

Upper Wensleydale Newsletter  
Issue 103—May 2005 (Abridged Edition)

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## EDITORIAL

**S**ing a song of Maytime, Sing a song of spring"; insults, half-truths flying round, Elections in full swing.

Assuming you've had enough, we will keep off them directly in this piece!

Very many people in Upper Wensleydale say what a great place it is to live. Agreed; and yet statistics reveal that on several counts it is deprived. Presumably it depends what we think are the real things that count in "quality of life", whether we are 'glasses half-empty, or glasses half-full' people.

**Let's go for the positive, 'half-full'** to start with, and consider the last number of years: bus service along the dale better than for years; road improvements, a better water supply, undergrounding of cables, broadband available; better mobile phone reception; a new ambulance station in Bainbridge, the Air ambulance; redevelopment of care homes for the elderly; new sporting facilities in several communities; a proper rail-link from Redmire; unemployment almost unheard of; most villages with a shop and post office facilities, some new shops; still four local primary schools; community education facilities; new community office with library; a new local abattoir; numerous small environmental and conservation schemes, tree-planting and grants from the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust or the YDNPA; even local housing schemes coming along.

**The 'half-empty'** will, quite rightly mention the bitter failure of the Hawes swimming pool application and the still worrying alleged horror stories about after-hours medical care or the uncertainties of new grants replacing farming subsidies.

We still keep being asked what 'services' we need. The above long list makes no distinction between "public" or "private" initiatives, or "partnerships" but it does omit another "p":- "personal", because in the list there is no real mention of that other input into our area which helps to make it the great place that it is.

The personal commitment of so many people is huge; giving time- and money- so that so many local councils, committees, clubs, sports, societies, pubs, churches, Guides, Brownies, interest groups can continue, and special annual

events can take place up and down the dale in most villages. We have no formal "Neighbourhood Watch" but who needs it with the immense care that goes on by the personal visiting, looking-in-on, noticing people's needs, giving lifts to, almost anyone in need?

**By now, you should know there is a "but"** on its way. BUT increasingly, local councils, several village halls, school P.T.As. and governors, and some organisations have let it be known that they are struggling to get volunteers to help. Some sections of the community seem quite happy to opt out, to leave it to others or to say they'll maybe come to it when they are older. Some think that everything now should be provided by the state, the local authority or at least somebody else! And we bet they are the ones who grumble first at any proposed tax-rise or charge to pay for them! There can be great pleasure in helping to run or organise or plan things; there's the chance to meet new or different friends; to work together; to gain confidence, to see things happen that people enjoy. It might even look good on a C.V.!

We have recently read an account of life in seventeenth century England where in all aspects of local life it was each person's duty to take part, for a while, in every aspect of 'service' – roads, drains, community health, the poor etc. As it said "...although there was probably a bit of arm-twisting to make everyone do their bit, in their hearts they realised their communities would cease to function if they didn't pull together."

So yes, this is a great place to live, but to keep it that way needs the public, the private, the partnerships and the **personal** commitment. Please consider, seriously, volunteering for something, especially if you are in under-represented age-groups. It needn't be for ever.

**Survey/questionnaire** For those who live in the parishes where this has been distributed— please return as soon as you can.

### NEXT ISSUE: 104

The June issue will be produced on May 25th and 26th and will be distributed between May 26th and 31st

**Deadline for copy:  
THURSDAY MAY 19th**

## ASKRIGG SCHOOL NEWS

On Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April, we received a visit from Councillor and Mrs Dennis; Councillor Dennis is the Chairman of North Yorkshire County Council. He and his wife were on a visit to Wensleydale which, as well as visiting the school, included opening the new library and Information Centre at Hawes. Councillor and Mrs Dennis joined the whole school for assembly and heard the choir perform their award winning songs. They then toured the school, watched the pupils at work, and

heard about the extensive building work that has gone on over the Easter break, and the plans to extend and refurbish the school library. It was a privilege to entertain Councillor and Mrs Dennis, who were very complimentary about the school and its pupils.

*The photograph shows Cllr and Mrs Dennis, Mrs Cork (Headteacher), with Mrs Middleton and Mr Wallington (Governors) with the infant children.*



## **BREAK FREE**

**- a new service for people with memory problems and their carers.**

“Break free” is a new service at the Leyburn community centre on **Friday mornings at 10am-12 noon** and is organised by the Alzheimer society in Richmondshire. Coffee (free) and information about dementia will be available.

Many people experience memory problems and find it difficult to know who to ask for help. The volunteers who staff “Break free” will be able to let people know what type of help is available. However the service is more than just an information service. Carers can find it very difficult to go shopping with a person who has dementia and “Break free” is somewhere for them to go for a coffee, where they know that they can relax.

If you have memory problems yourself or if you know or look after someone who has, do call in at “Break free” and have a coffee or tea and a chat. The service is free, no appointment is needed, and there will always be someone there who understands what it is like to look after someone with memory problems.

The Leyburn community centre is behind the shoe shop on the market square, very close to Hoppers estate agents - very convenient for a trip to the market!

If you would like more information about “Break free” or the Alzheimer's society please phone the branch office and day centre at Garget Walker House at Richmond;

Telephone number **01748 825817**.

**Penny Blanch**

## **AIR AMBULANCE TO THE RESCUE**

Earlier this month the members of the Upper Dales Walking Group experienced first-hand the advantages of having an Air Ambulance service in the Dales.

On one of our regular walks a female member slipped in the snow that had settled near the summit of Ten End. She had a heavy and painful fall suffering what was later diagnosed as a compound fracture of the left elbow and it was obvious that she could not be moved to a point where vehicular access was possible. So, once we had found a spot where there was mobile phone reception, a 999 call was made requesting the assistance of the Air Ambulance. About 30 minutes later it duly arrived and the paramedics took charge, dispensing gas-and-air and pain-killing injections before the grateful patient was loaded into the helicopter and whisked off to Northallerton.

At a time when the Air Ambulance service is in need of further Public Funding Support it was a timely reminder to all of us who either work or walk in the hills of the value of having what could literally be a life-saving service available to us.

The members of the Upper Dales Walking Group would like to express their thanks to all involved in providing such a speedy and efficient service and hope that support for the Air Ambulance remains near the top of our lists of worthy causes when the collection tins come-a-rattling.

**Barry M. Cruickshanks**

## LIGHT, DAMP AND DUST

These are the things that do the damage to the old and valuable treasures in our National Trust properties. That was the starting point for Terry Frazier's slide talk to the museum friends on Friday April 15th. The lengths to which the Trust goes to preserve, clean and repair made most of us tired even to think about it. Surely we'll never complain about dusting again.

In the closed season of the Trust's properties every single item of furniture, pottery or silverware is cleaned with the most intense detail and sensitivity and then, with its own personalised dust-sheet, covered until spring. Even then, the more precious pieces may be only revealed on a rota basis so as not to be exposed to too much light.

Visitors, too, cause some problems not immediately apparent. Simply brushing your clothes against soft furniture (that's why we—or they—are roped off!) or touching a hanging, causes decay. Even dust from our passing by adversely affects books in book-cases; the Trust even knows the heights of the shelves worst affected and dusts accordingly; and beware, too much cleaning can ruin things. That's a relief! A fascinating evening. **A.S.W**

## SURGERY NEWS

### **Mobile Mammography Unit**

The breast screening unit will be at the Hawes surgery throughout most of May. The target group is women 50-70 years old. If you have not had a letter inviting you to be screened, you can request a screen by telephoning Hawes surgery or asking at reception. There will be no car parking at Hawes surgery whilst the unit is in place. Could I ask everyone not to park in the road near the car park entrance, or outside David Gall's office.

### **New Pharmaceutical Contract**

From April 1<sup>st</sup>, the government introduced a new contract for pharmacists. As a result, the prices that the practice is reimbursed for many of the generic drugs dispensed has dropped dramatically. This will have a profound effect on small rural medical practices. Consequently, there may be some changes to some of the medications we supply. Mostly this will be the substitution of the original branded product instead of the generic copy drug. For any changed medicines that we dispense, you will receive an advice note with your drugs.

## LIGHT AND AIRY...

...That is the feel that Tricia Robinson, much better known to many as Pat Kirkbride, has achieved in the smart new contemporary crafts shop on Main Street in Hawes, and adding to the general improvement of several businesses in that area of the town. "Tricia sounds better for a shop!" she says.

Pat was born and went to school in Bainbridge, then Leyburn, thereafter working at the Black Bull café for many years and at the old Central Café before it was sold to become the bigger Spar shop in 1991.

"Then I wanted more education" said Pat and, down in Gloucester, she attended college for basic courses which led to Lancaster and Morecambe College and ultimately to a degree from Lancaster University in Occupational Therapy.

Pat was introduced to husband Max by "Sue at the Laundrette". He is a professor at Durham University, has responsibility for academic buildings at five of the north region's universities and runs his award winning "Durham Scientific Crystals" hi-tech company.

For the last six years Pat has been working at the Psychiatric Hospital in Lancaster in adult mental health while living up in Snaizeholme, but was looking for something to do nearer to home when the shop became available. "As you can see I've done all sorts of things" she said.

"Why this kind of business?" Pat had considered 'clothes' but having researched it carefully realised you needed a huge investment and had to be 'in the know'.

Seeing the growth and success of 'gift type industry' in both Kirkby Lonsdale and Kirkby Stephen, Pat has decided to 'give it a go', wanting again to be in the middle of a community and to offer something different. "I knew how I wanted it to look" she said, and with new lighting, clean

simple shelving, plenty of dusting and no clutter and a tasteful selection of goods, she seems to have achieved it.

"Tricia Robinson" is open Monday to Saturday 10.00 am to 5.00 pm and Sunday 11.00 am to 5.00 pm. **A.S.W**

## ELECTION CANDIDTATES

General:

William J. Hague ;Con.

Neil R. Foster; Lab.

Jacque D. Bell; LibDem.

Leslie A. Rowe; Green

County; Upper Dales:

John Blackie; Con.

Richard D. Good; LibDem

County; Mid Dales:

Linda S. Curran; LibDem.

T. Roger N. Harrison-Topham; Con

John M. Southwell; Lab.

## NEW BOUTIQUE

The ladies of Hawes have no doubt noticed a new clothing shop in town, 'Flairs and Graces' This is owned by Jill Stott and opened on 16th April. Jill plans to stock a range of shoes, belts, handbags and a good selection of clothes including tempting labels such as Nougat and French Connection. Jill says she can obtain her stock in sizes to order. At the moment the stock is summer clothes but there will be an exciting autumn collection later in the year. The shop is open 9.15am to 5.00pm, except Thursdays, and for a few hours on a Sunday. We wish Jill all the best with her new venture. **S.H.**



## LETTERS

Looking through some old memorabilia I came across a Yorebridge Grammar School "In House" magazine 1939. The following may be worth publishing; written by JAMES (PINKY) BLADES age 13(?)

### FISHING

I wander by the riverside  
With rod and line all ready  
And throw into a likely pool  
With eye and hand both steady.

The birds are singing overhead  
The sun shines in the sky  
Lambs are skipping in the fields  
The river murmurs by.

Up comes the fish to take the fly  
I'm sure it is a trout,  
And what a beauty it is too,  
A pounder I've no doubt.

The reel goes click, out runs the line  
The rod bends almost double,  
Now wits must work with hand and eye  
To land it without trouble.

The day goes on more fish I land  
Of flies there's been a hatch,  
Red Balmer he's the fly when on  
To get you a good catch.

The sun is sinking in the west,  
I went my homeward way  
With pannier heavy on my back  
The end of a perfect day.

Regards

**Michael T Weatherald  
Askrigg**

Dear Sir/Madam,

### **The Irritable Mobile**

I read with interest the letter from Helen Shaipe (Issue 102 April) with reference to the mobile phone.

I arrived in West Burton in December 1991 after enduring commuting the 40 miles from the City (Farringdon) to Tring station in Herts. on a daily basis until I nearly died of boredom.

I had a first class season ticket provided for me by my employers and in 1988 onwards the City Types who sat alongside me were the first office boys to be given these wonderful inventions. (Working for BT I had used a mobile not much smaller than a standard military supplied field telephone when I was on call for some time). As the train departed from Berkhamsted station at around 17.50hrs this guy would shuffle about and from the inside of his Financial Times he would discreetly telephone his wife and say "Hello darling we are just approaching Tring— can you warm it up for me". To this day I have never fathomed what it was she was warming up!

**Ken Walsh, West Burton**

## OUR NEW COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRE OPENS

Gob-smacked is probably the only word to describe the feeling that many of us got when we first entered the new Community Office and Library in Hawes. It offers everything the previous Office and Library did separately but now does it in some style with much more for all of the community.



Most of the team: L to R, Abbie Hogg, Administration; Sheila Brown, Community Information Assistant; Angie Simpson, Community Information Officer; Hilary Ayling, Partnership Manager; Jenni Robinson-Richmond, Richmondshire DC Cashier; and (seated) Nigel Chorley, Accounts Manager

All the services provided by Richmondshire D.C. can be accessed from here. One can pay one's Council Tax, get Parking Permits or Bus Passes, etc, and there's a Benefits Surgery every **Tuesday from 1.30 - 3.30 pm**. There will shortly be Money Advice Surgeries on Fridays twice a month. Payment top-ups for electricity keys as well as mobile phones can be purchased while one pays the Rent. It is also the 'Police Station' for the area offering many of the services we need from

time to time. Their friendly service is available 5 days a week - **9.30-4.30 pm Monday to Friday** and also **Thursday evening from 5.30-7.00 pm**.

These are the same hours that the Library is now open for business; an increase of some 26 hours a week. The expanded Library has many more books, videos and CDs, most of which are brand, spanking new. Its previous apology for an IT section has now been upgraded to a thoroughly modern facility with six screens available each with broadband internet connection and free to all library members. The only charge made is for any printing.

There is now a Children's Corner in the Library with seats for little people and many books and drawing facilities to keep junior members entertained. A 'Local Access Point' - LAP - answering questions on family life, sex, jobs, etc, that they find difficult asking their parents, is planned.

Three Meeting Rooms have been included: No.1 for private one-to-one discussions, No.2 for small groups of up to half a dozen and No.3 for groups of 12-20. It is intended that these will be used for activities for all age groups within the community. The first event is a 'Local Author' evening when the author of *Jacky Boy* and *Cleopatra Kelly*, Ken McCoy, will read from his books on **Thursday, April 28th at 7.15 pm**. Future events are planned.

If you don't use it, it'll be your loss. **T.P.**



## MUSINGS FROM THE READING ROOM

This month's musings borrow heavily from far greater minds than mine. A few months before his assassination in 1948 Mohandas Gandhi, the revered sage of India known as Mahatma (meaning "great soul"), gave to his grandson, Arun, a talisman upon which were engraved "Seven Blunders". These, said Gandhi, were imbalances in human aspiration and activity, out of which grows the violence that plagues the world.

Abstention from violence is the cardinal virtue of the yogic moral code. Gandhi was one of the world's greatest exponents of this code. He said, **"Not to hurt any living being is no doubt part of non-violence but it is its least expression. The principle of non-violence is hurt by every evil thought, by undue haste, by lying, by hatred, by wishing ill to anyone. It is also violated by our holding onto what the world needs."**

Gandhi opposed the Western notion that progress lies in an accumulation of material prosperity. He preached a higher standard of spiritual living and maintained that a lower level of material wealth was a necessary prerequisite. He maintained that the essence of civilisation consists not in the multiplication of wants but in their deliberate and voluntary reduction.

Before anyone should dismiss this thesis out of hand it is worth reflecting on the kind of material imbalances that wrack our contemporary world and the social, political and environmental repercussions which daily beset us. Gandhi's "Seven Blunders" illumine such reflection. He called them a form of "passive violence", which fuels the active violence of crime, rebellion and war. **"We could work till doomsday to achieve peace"**, he said, **"and would get nowhere as long as we**

**ignore passive violence in our world."**

The Seven "Blunders" Gandhi identified:

**Wealth without work**

**Pleasure without conscience**

**Knowledge without character**

**Commerce without morality**

**Science without humanity**

**Worship without sacrifice**

**Politics without principles**

Arun later added an eighth:

**Rights without responsibilities.**

Almost 50 years after Gandhi's death, the internationally acclaimed systems analyst and author of 'The Global Citizen', Donella Meadows, wrote: "[Today] the blunders have been institutionalised, built into our corporations, our governments, our very culture. Not only are we no longer embarrassed by them, we actively practise them. In some of them, we even take pride. From Wall Street to state lotteries, we entice ourselves with the promise of wealth without work. Whole sectors of the economy offer pleasure without conscience. Many scientists believe their greatest strength is their ability to separate their knowledge from their character and their science from their souls. Advocate serious morality in a commercial context and you will be laughed out of a job. Morality? It might be nice to take the high road, but our competitors won't. So forget it. Insiders in Washington, London or Tokyo speak openly of their ability to cut political deals in a world totally without principle. Somehow our public discussion has become dominated by either/or simplicities;..... people and organisations pick and choose what suits them, others choose something else, and so debate becomes polarised. Gandhi's central point was to find balance – i.e. this **and** that. Life is full of unsolvable problems. Pretending to have solved them by choosing just one or another of profound opposites can generate even more blunders

than the ones Gandhi listed. Justice without mercy. Order without freedom. Talking without listening. Individuality without community. Stability without change. Private interest without public interest. Liberty without equality. Or, in every case, *vice versa*. In many public debates you can hear the Gandhian blunders - whether about health care, crime, taxation, regulation, education, the environment – the passive violence that leads to active violence. There's no point in taking sides in these debates. There's only an opportunity to point out that balance, discovered through love, is what we should be seeking, - and what we will always have to be seeking."

Sue Lightfoot

### WHO AM I?

I maim without killing. I break hearts and I ruin lives. I am cunning and malicious and I gather strength with age. The more I am quoted, the more I am believed.

I flourish at every level of society. My victims are helpless; they cannot protect themselves against me, because I have no name and no face.

To track me down is impossible. The harder you try, the more illusive I become. I am nobody's friend. Once I tarnish a reputation it's never the same.

I topple Governments. I wreck marriages.

I make innocent people cry

Who am I? My name is GOSSIP!.....

Many thanks to all concerned.

Graham Laycock, Appersett

### UPPER DALES FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

Following the success of last year's event, another drop-in Family History Computer Club has been arranged for Spring Bank Holiday **Monday, May 30th**, in Hudson House, Reeth. Anyone is welcome to call in during the day. Group members will be on hand to help you get started, and a wide range of material is available covering all parts of the country. Local census booklets covering Swaledale, Arkengarthdale and Wensleydale will also be on sale. In addition a computer club will be held in the **Key Centre, Middleham from 1.30-4.30pm on Wednesday, May 11th.**

The speaker at the March meeting was Peter Underwood who, with his wife June, produced the Barden Biography last year. Their book, chronicling the history of Barden near Leyburn through the stories of its families, drew on memories and recordings of the residents as well as printed sources such as censuses and parish records. Peter explained how the idea had grown from a collection of old photographs brought together for the Millennium into a full blown book and also covered many of the practical aspects of the production and selling of the final product. Proceeds from sales of the book so far have been sent to the Yorkshire Air Ambulance, Barden chapel and Hauxwell church. Further details are available on the website [www.bardenbio.co.uk](http://www.bardenbio.co.uk) which also contains photographs and sound recordings of many of those who contributed their family memories. The May meeting will be in **Fremington Sunday School near Reeth, at 2pm on Wednesday, May 25th**, when Paul Jennings will speak on "Was your Ancestor a Publican?" Everyone very welcome; non members £1. For further details of any of the meetings please phone Tony Keates on **640436**

## DO YOU BLOW?

**H**ave you seen that TV programme where you see a celebrity's home and have to guess who it belongs to? Well here's a local version; see if you can guess who I've been to visit this time. I travelled all of 100 yards from my own home to find my way through a compact but clearly well used workshop. Then it was up the stairs going through one of our typical Hawes buildings, with rooms leading off and on different levels. There were old beams but also modern equipment, and evidence of some alterations going on. Someone much at home in the traditional dales, but also well ahead with technology? Do you need more clues? "Well" said the person in question "People usually come to see me when they're in trouble one way or another". It's Roger Iveson of course. He's not someone who likes the limelight but he did let me ask him about the business he runs with his wife Sue, and about his activities locally and the interests that have taken them both abroad in recent years.

**Roger grew up at Burtersett** where his father was a farmer, and he went to school in Bainbridge and Leyburn. His early interests took him to University at Bradford to follow a four year sandwich course, working for Thorn Electrical and completing a degree in Electrical and Electronic Engineering. Working for Thorn included spells at a light bulb factory in Leicester and in a TV factory at Gosport, down on the south coast. Once there the person in charge of trainees put Roger through a stiff assessment before deciding whereabouts in the firm he should work. "Do you blow?" he was asked. "Euphonium, good .. you're in the factory band".

**But Roger couldn't spend more than 4 years away** from the Dales so when the

factory closed he decided to set up in business at Hawes. As a student he and a friend had started up repairing and selling on second hand TVs so Roger decided to follow this trade and moved into the large room at the White Hart offered to him by Jim Sleightholm. He worked there 2½ years and then bought the shop where he has been ever since.

**In his spare time** Roger helped with the lighting for the Hawes Operatic Society and there he met a teacher of home economics from Hexham who lived at Garsdale and worked at Settlebeck School. He and Sue married in 1983 and soon after that she joined Roger full time in their electrical retail and repair business.

**Of course Roger is an enthusiast** about new developments in TV quality, but he has never had much time to watch it. Soon after coming home Derek Ramsden invited him to join the Hawes Retained Fire Service. There are 11 men in the team and in 1993 Roger took over its leadership from John Moore. Hawes Fire Station covers as far as Aysgarth Parish and south and westwards as far as Newby Head. They also assist adjoining Fire Services from Skipton, Settle, Bentham, Leyburn, Reeth and Sedbergh where they get called out as second pump. The commitment is for a regular weekly training night plus other training days and Roger also spends extra time doing administration. Serious call outs are to fires and road accidents but other services include rescuing dogs stuck in narrow stiles and helping a certain lady at Askrigg whose TV aerial was swinging in the wind... at 5.30am! (And, no it wasn't one of Roger's aerials).

**Roger has also been a member of Hawes Band** since "the second gala" around 1968. This takes him out practising another night each week. Some other evenings see Roger repairing electrical goods and not just those which he has

supplied. The internet has helped this part of his job giving quick access to technical data and diagrams held by manufacturers. In fact the business doesn't stand still in any way although the exterior of the premises may not have changed much in over 100 years. Once it was a printer's shop and later Bob Tunstall ran his accountancy business there but recently Roger and Sue have done a major revamp, making better use of display space both for white goods and for Sue's house wares. Roger is pleased to be a partner in Euronics, the buying organisation for 8,000 electrical retailers which has accounts with a wide range of manufacturers and allows them to buy and sell at competitive prices. And of course Roger's prices include delivery and installation. (Commercial over; anyway most of us in the area have long since learned the value of buying local, it applies to TVs as well as it does to cheese and meat.)

**Despite being so fully involved in the community** Roger and Sue have been keen travellers lately and not only to Scotland and to Sue's native Northumbria but also in search of wildlife. Roger has been a keen maker of videos since getting his first video camera 25 years ago. He had plans for using it in Africa but in fact ended up in Churchill, Manitoba, recording Sue's polar bears. They stayed with 24 other people for five days at a lodge in the tundra "It was a sort of zoo in reverse, with us stuck inside and the bears all around". People on this trip recommended going to see the grizzly bears in the rainforest of British Columbia and so Roger and Sue made a video there too. As if that weren't enough Roger told me he and Sue were just back from a winter visit to Yellowstone. They had been before in summer but were advised that winter was even more special. There were only 6 in the party and they travelled mainly by snow coach although ...

"It has been a dry year and there was more snow at Manchester airport when we left". The trip included three days in the upper geyser basin where there are hundreds of geysers. In another area the highlight was seeing packs of wolves. There are now about 7 packs which have been reintroduced having been hunted almost to extinction 50 years ago.

**And what of the future?** The shop is well set up and Roger and Sue are ably supported by John Banks full time ("I grew up with his father.") and Tina Spence, part time. The sales, aerial and repair work continues and Roger points out that dales folk take well to new equipment, usually just one season later than the city dweller. And don't think that going over to digital TV is all we have to think about. After that comes high definition TV, about 4 times clearer than ordinary digital. They have it in Japan and the US and no doubt it's coming our way. When it does Roger will be able to watch his beloved documentary and nature programmes in greater glory ..... but he hasn't the time for watching has he? Time.... a time machine .. for that he needs a Tardis...somebody please tell Dr Who where there's a good electrical repair service, but he'll have to get in a queue as Roger's too busy with his local customers, I'm glad to say.

**PJR**

## MAY GARDENING

There are two times in the year when gardens have a special appeal, early summer and again in autumn. One tree that looks good at both these times is the apple or *Malus* and it is one of the most beautiful of all fruit trees. Apple blossom is very attractive and harvesting the fruit is one of the pleasures of autumn.



Original forms of apple trees can still be found in Turkey and India and the Romans were known to cultivate orchards but it was from George III onwards and in particular the Victorians who did the work in breeding the varieties we know today. Now there are over 3 thousand and names like pippin, russet, pearmain and rennet are a reminder of these early forms.

Although May is too late to plant bare-rooted stock, container grown ones can go in any time providing they are kept well watered and root disturbance kept to a minimum. *Malus* hate strong winds and cold, damp soil so a rich well drained soil in a sheltered position is ideal. Given the right conditions they will live for 50 years or more. Most ordinary varieties can be bought container grown but specialised nurseries will supply more choice and cheaper bare-rooted stock to plant any time between November and March.

The mature size of the tree depends on its rootstock. As no tree will grow true from seed the fruit bearing upper half needs to be grafted on to a particular rootstock and it's this that determines size, the age at which it begins to fruit, and its suitability for training. Generally smaller trees are easier to train into cordons, fans espaliers etc. but they need permanent staking, much richer soil and extra feeding to guarantee good crops. M27 and M9 are the smaller ones ideal for containers or tubs, most orchards use M26 as these trees bear larger early fruit which is not too difficult to pick.

Medium stock grows on MM106 whilst MM111 and M25 are the most vigorous growing into large mature trees capable of producing up to 400lbs of fruit annually.

No tree is reliably self-fertile so any small garden requires 2 or 3 pollinators. Apple blossom starts in mid April and continues through May. Since each tree flowers for about 2 weeks, this is when it's important for them to have some overlap. It's often recommended to keep the base around a new tree clear for the first few years but once established, grass or clover growing right up to the trunk retards growth and promotes fruiting - even dessert apples take on better colour and store longer when grown in grass apparently.

Most apple trees will need some sort of pruning and the majority bear fruit on spurs formed on older branches. Usually they are pruned twice a year - in summer to restrict growth and again in winter to stimulate it. Apple trees look very attractive whether left as semi-standard or trained into one of the many specialised forms such as cordons, fans or espaliers, and miniature ones can look particularly good when trained as "step-overs" along the edge of a path.→

Apple tree names have a lovely sound to them. Claygate Pearmain, Merton Charm, Ribston Pippin Gravenstein are dessert varieties not found in supermarkets and Lanes Prince Albert, Howgate Wonder or Rev. W. Wilkes make excellent cookers and can all be recommended. If a dual purpose apple is required then Blenheim Orange, Mutsu, or Herring's Pippin are trees that produce good crops every year and the longer they are stored the sweeter they become.

May is a lovely month to be out and about - there's so much to enjoy.

Happy gardening.

**Peduncle**

## FRIENDS OF GAYLE MILL

The first Annual General Meeting since the inauguration of the Friends will be held on **Friday June 3rd at 7.00 pm at Hawes Creamery.**

Graham Bell, the Director of the North of England Civic Trust, which owns the Mill, will give a presentation. There will be light refreshments.

The meeting is open for all who are members of the Friends of Gayle Mill. If you would like to attend please contact the secretary so we can plan the catering.

Phone **Mike Thomson: 663595**

### WEST BURTON SCHOOL

Last term was a good term because lots of fun things happened. Mr Hicks left after 2 years at our school. We now have a new head teacher who came after Easter called Mrs Brotherton, she is very kind and helpful.

Before Easter we had a decorated egg contest which Hayley Moore won with Puss in Boots.

We finished our Indian topic and have moved to Ancient Egypt this term apart from that we've been working hard.

#### Charlie Mayer Year 5

On Monday the Infant Class went to Peter

Dobbing's farm. Mrs Stone and Mrs Taylor came too. We went to see the sheep and lambs. First I

learnt about what the sheep eat and what they drink. I liked the pet lamb. James let a lamb suck

his finger. Edward looked at a sheep who had two lambs. On the way back we saw some sheep

and lambs in a field.

**Libby Horsfield Year 1**

## CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2005

This year is a significant one for Christian Aid. Not only is it a celebration of 60 years of responding to need around the world, but we also have the best opportunity in a generation to make global poverty history. That's why this year, collectors are asked to distribute Big Vote action cards for International Trade Justice as part of their House to House collection. It only takes a minute or two to fill it in and send it off, but this simple act could help improve the lives of billions of people in poor countries around the world. Also, if you are a tax payer don't forget to fill in the Gift Aid form attached to the red collecting envelope as this increases your giving by 28 with no extra cost to yourself.

We have already given a great deal to those in desperate need this year, but I hope we can at least match last year's total of £1,642 for the Hawes area—perhaps even surpass it! That would be great! The events of the week are as follows:-

**SUNDAY MAY 15th**

United Christian Aid Service at Hawes Methodist Church 6.30 pm Led by Rev Martin James. Collection to be given to Christian Aid.

**TUESDAY MAY 17th**

Christian Aid Coffee Morning 10 am to 12 noon. Hawes Methodist Rooms. Cake Stall. Bring and Buy Stalls. "Fair Trade" goods stall. Gifts of cake, scones and biscuits etc would be appreciated.

The House to House collection takes place throughout the week until **Saturday May 21st**. There are 2 small areas of Little Ings in need of collectors, so if you could spare the time to help with these or any other events please give me a ring.

**Linda Butters 667662**  
**Christian Aid Secretary, Hawes area**

**“SUSTAINABLE FUTURES”  
EVENTS**

**The first of these is Monday, June 6th, at  
the Dales Countryside Museum  
10.00 am until 3.00 pm**

Bookings to, and programmes available  
from: **650060 or 650980**

**JUST THE TICKET!**

Val Ward has retired from her post as librarian at Hawes after sixteen years. After working at Hawes School as cook and then dinner lady, she got the job in the library after answering an ad. I asked her if there had been any funny moments to look back on. "Only when I was locked in and the book borrowers locked out, twice!" she said, recalling how it was only when gravel was thrown at the window by someone desperate to come in that she realised what had happened. "I had thought it was rather quiet that evening!" Hawes library was open only twice a week, Tuesdays and Thursday evenings. The new one, commented Val, is open now every day. I got the impression that one of the best things about the job for Val was getting to know the people who came in. The newcomers to the area, (if they were readers) soon presented themselves at the library, and I am sure were made welcome by Val. "Tuesday morning was always busiest, it quietened down in the afternoon, and Thursdays were mostly "regulars"." she recalled. "You had to be very discreet too," she confided,

**YOREDALE ART CLUB  
ANNUAL EXHIBITION  
Methodist Church Hall,  
Leyburn  
April 29th & 30th, May 1st & 2nd  
10.00am to 5.00pm daily except  
Sunday when opens at Noon.**

" you couldn't help hearing all sorts and of course you hadn't to let on, rather like a doctor I suppose" Val is not going to be putting her feet up much, she has two grandchildren who keep her busy and what with the craftwork, (she's making a lovely "hooky" piece depicting places in Gayle) I'm sure she won't miss the job too much. She might even find the time to go to the library! Thank you, Val, from all the Wensleydale bookworms. **S.H.**

**CHAOS**

Now Hawes Operatic Society is really getting chaotic.

The Society is launching A '**Hundred Club**' in July this year under the title of **CHAOS** Club. The annual tickets for membership will be £12.00 a year. There will be eleven monthly prizes of £25.00, £10.00 and £5.00.

In the twelfth month the prizes will be £100.00, £40.00 and £20.00. The membership is open to anyone, not just Operatic Society members.

For anyone unsure of how a 'Hundred Club' works the rules are as follows. The membership is limited to one hundred tickets. A person may hold more than one ticket if they so wish, thus giving them more opportunities of winning.

Each month all the tickets are entered into the prize draw. So even if you have won a prize in one month you still have the chance of winning again in another monthly draw. And in the last month you can look forward to the biggest prizes.

Membership will be on a first come first served basis, so don't miss out. If you are interested in joining look out for more details in a later edition of your 'Upper Wensleydale Newsletter'

**S.H.**

## WHAT'S ON AT THE DALES COUNTRYSIDE MUSEUM

Jill Clay will be exhibiting her recent work and holding daily silk painting workshops. Come along and have a go **between May 21st and June 5th.**

Museum staff are working with June Hall to host, **Hand in Glove.** This exhibition will focus on hand-knitting, past, present and future. Traditional examples of work will be on display relating to Dales knitting and to knitting in East and Western Europe. The exhibition will run from **May 22nd to June 30th. June Hall will give a lunchtime lecture on May 25th.**

On **Saturday May 14<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 15<sup>th</sup>** we will be hosting a **Wildlife Weekend.** Local wildlife and conservation groups will be available to tell you all about their fascinating work in the Yorkshire Dales.

“Rugs from Rags”; Karen Griffiths holds a workshop “Proddy or clippie techniques”, **Saturday May 28th 1.00 to 4.00 pm**

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Friends of the museum will be spinning in the museum foyer on the afternoon of **Tuesday May 3rd**

Friends will be dressing up and telling us all about the horrors of Victorian wash day on **Friday May 13th between 11.00am – 4.00pm.**

## FAVOURITE PLACE

When I was asked to write about my favourite place I thought, ‘How could I choose from all the beauty that surrounds us in the Dales?’

I was born in Sussex and have lived in Cheshire, Wales, Isle of Wight, Devon and Gloucestershire, but nothing compares to this beautiful place. Luckily I married Kim, a Yorkshire man! We moved to West Burton 11 years ago. We were fortunate to buy Mill House with a garden sloping down to the Walden Beck and Cauldron Falls only 100 yards upstream.

I could not have wished for anything more beautiful. I love the bird life, wild flowers, the sound of the water, natural surroundings, beautiful hills and dales, lovely people and the Yorkshire dialect and sayings. Every season is a joy: winter colours on the hills and the shapes of the bare trees, spring lambs and primrose flowers and new growth; summer warmth and the sound of happy children swimming and playing below the waterfall and people relaxing in the countryside; autumn colours and harvest times; shortening days and a slowing down; putting the garden to bed for the winter knowing that under the soil the spring bulbs are getting ready for the spring; friends, fellowship and carols at Christmas. I am truly blessed and have come home. **Penny Pollit, W. Burton**

## SALE ROOM

Coach House, Swinithwaite

**Opening times: Wednesdays and Saturdays from 10.00 am to 2.00pm until the end of August and Bank Holiday Mondays in May and August AND, please note, Fridays from 4.00 to 8.00pm**

This initiative has been set up by the Wensleydale Methodist Circuit. The Barn, part of the Coach House conversion, is available for people to bring their unwanted goods and for others to come and buy. It is a bit like a big car boot sale but the goods are given to the circuit of churches and the money raised supports the churches.

There can be no electrical goods or food; large items can be collected by contacting any of the following:

**Tom Stephenson 663322**

**Tom Coulson 622690**

**John Platts 623285**

**Verner Small 622202**

**For further information please contact the co-ordinator, Eunice Page, 663158**

## ROUGH GUIDE

The excellently produced Rough Guide travel series have just produced in conjunction with the Department for International Development a FREE "**Rough Guide to a Better World**". The smart, handy booklet includes articles, photographs, and much resource information. Copies are available by ringing **0870 755 2122**

*(Please will the person passing on this booklet to us contact us. Try as we will, we can't read the name!!)*

## SNIPPET

**"Rolling Stone"**

Overheard at Hardraw Force

"It's a smaller waterfall than the ones we have in California, but my goodness look, there's moss on the rocks. I've never seen that before".

**CJLB**

## WENSLEYDALE RAILWAY

Here is the timetable until June 30th  
From Redmire: 11.35; 13.35\*;15.35\* plus an earlier train from Leyburn at 9.48\*

From Leeming Bar: 10.35\*; 12.35\*; 14.35\*  
Plus 9.05 to Leyburn only

\* = connecting bus to or from Northallerton.

On the Saturday, Sunday and Monday of each May Bank Holiday weekend there is an additional train from Redmire 17.35 and from Leeming Bar at 16.35.

Leaflets with full details and fares are available from all information centres and post offices.

## HAWES CLASSIC AND VINTAGE CAR CLUB

This year's gathering will be on June 5th at the Auction Mart with a run into Wharfedale stopping at various places to indulge in mystery activities. As usual a bit of fun with prizes for each category.

Phone **667475** for more information.

**Alan Harpley**



### **August 8th to 12th**

Plans are well in hand for King's Club 2005 which will again be held at Askrigg School from 10am to 3pm each day. Full details and application forms for 6-11 year olds are now being distributed as usual through the local primary schools.

Details of King's Club Extra for 11-14 year olds and King's Club XL for 15-16 year olds will also be available and will be posted to those who were at King's Club last year or the year before.

Please return the application forms as soon as possible to be sure of a place.

The week will end with a barbecue at the school on Saturday, August 13th from 5pm to 7pm for families and friends.

For further information please contact **Nelson and Heather Caplin on 667625.**

## **BAINBRIDGE SCHOOL NEWS**

### **News from the Governors**

Mrs. Elaine Hopwood has taken up her new position as Head Teacher with great enthusiasm, as have other members of her team, Mr. Colin Hicks in the junior class, Mrs. Natasha Johnson, part time teacher, and Mrs. Sue Thompson in the nursery.

The junior class has been refurbished over the Easter break with new tables and chairs, funded by the P.F.A, and a smart-board, similar to the one in the infant class has just been fitted. Three new children have joined the nursery this term and all the children are settling into their new routines.

### **Articles from the junior class**

On the first day back of the summer term we saw new tables and chairs and seating positions had changed. We now have a class diary, it helps us to remember spellings and homework. We even get to go into the infants class and help them read.

#### **Ben Collins Y3**

At the start of term we came into the classroom and it had been painted, we had new tables and chairs and a smartboard. We have a new head teacher called Mrs. Hopwood, and Mr. Hicks is the new junior class teacher

#### **James Seal Y3**

Our topic this term is the human body; we have learned what all parts of the skeleton are called and we learned about MRS NERG which stands for movement, respiration, sensitive to change, nutrition, excrete, reproduction and growth. It was good fun because we all got to draw our own version of MRS NERG to help us remember what all living things must have.

#### **Stephanie Mudd Y4**

I have been looking forward since the start of term to the football festival at Askrigg School on the 29th April. Bainbridge school have two teams this year, we have named them The Incredibles and The Devils

#### **Ryan Alderson Y4**

*(We have had such a lot of articles this month, so some of the pieces written by Bainbridge's youngest children will be saved for the next Newsletter. Ed)*

## **BAINBRIDGE & DISTRICT MOTOR CLUB**

The Crown Inn Askrigg was the venue for the Table Top Rally held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March. 35 people attended making a total of 9 teams competing. It was a very enjoyable evening with a great emphasis on 'grid references'. Many different 'coloured' roads were traversed and 'spot heights' were also of great significance. The anagrams proved to be especially difficult for some with answers like 'Langwith Ho' and 'Upbank Wood'.

The winning team were 'Harry's Angels' (Harry, Angela & Co) and second were 'The Clangers' (David & Carol Scarr & Co) £48 was raised from the rally and a raffle and this was donated to Askrigg Multi-Use-Games-Area.

A very big 'Thank You' to Laurence Alderson for organising this tip-top rally.

The first outdoor rally was the Ladies & Members Rally organised by David & Carol Scarr. It could have been called the Rally with a Difference. It certainly was different. 15 cars turned up for the event, which was an extremely good turn-out. It was nice to see some new-comers. Starting off from Bainbridge Green we were all given a map from Hardraw to Middleham and we could plot our own route but not going over the same route twice. This had to take us over as many bridges as possible including Middleham and Hardraw bridges. Marker boards were also to be noted. Items to bring back found on route all had to begin with the letter 'S'. One team brought back no fewer than 36 items. Many strange items were produced with one very clever team bringing back a bottle with some Semer Water in it.

David & Carol once again produced a very good challenging rally – Thank you.

The next rally to be held is the 12 Village Rally on the 18<sup>th</sup> May. Details from the organiser Tim Prudden on **650355**



**Pentecost: May 15th  
Whit Sunday**

**Joint service for all Methodists  
and Anglicans in Aysgarth, West  
Burton, Redmire and Castle Bolton  
At St. Andrew's at 11.00 am**

**Preacher: Rev. Martin P. James, M.A.**  
Lunch will follow at the Palmer Flatt Hotel  
To book please contact Ian Ferguson  
**650685**

## **BURTERSETT EASTER EVENT Bank Holiday Monday.**

The Burterset Institute was the venue for an enjoyable 'Easter Event' organised to raise money and to provide an 'Eggstravaganza' for young and old.

There were scones and delicious cakes. A bring and buy stall offered some eggcellent home made produce and some curios including children's books; Wedgwood and some unusual headgear!

Outside, a series of egg and spoon races were held, with Sasha Birkin narrowly beating Sue Ramsden to take the adult prize with Nick Mudd triumphant in the under 12s. An Easter egg hunt proved popular with eggs hidden in all sorts of nooks and crannies around the institute.

The raffle was a big attraction, as was the auction for the fresh trout - caught the day before by Lee Metcalfe.

The Decorated 'Egg Display' attracted over 20 entries which all demonstrated eggstraordinary talent from the eggshibiting artists! Thanks go to everyone for their support, especially from those who contributed items and, of course, those who helped on the day.

A grand total of **£200.06** was raised for Comic Relief.

**Sheila, Hilary, Shirley and Jayne**

## **SPRINGTIME IN SNAIZEHOLME**

Since the great storm in January when we lost so many mature Larch trees, the spring has come upon us in a series of wonderfully warm and flowery patches interspersed with rain, snow (we have some on the tops today) and ice. When the fallen Larch were cleared and stacked, we were left with a battlefield site. Then, after clearing and burning, the stumps were pushed back into their holes, three small ponds were dug to support and increase the wildlife, and numbers of young Willows and Hawthorn were planted. It still looks rough, but when the new growth gets going it will be fine.

Meanwhile the local birds and animals are bursting with life. Thrushes and Greenfinches have already been busily collecting moss for their nests. Two pairs of Peregrines spent a breathtaking morning displaying up and down the valley. A pair of Long Tailed Tits are frequently visiting the bird feeders. The Great Spotted Woodpeckers have found several good dead 'drumming' branches near the house. At first I thought that there must be more than one pair, but I have read that the male and female will 'drum' to each other from different places. There seem to be even more Chaffinches this year, and we have had one visiting Starling!

A few days ago I had the great pleasure of watching a tiny black Water Shrew busily searching the puddles in front of the house. This little ball of black fluff, with its white underside, its long questing nose, and its fine tiny tail, kept me absorbed for quite some time. It was enchanting. The Squirrels are as active as ever, and one of them has been having a serious (and noisy) chew at an old Roe Deer antler which Hugh has nailed to a tree. We are told that breeding Squirrels can become short of calcium, and old bones and antlers can really help this need. The Roe Deer

themselves are searching the woods including, occasionally, the shrubs immediately behind the house. Soon things should get a bit easier for them.

Our other excitement is that we have a Stoat family in our wall. They raised a family with us last spring, and this year they hauled a young rabbit carcass into the wall. It got stuck!- but they'd shifted it by the next morning. We catch sight of one of them from time to time. Earlier on, one was seen half way between its white Ermine winter coat and its rusty summer coat. It was pale pink with its pure white underside and the black tip to its tail. It truly looked as though it should have had a pink ribbon round its neck.

**Jane Kemp**

## **WEST BURTON STORES**

Brian Whittington has just taken over the Post Office and Convenience Store at West Burton. Before coming to West Burton he and his wife Ann lived in Catterick for 20 years and discovered this part of the Dales about 5 years ago. They both like walking when time permits, but obviously running the Post Office and shop takes a lot of their time.

Brian who has worked for the Wensleydale Railway, United and Procters Coaches knows the Dales well and has always wanted to be self-employed and run his own post office and shop. Some people might recognise them as Brian and Ann have experience in retailing as they ran the kiosk at Northallerton Railway Station.

Brian is developing The Craft Shop side of the business and is building up the general store but as he pointed out this will take time and although he hopes to stock most of the items that were stocked before, there will be some gaps on the shelves, so he hopes people will be patient and understand.

**S.E.D.**

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

TRANSFER THESE DATES TO YOUR DIARY OR CALENDAR NOW!

For Dales Countryside Museum dates see page 25

### **April**

- 30 Plant sale; Castle Bolton church from 11.00 am to 3.00 pm
- 30 Food and Drink Festival starts
- 30 "Vikings in Settle" lecture in the primary school by Alan King. Part of the Scandinavian Festival

### **May**

- 1 Guided walk; Hawes Heritage. 11km. Meet Hawes N.Pk. centre 1.00pm
- 1 Guided walk; Aysgarth stroll 1.5km Meet Aysgarth Falls N.Pk. centre 2pm
- 1 United church service; Leyburn R.C. church. 8.00 pm
- 3 Coffee morning for W.I. Hawes Methodist rooms, 10.00 am to noon
- 3 Hawes Drama Group reads "The Cat and the Canary" Gayle Institute at 7.30 pm
- 5 Ascension Day See p;38. Elections Day
- 5 Sheep dog demonstrations begin. See page 33
- 7 60 years since World War 2 ended in Europe. ("V.E." day May 8)
- 7 Coffee and stalls; Redmire Village Hall 10.00 am to noon. For Aysgarth Choral Society
- 8 Aysgarth Methodist Church Songs of Praise; 6.30 pm
- 9 Pampered chef party; Gayle. See p 23
- 10 YDNPA Planning Committee. Dales Countryside Museum 10.30 am
- 11 Walk: Wildlife in Snaizeholme. 2km Limited numbers. Info and booking essential at Hawes N. Pk. Centre
- 12 Coffee morning. West Witton chapel 10.00 am to noon for Christian Aid
- 15 Pentecost- Whit Sunday. See p 29 Christian Aid Week starts See p 11
- 15 Guided walk; Historical footsteps. 9km Meet Bainbridge Green, 1.00 pm
- 15 United Christian Aid service, Hawes Methodist Church 6.30 pm See p.11
- 17 Coffee morning and stalls for Christian Aid. Hawes Methodist rooms. 10.00 am to noon See p. 11
- 18 Theatre of the Dales. See page 3
- 18 BDMC Rally. See page 29
- 19 Hawes W.I. Visit to Snaizeholme 7 pm
- 20 New minibus launch. See below
- 20 Museum Friends. "Watch the Birds" at 2.30 pm (note time change)
- 21 Hog Roast and Ceilidh See page 36
- 22 Antiques Roadshow; see box, page 34
- 22 Guided walk; Shaping the Dales. 5km Meet Aysgarth Falls N.Pk centre 2pm
- 26 Auction of promises. See page 33
- 26 Gayle Ladies; Yorkshire Wildlife; Wildlife gardening 7.30 pm
- 27 Swaledale Festival starts. See page 36
- 28 Coffee morning, Askrigg. See page 38
- 29 A Day in the Dales. See page 28
- 29 Guided walk; Hawes town trail. 4km Meet Hawes N.Pk centre 2.15pm
- 29 Sing-along at Marsett Methodist Chapel 8.00 pm
- 30 Car boot sale. See box, page 38
- 30 West Burton Fair. See page 20
- 30 Cream teas and stalls; St. Margaret's, Hawes, from 1.30 pm
- 30 Guided walk; Castle and Byways 13km Meet Bolton Castle Car Park 11.00 am
- 31 YDNPA Full Committee. Sedbergh People's Hall, 10.30 am