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## WHEN THE CAT'S AWAY...

Our editor-in-chief Alan and his lovely wife Shirley were away in Australia during February to meet their new grandchild, so this issue has been produced by his team of highly trained, enthusiastic assistants – so we are ‘editorially-lessened’. Editorially-lessened – a phrase we may well understand, but not one to be easily found in dictionaries. A sign of the times one could say, when we are all becoming so accustomed (sometimes frustrated) by the invention of new words, phrases and styles for use in communication.

**Americanisation** of the English language is a phrase often used to describe a situation where words are spelt as they sound, or where a different word is used altogether. A spelling style being mimicked by our younger generation, no doubt highly influenced by the vast numbers of films and TV programmes created in or based on America. A confusing and testing issue for teachers of English in schools – should they begin to accept that style or persist with the version of ‘traditional’ English taught for so many years? And what about employers, how should they react to potential recruits if they are unable to communicate in writing to clients in a style or standard the employers expect?

**Abbreviated text** when using mobile phones (that is when a local signal can be obtained) is another new generation of communication, again a style being mimicked, albeit to a lesser extent, by schoolchildren. But most of this text is easy to understand and cheaper to use on mobiles, so should it be a problem if extended to other methods of communicating? Kids, explain these to granny: Y R U L8 and MY K9 IS ILL COS HE 8 2 MCH.

**Emails** are replacing much of our previous handwritten postal communication, which

is much quicker and cheaper (especially world wide), but is it also at the expense of telephone and face to face communication? Will we gradually erode our verbal skills? Will our fingers become more valued than our tongues in future evolution? It’s not just about cost and speed; how many of our readers have received emails with no capitals, no punctuation, no thought of grammar or spelling? Is personal pride missing? The general style of wording in our Newsletter is ‘traditional’ English, so how would our readers react to any move towards these newer styles? Our reader age group is extremely wide, from our Kiddies section to very senior adults. Would we lose readership by modernisation? Have our readers any strong views?

It is not just written communication which can cause confusion. We are sure Alan will not object to a mention of an advertisement he took over the phone. Hopefully the advertised ‘Korean Quiz Evening at the Creamery’ in our last issue was enjoyed by those having their ‘Curry and Quiz Evening’.

## **REPORTING ON A REPORTER**

It's quite a big step from being a paper boy in Hawes to being a chief newspaper reporter based at headquarters in London. But that's Andrew Fagg.

Andrew, now 24, graduated in English at Leeds a few years ago, travelled widely, especially in India, to Amala where he had previously been with his school, and then worked at Methodist Church House in Marylebone Road, London.

He is now on the reporting staff of the national Methodist newspaper, the Recorder, and is rapidly making a name for himself with front page articles and photographs in recent weeks, and incidentally making a name for our area as he described Wensleydale as 'the most beautiful circuit in Methodism'!

The church he attends now is the famous 'Wesley's Chapel' in the city of London whose minister is Leslie (now Lord) Griffiths who frequently broadcasts on Radio 4; not a bad contact for Andrew who has already been to the Houses of Parliament with him and been introduced to various dignitaries including the previous Archbishop Carey of Canterbury.

Andrew's new role is taking him far and wide as he reports on many aspects of the work of the church and its involvement in the social and political issues of the day.

**A.S.W.**

## **EXTREME MEASURE TAKEN!**

Readers might well have been a little mystified by the advert for the "Korean Quiz Evening" at the Wensleydale Creamery.

Ever willing to support the efforts of our young people, the editor rang to get the details and has learnt now not to rely solely on what he thinks he hears on the phone. The real event? Curry and Quiz Evening! As a result he felt it advisable to move away to Australia for six weeks.

And we offer our commiserations to the husband of our committee member who alerted us to the mistake, for his three days' wasted effort in swatting up on Korea!! We seriously apologise to Leanne.

It's a good laugh, though!

**A.S.W.**



# KIDS PAGE

Welcome to this month's Kids Page. This month we have some **Film Reviews**:

**The Incredibles:**

*It was Really funny and exciting.* 10/10

**A Series of Unfortunate Events:**

*It was interesting, slightly scary.* 9/10

A recipe for **Chocolate Brownies**

*You will need:*

50 g of Plain Chocolate

65g of Butter

175g of soft brown sugar

65g of walnut pieces (optional)

2 eggs

65g of self-raising flour

*What to do:*

1. Set the oven to 180 degrees or gas mark 4 cut a square of grease proof paper and put it in the bottom of a greased baking tray.
2. Heat some water in a saucepan so it just begins to boil.
3. Put the butter into a small bowl and cut in up.
4. Break the chocolate into the bowl with the butter stand the bowl over the pan.
5. Stir the butter and chocolate together until they have melted.
6. Break the eggs into a mixing bowl and beat with a fork add the flour, the walnuts and sugar and mix with a wooden spoon.
7. Pour the melted chocolate and butter into the mixture and beat them until they are smooth.
8. Pour the mixture into the baking tray and bake for 30 to 35 minutes leave it to cool in the tin and then cut it into squares.

Then ENJOY!

Now for our first **Joke**

A newsboy was standing on the corner with a stack of papers, yelling, "Read all about it. Fifty people swindled! Fifty people swindled!"

Curious, a man walked over, bought a paper, and checked the front page. Finding nothing, the man said, "There's nothing in here about fifty people being swindled." The newsboy ignored him and went on, calling out, "Read all about it. Fifty-one people swindled!"

...and **another Joke**

Doctor: I have some bad news and some very bad news.

Patient: Well, might as well give me the bad news first.

Doctor: The lab called with your test results. They said you have 24 hours to live.

Patient: 24 HOURS! That's terrible!! WHAT could be WORSE? What's the very bad news?

Doctor: I've been trying to reach you since yesterday.

**Harry and Issy**

## THOUGHTS FOR THIS EASTERTIDE

**W**hen I was a child the home of my missionary parents just outside Calcutta had a constantly changing company, friends, other missionaries in transit and refugees from the newly formed State of East Pakistan. And then came a period of chaos.

The advance of Communism in China meant that more and more people were fleeing that country with nothing but the clothes in which they stood. Amongst them were missionaries. My father would hear of them, pick them up from the airport, kit them out and arrange for them to be shipped home. Most of them were in a terrible state of shock. For many a lifetime of work had been destroyed and there seemed no prospect of ever returning to long term friends and no news of what had happened to those who had not been fortunate enough to escape. Worst of all there was no news of the Chinese Christians who had no prospect of escape.

At the time I was very young but in later life I got to know one of those missionaries very well. She had only been in China for a short time and had started some new work in a new area, which she had had to leave in the hands of a new Christian. There seemed no prospect of it surviving so she gave her life to missionary work in Bengal. However she never forgot and when relations thawed and the opportunity came to return to China she went as soon as possible and made for the small community where she had worked. She expected nothing, but to her amazement found a thriving church, far stronger than the one she had left. And the man whom she had left in charge, though he had been imprisoned and forced to submit to slave labour in the fields, was still there and still caring for it. It is a wonderful story of a work that could not be destroyed. When I

was asked to produce an Easter message I thought about retelling the Easter story and trying to draw theological conclusions, but how can it be done? Anyway once one starts to rationalise the story one is liable to have people arguing about what the last Bishop of Durham unwisely called "Tricks with bones!"

On the first Easter day Jesus' disciples saw him risen. They tried to explain what had happened to their friend Thomas but he could not cope with the idea. He needed to be convinced personally, to see risen Jesus and of course a week later he did. So, however much I tell you that Jesus is alive you will be sceptical if you are not a believer and all I can say is this - the proof of the resurrection lies in the fact that the story did not die with those who had known Jesus face to face. Two millennia of persecution and still we are celebrating the fact that Jesus rose from the tomb. And the proof of that seems to lie in the very existence of the Church.

Some would say that the church in this land is on its deathbed. That may be so of the church, as we know it. But it is not true of the people of Jesus. Just as five decades of persecution and suppression could not destroy the Church in China or two thousand years passing destroy the One Holy Catholic Church. So the Church in Britain, despite being sidelined and derided, will live on in those who have a personal experience of the living Jesus. For the Easter message is this; good is stronger than evil, life is stronger than death and, however you view it, the fact that the man impaled on a cross by Pontius Pilate two thousand years ago is not forgotten and is in fact worshipped by millions world wide, is its own innate proof that death could not hold him. So to all of you, A Happy Easter and may the promise of Jesus that you can have life in all its fullness be your experience at this season.

**Revd Martin P James**

## A DAY OUT IN THE DALES

Last summer my brother-in-law Michael from Wiltshire spent a few days with us in Worton. He's a man of refinement; a man who's travelled widely. He's cruised the Mediterranean in luxurious liners, flown supersonic in Concorde, but till now had never visited the dales.

Unfortunately this occasion for him wasn't so much a holiday, more of a recuperation after losing his partner of 37 years to cancer. He was in dire need of a little T.L.C. and being a keen historian we naturally introduced him to the delights of York and Castle Howard. But what we felt he really needed to lift the spirits was a hefty dose of good old-fashioned Yorkshire hospitality and scenery. Time for our 6d tour; time for unveiling my old Morris from beneath its dust sheets. There's something about the dales scenery that looks even more spectacular over the bonnet of a classic car. Maybe the untamed landscape complements the rudimentary mechanics, or could it perhaps be that I'm getting old before my time?

Once aboard the Skylark we set off in a westerly direction, through sunny Bainbridge with its wide open greens and on towards Hawes where we let brother-in-law out to sample the generations of folklore housed in the Countryside Museum, though whether or not he donned the farmer's smock in the 'Hands On' cow byre he wouldn't divulge. Strolling through the town we resisted the tempting aroma wafting from 'The Chippie' even though we knew the restaurant service there to be excellent, especially from the bearded waiter whose name escapes me!

Back on the road we headed over the Alpine pass at Buttertubs to Muker, stopping off at the Farmers Arms for a quick bite and a snorter (non-alcoholic for the driver). At Gunnerside we skirted the River Swale tripping its way over the

bedrock and admired its rugged beauty. In no other English county can the mind perceive such history; generations who in bygone centuries have battled the elements, shaped the landscape with their ribbons of stone walls stretching into infinity. And if confirmation were sought one only need take in the charm of Reeth then climb the twisting road over into Wensleydale. Here, on the roof of the world, with the world buffeting you broadside, perhaps under the watchful eye of a wary rabbit, can an awe-inspiring experience transcend you.

Stopping briefly in Leyburn to refuel the jalopy, it was on through racehorse country at Middleham before arriving at Masham for dinner at the welcoming Kings Head.

Without doubt a cracking day was had by all. But it was Michael, while relaxing afterwards in the pub enthusing over the breathtaking dales countryside, who summed up the mood so appropriately by remarking that 'today he'd gone back 50 years in time.'

Yes, we guessed all along that he'd dressed up as that old farmer!

**Rob Bennett**

## **“LAST DANCE OF A DALESMAN” - THE PLAY**

A dead Dalesman - his spirit stuck in limbo. Why? What's his story? Where is he journeying? What's needed to find out?

It's crunch time for the Richmondshire Community Play! The title has been decided, the first draft of the script is well on the way, the venues have been booked, now it's time for people to sign up for it.

Written and directed by Nobby Dimon from Richmond-based North Country Theatre, “**Last Dance Of A Dalesman**” will be a hugely entertaining, inventive and dramatic production in North Country's much-loved style, full of weird and wonderful characters, evocative music, dramatic staging and a great deal of humour!

Nearly eighty local people of all ages have expressed an interest in being involved, with many attending workshops and script development sessions over the past ten months. Now it's time to start rehearsals.

Anyone can participate – it doesn't matter if they've been involved with the play so far or not. They don't even have to have been in a play before; there will be no auditions; people just need to come along to an introductory/script reading session to register their interest. As well as actors, musicians and people to help backstage with props, costumes and scenery are also needed.

AiR is holding three introductory sessions around Richmondshire and want people to come to at least one of them (and if possible two) to hear some of the script, find out when and where rehearsals will be, meet others involved and join the production. Ideally people should come to *one* of the first two sessions *and* the follow-up one later on - but even if they can only come to one session that will be fine – they need to register their interest.

The first sessions are on: **Wednesday February 16th from 7.30 to 9.30 pm** in Richmond Operatic Society's rehearsal room (Bargate, Richmond) and **Thursday February 17th from 7.30 to 9.30 pm** in Leyburn Methodist Church Hall (on Railway Street, next to the Sandpiper Restaurant). The follow-up session is on: **Sunday February 27th from 2.00 to 5.00pm** in Reeth Memorial Hall

There will be nine open-air performances at: Middleham Castle **June 16th & 17th**, Hardraw Scar **June 18th**, Richmond Castle **June 23rd & 25th**, Forcett Hall **June 30th**, and Kiplin Hall **July 1st & 2nd**.

So whatever people's skills or experience, they should come along and sign up for what is going to be the event of the summer for Richmondshire!

“Last Dance Of A Dalesman” is produced by AiR (Arts in Richmondshire), in partnership with English Heritage and North Country Theatre, with financial support from Arts Council England.

For further information contact **AiR** on **625142**

## **HAWES RAINFALL FIGURES**

The annual rainfall figures for Hawes published in the last issue were incorrect. Our apologies, the 6-month total was given in error; the yearly figure should have been 1919 mm. It was wetter than you thought!!

It was with some trepidation that three weeks into my term as Acting Headteacher at West Burton School I opened a personally

## **WEST BURTON SCHOOL NEWS**

addressed envelope from Ofsted. (The body that usually strikes dread into the hearts of teachers). Trepidation soon turned to delight as I read the contents of the letter. It said that a number of particularly successful schools were to be identified in the annual report of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Schools (for the academic year 2003/04) which was presented to Parliament on February 2nd.

I quote from the letter from David Bell, Chief Inspector at Ofsted, "These schools were judged in their inspections to be very or extremely effective in providing high quality education and ensuring that their pupils achieve very well".

The school achieved its outstanding report under the excellent leadership of Matt Blyton, who has now moved to work in Cyprus. Ofsted commented on the 'tangible team spirit' at West Burton School and it was the hard work of all (teachers, teaching assistants, clerical people, caretaker, kitchen staff, mid-day supervisors, governors and, of course, the children).

Well done all the children at the school (not forgetting last year's Year 6s). If it hadn't been for all the work you produce and the way you conduct yourselves this report wouldn't have been possible.

**Sally Stone**

## **OLD WENSLEYDALE SCHOOLS AND THEIR PUPILS**

The Friends of the Dales Countryside Museum have assembled a large selection of old photographs of Wensleydale schools and pupils, some dating back more than a hundred years. Some photographs have come from the Friends collection in the Museum but many on show are copies of originals kindly lent by local people from their family albums.

Many of the schools shown have now closed but luckily we have pictorial reminders of how things were in all the old schools, whether they were parish, council, national or

private. These photographs are a marvellous archive of local social history so we are asking all of our visitors to try and identify relatives and friends so as to build on what we know already. We would also ask you to add any bits of information about the schools and the event photographed so carefully many years ago.

The exhibition runs from **March 10th to 20th**. Entrance is free and the Museum is open every day from **10am until 5pm**.

## **ASKRIGG SCHOOL NEWS**

Following a rigorous assessment near the end of last term, Askrigg School has been awarded the Basic Skills Quality Mark!

As its name suggests, this Award is all about the basic skills all children really need – reading, writing, spelling and numberwork.

To achieve the Quality Mark, the school needed to show it met the highest of standards in 10 elements, that show it is on an upward trend. These elements include such things as having a whole school strategy to improve performance in the basic skills; using a range of basic skills teaching styles in the classroom; having good books and other material to help children to improve, and involving parents in developing their children's basic skills.

The parents and Governors are delighted that the school has been given national recognition for the hard work and expertise the teachers, and other people who work in the school show in the care and education of our children.

The Quality Mark Logo will be proudly displayed in school in the near future, and all the staff are to be congratulated for all their hard work, that has justifiably been recognised by the award of the Quality Mark.

**Anne Middleton**

**Chair of Governors**

## **COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRE - GOOD NEWS**

The Upper Wensleydale Community Office in Hawes is moving – next door!! It will join forces with North Yorkshire County Council when new Community Resource Centre opens – hopefully on April 6th - at what used to be the Hawes Craft Centre. All the existing services will transfer into the new premises; the Richmondshire District Council cash desk and their advice surgeries, the Police Station, the Citizens Advice Bureau, Job Centre ads, Hawes Market Hall bookings, the Business Association and Business Link, the Hawes Library, Video and DVD hire, talking books, e-mail and internet café, children's area, and a drinks machine.

All of this in a bright, welcoming fully refurbished building with comfortable armchairs, morning newspapers to read, public meeting rooms available for hire and a disabled toilet provided. The opening hours of the Community Office, Monday-Friday 9.30am-4.30pm plus Thursday 5.30-7.00pm, gives Upper Wensleydale Library opening hours that very nearly rival the hours at Northallerton or Harrogate!!

Our Community Office Staff, Hilary, Abbie and Nigel will all be based in the new Community Office, as will PC Dave Cousins, and the District Council's Jenni on a Tuesday. Joining them will be a County Council member of staff for all the hours the Community Office is open. Given we started from a District Council officer coming up on a Tuesday to collect Council tax and rents from a bare table in what was then a rather cold and unwelcoming Parish Room in the Hawes Market Hall, we really have moved on in these last 7 years. For a deeply rural area like Upper Wensleydale we now have the ultimate in local service provision. And why not, we deserve nothing less!!

**John Blackie**

## **MARKET HALL HAPPENINGS**

The rolling programme of improvements and repairs at the Market Hall is continuing (the Meeting Room is currently having a make-over), but the factor slowing down progress is the continuing vexed question of money, as receipts from bookings only cover basic running costs.

The Trustees are working towards providing fund raising activities as often as can be arranged which will also enrich and add to facilities already on offer. The most recent event, which made £460, was the Sedbergh CCF Band at the beginning of February.

Superlatives were flying at the end of the evening; no one could praise the evening enough (unless you were one of the unlucky ones who missed out on the ice creams) The variety and subtlety, not to say anything about the volume of sound and the range and ability of the players, would have done credit to an adult band yet not one was older than 18. The programme was memorable and accessible, hence the strong demand for a return visit.

There are other ideas (see news of the cinema club venture on page 20) but the Trustees would welcome any suggestions of fun ways to make money that all members of the community might enjoy.

Providing the catering at the January Hoppers Sale also made £232; lots of people gave donations of food, which was really appreciated.

**Gwen Clarke**

## RADICAL HOUSING POLICY A STEP CLOSER

A scheme to ensure that new homes in the beautiful Yorkshire Dales will be reserved for local people is one step nearer in February. It also made the national news in all media as other authorities showed interest in the radical nature of the idea.

Members of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (YDNPA) agreed in principle a policy that will prevent new homes from being bought as second homes or as holiday lets.

The policy – part of the Authority's Yorkshire Dales Local Plan – was backed by Government Planning Inspector William Carlow, who held a public inquiry last summer into objections against the Local Plan.

In his report on the inquiry, he agreed that any homes to be built within the National Park in the future should meet demand from local people ONLY and be at more affordable prices.

And when they are sold, they cannot be bought up as second homes or holiday lets but must be occupied by local people.

YDNPA Head of Planning, Peter Watson, said: "The planning committee endorsed the principle of policies restricting the occupancy of new homes to people who need to live or work within the National Park. However, they referred consideration of proposed housing policies to a working party to consider their detailed wording."

A copy of the Local Plan and the Inspector's report is available to the public on the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority's website .

## SEE 'CALENDAR GIRLS' -THE FILM - IN HAWES

Yes, on **Sunday, March 6th** everyone can

enjoy 'The Calendar Girls' in Hawes Market Hall!

Since A.I.R. (Art in Richmondshire) was formed one of the projects in the pipeline has been to establish a travelling cinema. All the plans have now reached fruition with Trevor Bowning being employed to develop the project and the equipment and technicians are now in place.

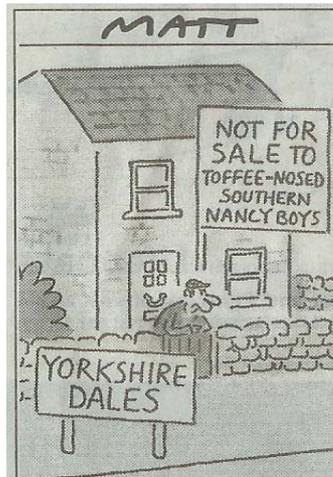
Hawes has been chosen as a launch venue and 'The Calendar Girls' as the launch film. So why not come along and see for yourself how the Market Hall can be transformed again into a Cinema, including the sale of ice creams.

In the future the community can choose which films to screen from the hundreds available and films can be shown as regularly as we wish; Trevor will have a list for browsing at the show on March 6th. This is an opportunity to see good films without the travelling usually involved and with the added benefit of making a small profit for Market Hall funds.

Be in at the beginning of this new and exciting venture and help decide what will be shown in the future.

So make it a date at the Market Hall, **Sunday, March 6th, at 8.00pm** (doors open at 7.30pm). And the charge is very reasonable - Adults £3.50 Children £2.50

**Gwen Clarke**



One picture is worth 1000 words.

Thanks to Matt in *The Daily Telegraph*, 19th January 2005



## EARLY SPRING GARDENING

### USING EVERGREENS

March is a lovely time of year to be out in the garden again, taking advantage of any good breaks in the weather. It can be very changeable during March, one day warm with blue skies, the next cold winds return driving the temperature and pressure back down again. Nevertheless the garden is re-awakening and one of the best sights is snowdrops followed by daffodils. Their displays never fail to please and one of the prettiest is a carpet of snowdrops spreading out from under an old yew tree. *Taxus baccata* or English yew is one of Britain's three native conifers so it's not surprising that some specimens are the oldest trees in existence today.

As well as long living, yew trees are tolerant of most soil types but, given a choice, they grow best on chalk. Drainage is more important than soil type as they are prone to root rot fungus *phytophthora* if they get water-logged. The only answer then is to dig them up and destroy all the roots. On the plus side they can tolerate sun or shade and their slow growing reputation is somewhat misplaced as green forms can put on a good 30cm. annually but certainly the golden varieties are much slower. One thing to bear in mind is that all parts of a yew tree are poisonous.

Two forms of yew are commonly available, *Taxus baccata* or common English yew and a hybrid *Taxus media*. Between them they offer a choice of plants for hedging, specimens or a topiaried focal point. This is because yews don't mind being pruned, indeed they will recover from being clipped as far back as their tree stumps.

A most striking form is *Taxus baccata* "Dovastonii" or Westfelton yew. It matures

into a wide graceful bush whose branches dip elegantly at the ends. The golden form is called Golden Westfelton yew! Another golden yew is *Taxus baccata* "Elegantissima". This has eye-catching foliage because the young yellow shoots are contrasted against the inner deep green colour of previous growth. This produces a lovely mottled effect. *Taxus baccata* "Fastigiata" or Irish yew (and its golden form "Fastigiata Aurea") has a very upright habit and tightly packed branches producing a stately specimen. Or there's the golden form of Irish yew *Taxus baccata* "Standishii" which is a good dense columnar tree of bright yellow foliage. Lastly the variety "Semperaurea" is a more bushy form of golden yew, but not quite as tall as those above.

Now is a good time to plant yew or indeed any evergreen plant as its system for taking up moisture from the soil to its leaves has shut down whilst the temperature of the soil is below 4-5deg.C. Planting or moving an evergreen now will reduce water loss from its leaves and help it recover quicker once the soil does start to warm up. Any of the above varieties of golden yew will brighten up a dark spot in the garden and since it's recommended that about a third of shrubs or trees should be evergreen to maintain winter interest, yews provide a versatile option. If underplanted with spring bulbs this combination will make a welcome display for early spring.

Happy gardening

**Peduncle**

## NEVER POSTED FAR FROM WELLFIELD HOUSE

**F**rom 1940 until 1986 Jean Cockburn's family ran the Post Office at Aysgarth. Now retired but living next to her old "office" Jean has many memories of the work and the area.

**Initially her parents applied to run the PO** at the family home of Wellfield House. Her mother was office based and her father, Cecil Rigg, was Aysgarth's postman. Jean's entry to this family business began in around 1942 when her grandmother broke her leg and had to be cared for at home. Jean says she was happy to leave school and be trained by her mother to assist at the PO, although "I wasn't allowed to empty letterboxes until I was 16". There were early mornings sorting the post and her father combined his duties with being the village cobbler. Jean enjoyed visiting local places such as going on relief duties to post offices in the area. Later Jean married Denis Cockburn and they lived at a couple of places in the village before exchanging their cottage for Wellfield House and taking over the PO on her parents' retirement in 1962.

**The family business continued** with Denis also working for the Post Office as postman for West Burton and area; a job he did for 30 years. Jean was busy having, in the early years, telegrams to deliver to Thornton Rust and other places nearby. She helped people out by also taking more informal messages and her father's cobbling business was replaced by Jean selling cards, sweets and stationery and eventually newspapers as well.

**The most difficult job** was balancing the books every week and Jean looked forward to her Thursday afternoon off. She was only able to get Saturday free by finding someone to deliver telegrams for her. Jean also had a son and daughter to bring up and was appreciative of her Dad's occasional

help. Her mother also helped until she died in 1971. Jean & Denis and family enjoyed holidays, often at Butlins, and these were possible when Jean found PO trained people to provide relief cover. These included people who had worked at Leyburn, Hawes and Northallerton Post Offices, and of course my fellow Newsletter writer, Tricia Tate. (Tricia and her husband Alan used to run the PO/shop at Bainbridge.)

**Jean knows the people and area very well.** Only about half a dozen of the people she grew up with in Aysgarth remain but having new people arrive is part of a long tradition in some ways. During the war years Jean remembers evacuees arriving from Gateshead and Sunderland. The first arrivals were only about 7 years old, but later children aged about 11 arrived and Jean remembers getting on well with them. One of these people still comes back to Aysgarth regularly. Also the REME had some troops working at the Palmer Flatt garage in 1942. (The garage is now a bungalow.) These men ate in the Sunday School building and slept in the Institute. They went to different homes for baths and suppers.

**Apart from her working life** Jean has been active in the village. She remembers the flower show in Bear Park and the village fair in the Institute now held on August Bank Holiday Monday. She also enjoyed both badminton and tennis, during the period when there were courts just behind where she lives. I wondered if Jean's family were all local and she told me that her mother was born at Barker, a farm up Bishopdale. Her father was born at Heaning Hall at Thoraby. Before that her grandmother had moved down from Scotland to be a maid in the area. Jean has a daughter who nurses at the Friarage Hospital in Northallerton and her son now lives with her. She has 5 grandchildren and recently has become a great grandmother.

School building and slept in the Institute. They went to different homes for baths and suppers.

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They stayed at Wellfield for the first four years on retiring and thus found them selves relaxing in the very place they had done so much Post Office work. When I say Jean retired I am not quite telling the whole story. She gave a further ten years' service doing relief cover at local Post Offices and only gave this up at age 70.

**She may be a "home bird"** but Jean has been driving since 1963 and still goes as far as Llandudno in the car. Locally she enjoys whist drives and the Wednesday club, meeting women from Thoralby and West Burton to hear speakers and have tea.

**Last, but not least,** I must mention the other place within yards of her home to which Jean has a great commitment - the Chapel. She described her role there as "jack of all trades". In fact she taught Sunday School there for 50 years, retiring just 3 years ago. There weren't enough children to continue the school, but Jean still gathers the young ones together each year for a nativity play. So I can't resist ending in tabloid parlance by saying "Local Post Mistress continues to deliver!" **P.J.R.**

### **THE HAWES AREA VILLAGE BUS - USE IT OR LOSE IT**

The Hawes Area Village Bus is a 14-seat, wheelchair accessible minibus numbered 113 on the Hawes to Garsdale Station run and 114 on the Hardraw Circular route.

The double loop is circumnavigated five times

every day except Sunday and is designed to link up with trains at Garsdale.

All the routes start and finish at the Dales Countryside Museum . The first bus leaves the DCM at 9.03 am stopping at the Market Place, Appersett, Hardraw, Simonstone, Sedbusk, DCM, Market Place, Appersett, Moorcock Inn, Garsdale Station, Moorcock Inn, Appersett, Market Place and back to the DCM before starting the double loop again. The full route takes nearly 2 hours with a 30 minute wait at Garsdale to meet the 10.05 am and the 10.21 am trains.

The other departure times from the DCM are 11.45 am, 3.45 pm, 4.55 pm and 7.00 pm. going to Garsdale and 11.15 am, 1.15 pm, 3.15 pm and 6.25 pm going to Hardraw. The first and last buses on Saturdays are at slightly different times. Providing one prebooks, the bus will pick up at Burtersett at 1.10 pm, returning to Burtersett at 3.10 pm. Full, easy-to-follow, timetables are available from the Museum .

The service is manned by a small number of regular drivers who provide a friendly personal service. The village bus will stop at all recognised bus stops and will also stop on a 'hail and ride' basis provided it is safe to do so. Fares are comparable with those charged on other services in the area and concessionary passes are accepted.

The village bus is operated by Harrogate & District Community Transport with local support from the Upper Wensleydale Community Partnership, on behalf of North Yorkshire County Council. Funding is in place until December 2006 and the long term future depends on local support.

A question of 'Use it or lose it'. **T.P.**

**R**enovation of Gayle Mill is well under way and will take place in three phases.

Phase 1 involves renovation of the roof and stabilisation of the beck-side gable end. The letting of this contract has been completed and the work is planned for completion early this year. This work was considered critical as the roof was in a poor state and everyone had lost count of the number of buckets placed in the loft to catch the drips.

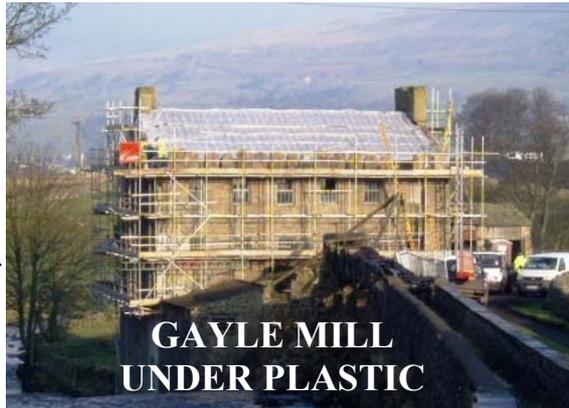
Phase 2 comprises the renovation of and modification to the main part of the building. This will include more archaeological work (taking up the ground floor, making a survey and relaying the slabs, plus conservation work to wallpaper fragments, possibly from a time when the mill was let for private habitation, and historical graffiti). Structural work will be minor because the brief is to conserve the mill, not to restore it. However floors will be strengthened to allow the installation of new machinery and the accommodation of tutorial classes. Tendering will commence early in this year.

Phase 3 will include reconditioning of the machinery, turbines and leat. The letting of this contract will depend upon the granting of a licence to extract water from the beck.

Plans for reopening the Mill as a tourist attraction and an educational centre are the focus of discussion by Gayle Mill Trust who will manage and run the facility. As a tourist attraction, visitors will be able to see both the original Victorian woodworking

machinery and the original Thomson turbine in operation. For days when there is not enough water in the beck to drive the turbines, which are most likely to be in the summer when visitor numbers are greatest, the machinery would be operated by a three-phase motor powered by the grid. It is

proposed to use the upper floor for woodworking courses with modern machines, and as a lecture room. Ways of producing its own electricity to power the modern facilities at the mill, and even feeding some back into



the grid, are being planned. Heating will be provided by some kind of wood burning stove that will be fuelled from the waste products of woodworking from the mill and from a mobile sawmill to be used locally.

Fund-raising activities include the launch of a range of Gayle Mill souvenirs. So far melamine place mats and coasters are available, following the success of Christmas cards and notelets, all bearing Brenda Watering's sketches of the mill.

*This article has been compiled from the OFF-CUTS issue 2 with permission from Friends of Gayle Mill.*

**P.H.J.**

## **BROADBAND ARRIVES IN WENSLEYDALE**

After a mammoth effort, led by Pip Land of Aysgarth and Bob Owen of Leyburn, culminating in the registrations target being reached within days of BT changing its policy on registrations, finally Broadband became available to many Dales residents last month. Hopefully, Bainbridge will be joining Aysgarth and Hawes before you read this item.

For the little extra cost involved the Newsletter has heard of quite a few readers who have already taken the plunge and signed up for the faster internet and email service. One is also able to say goodbye to the days when the phone line is blocked for hours by 'little Johnny' surfing the internet to do his homework. With Broadband one is able to surf and phone at the same time with just one Broadband line.

If you've yet to hook up to Broadband go to [www.adslguide.org.uk](http://www.adslguide.org.uk) where all the service providers are compared for speed, amount of time available each month and, most importantly, price. You can do much worse than looking at the Wanadoo option with a download speed of 1 Mbps (20 times faster than pay-as-you-go) for just £17.99 per month. Finally do ensure you've adequate firewall and anti-virus protection in place before thinking of installing Broadband .

**T.P.**

## **AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN THE DALES IS PLANNED**

Communities in the Yorkshire Dales could be in line for a £10 million cash injection to safeguard their future.

In a unique partnership, the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority has joined forces with the Skipton Building Society and Craven District Council. They aim to provide affordable, rented housing for 'key' workers to encourage them to stay in Dales towns and villages.

If the scheme gets the go-ahead, it will start with a pilot in the Craven area of the National Park before being rolled out over a number of years at a capital cost of about £10 million.

Research is currently being carried out to identify the kind of key workers needed in the different communities in the Yorkshire Dales. (*A formidable task - Who is a 'key worker' in any community? Does the Editor of the UWNL qualify? Ed.*)

Once a need has been identified in an area of the National Park, the Authority will identify suitable sites. The Skipton Building Society will fund the construction of two- and three-bedroom homes that would be let to the key workers at below average rents.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

*Last month, to mark its 100th edition, the Newsletter distributed £10 Book Tokens to every child in the UWNL area who was born in 1995 when the Newsletter started. A number of letters have been received and now they are acknowledged here:*

Letters of thanks have been received from **Hawes and West Burton Schools** and individually from the following children:

Thank you very much for the £10 book token you gave me. I enjoy reading and look forward to choosing some good books. Happy anniversary and good luck in the future. Many thanks,

**Charles Dinsdale, Gayle**

Thank you for my ten pound book token. I am looking forward to spending it. I am going to be 10 in May 2005.

**Lynn Alderson, Askrigg**

Thank you very much for the book voucher. I am going to enjoy buying a new book with it. I saw your picture in the paper when you were celebrating your 10th anniversary. Last year my school celebrated its 150th anniversary. Thank you very much. **Charlotte Porter, Gunnerside**

Thank you very much for my token. Happy 10th Birthday to you.

**Henry McCarthy, Hawes**

Thank you for my book token. I love to read. **Molly Robinson, Redmire**

## WORKING WITH A RANGER

My name is Stuart Pratt. I am 18 years old and joined the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority as an apprentice in January 2005. I have enjoyed working with my colleagues and taking part in various tasks such as planting trees near the riverbanks so

as to stop erosion and clearing footpaths. Due to the bad weather in early January we have had many days clearing trees from footpaths and sawing them up. I have also taken part in a volunteer's weekend where a large group of us worked together as a team at Aysgill Force planting willow trees along the riverbank and building a fence. I have also built a few drystone walls. I also get to work on a computer completing the written work for my NVQ in Environmental Conservation. **Stuart Pratt**

## **WHERE YOUR MONEY IS BEING SPENT AFTER THE TSUNAMI**

Many people will remember **Amanda Killip** of Askrigg in early January rallying a large crew of helpers and raising over £1,800 to go to help the people of eastern India who had had their lives devastated by the tsunami.

The money went straight away to be used, rather than become clogged up in a big agency. David Eldridge of Bainbridge is chairman of a group of Friends who are using your money. He writes "The response to the tsunami in Tamil Nadu is now well underway. As a small agency our specialist role is making close links with communities. We have now identified seven villages, 15km south of Mallapuram on the coast, where we are going to conduct social development work for the foreseeable future. We have set up an 'outreach team' to work with people in the villages. This comprises two people from each village plus six social workers from our long-standing projects in Tamil Nadu.

The money raised in Askrigg is going towards helping these teams operate. The target is to help vulnerable groups. We supply 800 children from 0-5 years of age with milk each day. We are providing support for around 100 pregnant mothers. Many children have been taken to hospital for a range of problems, exacerbated by the polluted water of the tsunami. £1000 of food, medicine and play equipment has been provided.

The intention now is to maintain the 'outreach teams' for the next six months, at a cost of £2,100 per month. We will conduct a funding review in August. It is also our intention to build a school for 150 children of primary school age. This will cost approximately £10,000 to build and then run for a year. The school will then cost approximately £4,000 to run per annum. Currently there is one school some

5km away. It has 280 children on register and just four teachers. The drop out rate is 30% and the quality of educational provision inevitably low.

Using the school as a starting point we will develop nutrition and health programmes to run alongside it, meeting the needs of both the old and the young. The quality of life for these people before the tsunami was not good. The tsunami killed 25 people in these villages and left some children orphaned. We will promote good development practice in these villages and then in future will share our knowledge with the wider community. In the first instance we are working directly with about 5,000 people.

The Askrigg money was the first we raised. This has motivated others to help us, including North Yorkshire County Council and Education Authority. We have 48 schools that have directly supported us. We have so far raised £40,000, towards a target of £100,000. If anyone would like to know more or who wants to help please feel free to contact me or David on **650618**

**Kate Empsall**



## MUSINGS FROM THE READING ROOM

This column has previously mused a little about climate change and global warming, and the subject is at last beginning to be introduced to other than just specialist media. But if the evidence is becoming as serious as so many authorities are now saying, one wonders why there is so little action, so little leadership to inform the population appropriately, to prepare us for the kind of changes we might need to make to our way of life, and indeed to begin to introduce some of those changes through appropriate tax or other fiscal incentives.

My previous offerings in this vein discussed mainly one aspect of the subject, the CO<sub>2</sub> problem, but all the ramifications of Western affluence based on intensive energy consumption and the ever-increasing demands on other resources to keep up with the pace of technological innovation - all tend to contribute to worsening the effects in ways which should make us stop in our tracks.

The melting of the polar and Greenland ice-caps is accelerating and disrupting the lives of local communities. A modest one metre rise in sea-level worldwide is predicted and will cause flooding in many of the world's biggest cities which are coastal, and damage considerable tracts of agricultural land either directly through inundation or indirectly through salination of ground water. The sensitivity of food crops to weather and pests means that there are other risks to global food supplies because of changing weather patterns and, together with increasing population pressure and poverty, and inappropriate agriculture - whether primitive or high tech. - is contributing to the expansion of most of the world's deserts. The failure of monsoons in Africa and Asia affects over 3 billion people. Environmental refugees from coastal inundation or drought-

stricken interiors (as in Africa during the 1980s) puts more pressure on remaining land, food and fresh water, and this together with warmer temperatures will enhance the potential for spread of tropical diseases. Meanwhile the drive to produce more food from intensive production techniques which depend heavily on chemical inputs are degrading the long-term productivity of land, and the clearing of vast tracts of tropical forest and draining of wetlands and swamps usually causes unforeseen consequences which further destabilise or destroy fragile ecosystems. The complexity of ecosystems tends to be a mark of their stability. Human activity often has a negative impact on this complexity, reducing both its genetic resources and stability, on which human civilisation ultimately depends. Moreover the great forests of the world absorb CO<sub>2</sub> as well as replenishing atmospheric oxygen through photosynthesis. Even clean air is diminishing in some countries.

Authorities from diverse disciplines speak confidently that the contemporary pressure of one species on the entire global ecosystem is unprecedented throughout the 3.5 billion year history of life on Earth. During that time there have been five periods when life almost disappeared in mass extinction events. The current rate and pattern of extinctions suggests, they say, that the human species is now actively accelerating the sixth mass extinction, because the more of the planet we disrupt and appropriate for our purposes, the less there is to support other forms of life. We know that depleted ecosystems become unstable and so we are putting our own life support in jeopardy. We think of ourselves, quite rightly in many ways, as a successful species, yet the genus *Homo* has been around for a mere 2 million years. The dinosaurs ruled the Earth for 100 million years, the ammonoids dominated the seas for even longer.

A range of serious analysts now predicts that the planet cannot provide for the affluent “Western” standard of living to which the rest of the world aspires. A major series of international initiatives and conferences this year are designed to tackle global poverty. But there are some who doubt that poverty can sustainably be eliminated without dismantling the system which has generated “Western” style affluence, in which so many costs are “externalised”, - i.e. not included in the balance sheet. How will the affluent react to this idea? Disbelief, denial or apathy are mentioned repeatedly in reports and surveys. In conversations with people the impression is “oh but people here aren’t going to give up their standard of living”. I can’t help wondering if there isn’t something more than vaguely shocking in this position. Are there not some moral questions here? – to do with basic human values of fairness and justice?

**Sue Lightfoot**

### **SYLVIA’S PORCH...**

...has achieved fame! It was interviewed for the Darlington and Stockton Times recently. When the photographer moved a chest of drawers so that he could squeeze in (it's a very small porch) to photograph some sewing machines, he revealed the biggest spider ever seen in the Dale, along with its numerous family and some blushing large cobwebs. The spider must have come with the latest selection of Singer sewing machines, now on their way to Africa via the refurbishers in Bradford. Or maybe the porch doesn't get dusted very often. Another spin-off from the article was the offer of some sheet metal working tools and some cobblers’ tools. Keep them coming - tools are very welcome.

**Sylvia Crookes**

### **OLD COPIES AVAILABLE**

We have been given a number of past copies (1980s etc.) of the Wensleydale Advertiser (not to be confused with this Newsletter). If anyone would like to use them for research, please call at Old Station House, Hawes, asap after **March 10th**.

### **NEWSLETTER A.G.M.**

This will be held on **Monday March 21st at 7.00 pm in the Bainside Arts Barn in Bainbridge**.

There is an open invitation to this meeting; but there is no need to worry, you won’t automatically be co-opted on to the committee!

### **GOING DOTTY...**

**Staunch newsletter supporter and sharp-eyed critic takes us to task!**

Colin Day wrote: For Christmas I was given ‘Eats, Shoots and Leaves’ by Lynne Truss, an impassioned and entertaining plea for the right use of punctuation, lest we lose a valuable part of our heritage. It might be too much to suggest it as required reading for all involved in the publication of Newsletters, but I would like to append below what she says about the **ellipsis**.

The article goes on to describe this, which is referred to as the black hole of the punctuation universe, namely THREE DOTS. She would be horrified to know that this Newsletter not only uses it in place of a dash, but has been known to make the three dots into twelve or even fifteen. (*Who’s counting!*)

... its proper uses are quite specific, and very few:

1. To indicate words missing ... from the quoted passage,
2. To trail off in an intriguing manner... which is always a good way to end anything, of course - in an intriguing manner. When you consider the power of erotic suggestion contained in the three-dot chapter ending (“He swept her into his arms. She was powerless to resist. All she knew was, she loved him ...”), it’s a bit of a comedown for the ellipsis to be used as a sub-species of the dash.

*(We are not quite sure to what extent we can rise to erotic suggestion but we’re all going on an ellipsis training course ... Ed)*

## ***WHAT'S ON LISTING***

**TRANSFER THESE DATES TO YOUR DIARY OR CALENDAR NOW!**

### **February**

- 25 Keith Johnson Pairs. White Hart.
- 25 Food for thought. See page 39
- 26 West Witton Chapel. Coffee and Stalls
- 26 Casino Night, See box on page 38

### **March**

- 1,8,15 Lent Lunches in Hawes. See Box & 22 on page 31
- 1 Hawes Drama Group read 'Zak' by Howard Brighthouse, Gayle Institute, 7.30pm.
- 4 Lent Lunch, Thoraby Village Hall
- 4 Womens World Day of Prayer, St. Margaret's, Hawes at 2.30pm
- 4,11 Food for thought. See page 39
- 5 Casino/Games Night, Thoraby Village Hall, 7.30 pm
- 6 United Service, Leyburn Methodist Church at 7.00pm
- 11 Lent Lunch, West Burton
- 11 Pie & Pea Supper. See page 35
- 12 Concert for World Mission. See Box on page 38.
- 15 'Rejuvenate Wensleydale' AGM, Hawes Auction Mart, 5.30pm
- 17 Hawes WI, 'A garden for all seasons', Methodist Rooms, Hawes - 7pm
  
- 18 Lent Lunch, Redmire
- 19 'The Impact of Pre-Historic Man on the Dales', DCM at 7.30pm
- 19 High Dales WI Area Show, Market Hall, Hawes, 10am - 3.30pm
- 20 Palm Sunday, Hawes Methodist 'Ladies Day', Margaret Wearmouth (Co.Durham) 10.30 & 6.30
- 21 AGM of Newsletter, Bainside Arts Barn, Bainbridge, 7.00pm
- 22 Coffee morning for Amala, Methodist School Room, Hawes, 10 - Noon
- 31 Gayle Ladies, 'Circle Dancing', 7.30pm