile components, his attainment tasks and his personal record of achievement. And Jesus wept.

HIGHLIGHTS REMEMBERED

Newsletter poetry

We have to be quite strict about this, as we receive many offers on a variety of themes. One that caught the eye, A Wensleydale Ballad, had been set to music by John Suddes and was sung by the East Witton Male Voice Choir at Christmas 2002.

*Here lies a young maiden
She was lovely, but frail
As the wild white cherry blossom
That blooms in the dale*

... *Ellipsis here!*

Ask the author Trevor Johnson of Hawes if you would like to know how it continues and ends!

Visit to Bradford

John Sullivan (Aged 10 at the time) wrote one of the splendid pieces that come from our schools. Here is part about the West Burton School trip to the Jamia Masjid Hanifa mosque as part of the R.E. course.

...we were greeted by the Imam who showed us round. We had to take off our shoes so we didn't make the floor dirty. Then we went into the prayer room and he told us some facts about the mosque, then we went upstairs to another prayer room where the women pray. After that we went into the washrooms; they have to wash before they read the Qu'ran as a mark of respect... we asked the Imam some questions about Islam.

... we went to a shop which sold lots of Islamic items such as hats, clothes, scarves... musical instruments, rings, bracelets, watches and henna for weddings and special occasions.

... My favourite part was when we had to pretend that we were praying. To do this we had to kneel down and chant some words in the Muslim language.

A sweeter roamer!

I did one of those big "YES" shouts with arms uplifted on March 8th (1999) at the announcement of the Right to Roam (on foot) statement. Not that it will make a lot of practical difference in many places because I have to own up to much lonesome 'off the beaten track' wandering for about 50 years. But to be able to do so as a **right** and freedom just lifts the soul!

Don't misunderstand. I wouldn't dream of leaving a right of way in the enclosed pastures, meadows and farms. I wouldn't dream of taking a dog even in the remotest parts. I'm most offended even to leave a footprint's-worth of damage, let alone take even a tiny shoot of upland cloudberry.

But to have had that isolated wilderness with its special features and qualities denied (in theory at least) used to make me so aggrieved.

Not that there ever seems to have been a problem in most of our area, though doubtless some will recount horror stories.

... freedom brings with it great responsibility to love and care for our very precious landscapes and wildlife. I am sure with common Yorkshire sense it will remove the conflict— not that there's been much to my knowledge up here. Mind you, does anyone know where I can buy a bullet proof vest? There are one or two who think we should be shot!

(Well it's now 2005; Bowland, West Riding and the Peak District areas now have their authorised maps and no doubt intrepid and sensible roamers. Our area and the Lake District begin in May.

The fullest information with maps and details of restrictions and closures is on: www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk)



LETTER

To The Upper Wensleydale
Newsletter

Dear Mr. Watkinson.

I was moved by your editorial to write, not only because of the “tongue-in-cheek” response to distribution issues, your interesting comments on tourism and the far flung corners of the world, but also to further my own family history search.

I came across your newsletter whilst conducting a Web search on Yorkshire genealogy and my family history. I can assure you that you are read further away than Coverdale, having now reached north Nottinghamshire – not the other side of the world, I admit, but if the next issue is published on the web next Thursday (20th) (*or thereabouts! Ed.*) I will be reading it whilst on assignment in Portugal!

My interests in the region are the Dinsdale, Thwaite and Dixon family histories. My paternal grandparents hail from Newbiggin / Bishopdale. Francis Spence Dinsdale (my grandfather) farmed there and was a lay preacher on the Methodist / Middleham Circuit, though he later moved to Cracoe near Skipton. My father (Richard Norman) then left the fold and farmed in Burnley (on the wrong side of the county border - as was!). I had no idea until recently of this connection and would therefore be pleased to make contact with any potential relatives or other local people with an interest.

To return to your editorial: your desire to look to the wider world is laudable, but who could really have prophesised the Tsunami and the impact it would have on us all? We are now so used to hopping on and off aeroplanes, world wide travel, and the glossy brochures that we often overlook the human dimension and efforts to provide our two week fixes of sun, let alone the environmental impact. The World Tourism

Organisation (WTO) predicts there will be 1.6 billion tourists by 2020. Such a flow of people is already beginning to weigh heavily on the environment. Air, land or water pollution, and overexploited resources are some of the recurrent issues, even before the Tsunami.

The people of the affected areas need our help, especially in the short term, to restore their ways of life and work. Tourism already employs 250 million people around the world, is a driving force for development, can contribute to better living conditions for populations in host countries, and help preserve natural surroundings. Let's help them all we can

Your current initiative is probably one of the best ways to help rebuild the tourism infrastructure through continuing education. So, please accept the enclosed donation to the UNICEF “School in a Box” fund (though you may wish to apply this elsewhere), I look forward to reading future issues and perhaps hearing from some long lost relatives. Yours truly

**Norman Dinsdale Swallow Cottage
92 Town Street, Lound, Nr. Retford,
Notts DN22 8RX**

**RAINFALL FIGURES JULY TO
DECEMBER 2004**

	July	August	September	October	November	December	Year
Hawes	92.5	283.5	197.0	295.5	76.5	242.5	1187.5
Carperby	70.1	223.5	61.2	205.2	34.0	89.4	1164.6
West Burton	54.5	162.7	93.0	103.0	14.2	108.0	1072.1
Bainbridge	66.4	203.4	120.8	217.7	42.6	119.9	1349.6
Stalling Busk	77.2	216.5	121.4	247.9	46.3	147.9	1553.6
Askrigg	65.6	196.5	94.7	195.9	40.1	108.0	1230.8
Thornton Rust	79.0	224.0	89.0	220.0	39.0	121.0	1117.0

Mason Scarr (who sends the Bainbridge figures) observed that August's rainfall in 2004 was almost the same as the **total** for June, July, August and September in 2003 and was the wettest he had recorded since starting in 1991. This was repeated in October. *Thankyou to all our weather recorders.*

MEASUREMENTS IN MILLIMETRES

ASKRIGG'S GREAT TSUNAMI MEAL

On Saturday 1st January I was going to make a donation to the tsunami fund but thought hard about how I could make the money expand. The idea of putting on a meal in the village came from my Mum. We often eat chickpea dhal at home, a typical dish of the Tamil Nadu area hit by the tsunami; luckily the village hall was free and Will and Claire (graphic designers) agreed to co-ordinate flyer drops in Askrigg, Bainbridge, Carperby and Aysgarth. Al rang Tandoori Night at Richmond and they immediately offered to make and donate 100 chapatis.

On Sunday I collected donated ingredients from Sticky Ginger, Campbells, Co-op, Lidl and Elijah Allen. By then all sorts of people were helping by



offering help with cooking, serving, contacting people to spread the word, lending pans and by making donations. Al and I started cooking dhal at 4.00pm and The Sheean family came to open tins. Opening 150 tins, took over an hour and a half and I am sure Jane must be suffering from repetitive strain injury! We made 7 vast cauldrons of channa dhal, wearing shorts because the Rayburn was absolutely boiling. I did not believe we would need it all and had visions of living off the stuff for the next 6 months.

Liz Guy and I set up the hall the next morning and started reheating and cooking breads. I was panicking and thinking 'what if we only make 50 quid?' Suddenly people appeared to help and I would like to say a special thanks to the young people and children who stood outside in the freezing wind collecting cash and publicising the

lunch. At 12.15pm queues started forming and we realised that the people were actually going to come! We couldn't serve fast enough- we had to set up extra tables and chapatis and naans were beginning to run out. People had to go home to their freezers to empty them of pitta and tortillas! (people didn't seem to mind the cultural variety of breads!). In the end we had only three servings of dhal left and reckon we served 220 meals. What was really pleasing was the atmosphere of everyone sitting together and sharing food and talking about the events in Asia- and the fact that nervous curry eaters would try a little and then return for a proper helping.

The lunch raised **£1597**. The money was paid in the next day and immediately went to Tamil Nadu to help people in need there via the *Friends of Mettupalayam* supporting a group of devastated fishing villages.

Amanda Killip

HAWES TOWN CENTRE – PHASE 2

Following on from Phase 1 completed in 2004, Phase 2 of the scheme involves:-

Existing traffic island at the west of Burtersett Road (the 'triangle') replaced with a new granite kerbed island, to include tactile paved drop crossing facilities, seated area and landscaping.

Granite kerbed buildout to the south of the traffic island including a tactile paved drop crossing facility.

New tactile paved drop crossing on the northern footway, adjacent to the Quakers' burial ground.

Block paved pedestrian crossing areas across both carriageways :-

North - between the traffic island and the new drop crossing and South – between the traffic island and the new build out.

Installation of 2 speed cushions on Burtersett Road outside Burn House.

Resurfacing of the existing carriageway area from, but not including, the car park outside Fulford House into Burtersett Road west of the Rope Makers.

Provision of a 25mm high kerbed footway on the northern side of 'The Holme' between the parking area and the carriageway.

The footway works on 'The Holme' have now started and will last for approximately 3 weeks in this area.

Works on Burtersett Road will commence on completion of the works on 'The Holme'. Phase 2 is a 10 week contract and weather permitting, will be completed by 25th March 2005. Traffic Management will be in place for the various stages of the scheme and will be adjusted to suit the works.

CHRISTIAN AID LENT LUNCHES 2005

The annual Mid Dale Lunches will be held from 12noon- 1.30pm.

The first will be at Carperby	Friday	11th
February then Aysgarth	Friday	18th
Thornton Rust	Friday	25th
Thoralby	Friday	04th
	March	
West Burton	Friday	11th
Redmire	Friday	18th

There is no set charge for the meal. Donations received will be sent to Christian Aid.

Evelyn Abraham 663243.

DO YOU REMEMBER— Widdale School?

I am studying its records 1901-30 and would like to hear from anyone who was a pupil there or who has any memories of it. If you can help, please phone **663034** or write to me, **Mrs Jean Day, Hillcroft, Thornton Rust, DL8 3AW**

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

**This year's series:
Fridays at 7.30 pm Village halls-**

Feb. 18th West Burton; Margaret Hall

Feb. 25th West Burton; Ruth Biker

Mar. 4th Redmire; Mike Norman

Mar. 11th Redmire; Martin James

Delicious food; good speakers.

For details and tickets (£4):

Eunice Page 663158

WHAT'S ON LISTING

TRANSFER THESE DATES TO YOUR DIARY OR CALENDAR NOW!

January

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>22 West Witton Chapel. Coffee and stalls</p> <p>23 United church service; St. Margaret's, Hawes. See box page 38</p> <p>25 Quiz night; Wensleydale Creamery; see page 35</p> <p>27 Gayle Ladies AGM and members' evening 7.30 pm</p> <p>28 Darts K.O. Crown, Hawes</p> <p>29 Single Darts K.O. Fountain, Hawes</p> <p>29 Bainbridge Chapel Gift Day 2.30 to 4.00 pm</p> <p>29-30 Annual BIG GARDEN BIRD WATCH
www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch</p> | <p>7.00 pm. Andrea Hunter</p> <p>18 Food for thought. See page 35</p> <p>19 Race night. Fountain Hotel, Hawes. See box page 38</p> <p>24 Gayle Ladies 7.30 pm Slides by Geoff Phillips</p> <p>25 Keith Johnson Pairs. White Hart. Hawes</p> <p>25 Food for thought. See page 35</p> <p>26 West Witton Chapel. Coffee and Stalls</p> |
|---|---|

February

- 5 Yorkshire Dales Society lecture: "Cup and ring stones and early rock art" Settle, Victoria Hall 2.15pm
- 5 Museum Friends 1920s dinner and entertainment; Rose and Crown, Bainbridge, 7.30 for 8.00 pm 667450 for details
- 5 "The Company" at the Fountain, Hawes
- 6 Wensleydale churches' United Service. Leyburn R.C. 7 pm
- 6 Sedbergh School Band; see 29
- 8 Shrove Tuesday
- 8 Coffee and Stalls; Tsunami appeal; Hawes Methodist rooms
- 9 Ash Wednesday: Services at St. Andrew's, Aysgarth, 9.15am and at Castle Bolton, 7.00 pm
- 11 Ladies Darts K.O. Crown, Hawes
- 13 Winter wonder walk; meet Aysgarth Falls corner 11.50 am Ring Aysgarth N. Pk. Centre 663424 for details
- 14 St. Valentine's Day
- 17 Hawes W.I. Methodist rooms



She took off her shoes and began to paint her snails