

## EDITORIAL

**D**o you feel poor, deprived, under-qualified, denied normal advantages and services? Do you know that according to surveys and national statistics our area is one of the most deprived in the country? Looking from the outside, a visitor or would-be purchaser of property sees an almost idyllic area, and in many ways they are spot-on. Just consider these: outstanding scenery, clear and unpolluted air, little traffic congestion, interesting heritage, almost all the local shops and services you need, doctors available with or without appointments, caring community with unbelievably low crime-rate, ridiculously low unemployment rate, clubs, pubs, interest groups by the dozen; volunteer involvement high. People, young and old, don't exactly look cast down, weary, worn and sad.

However, facts and figures can't be denied. The trouble is they are national; they take no account of what people put up with or expect or 'what you've never had you've never missed', and certainly many of the advantages listed above can't be quantified on a scale of 1 to 100 to counter-balance the downsides.

But information gleaned over the last few years and now put together in the excellent Upper Wensleydale CIP report (available on computer at the Community Resources Centre in Hawes) paints a challenging, if at times quite depressing picture. A few examples show what we mean (all set against national criteria): under-qualification and under-achievement in several age-groups; health not as good as might be expected; main hospitals distant; incomes low; hours worked high; public transport not good (but car ownership high); fear of crime high (why is this when in reality crime is so low?); dependency still on tourism and farming – both having

uncertain futures; access to sport and recreation, especially swimming, disastrous (very high complaint-rate about swimming); housing, especially for younger people, difficult with some 'hidden' homelessness; young people migrating out and older people migrating in (you might like to consider why that is usually looked upon negatively!)

This 'deprivation' does depend on who you speak to! Some are actually insulted at the idea! Others feel it acutely. Some don't care. Some things have got much better: we have the Community Resource Centre and Library in Hawes, local buses are more frequent, new ambulance station in Bainbridge, some recent and proposed affordable housing, sports development in Askrigg, child care project in Hawes, development schemes at Hawes auction mart and Gayle Mill but, as we have said before, these must all be used or they will fail. Community education facilities abound: Yorebridge, Middleham Key Centre and Leyburn, W.E.A, courses; but we don't use them enough! As for the issue of housing, that hot potato, you know we have no shortage of housing stock, often locally owned; it's just more advantageous to let it out to tourists. (Why do programmes, like "Look North" recently, neglect this side of things?)

So, deprived? In some ways yes. Low expectations and motivation in some age-groups? Possibly. Contentment for most? High. But despondent? Certainly not. Happy Christmas!

### **NEXT ISSUE: 111**

**The January/February issue will be produced on January 18th and 19th and will be distributed between January 19th and 23rd**

**Deadline for copy:**

**THURSDAY JANUARY 12th**

**Please note it's a week earlier for this issue.**

## EUNICE



“Last month, that nasty Mr Philpott put me in the telephone at Hartle’s butchers in West Burton. I was so lonely, and only **Kerry Alderson of Bainbridge** came to visit me.”

Where am I now? £5 for the winner.

## HAWES GRAMMAR SCHOOL TRUST FUND

Any child residing in the Hawes parish and going on to further education at college or university is entitled to a small amount of money towards books etc.

If you have not received a letter about this, please contact either Roger Iveson or Doreen Raw. We do not want to leave anybody out. Thank you.

**Doreen Raw, Woodville**

## NO ROOM

**No, not at the Inn!** But in this Newsletter. We apologise for shortening items or omitting some which can be held over.

We try to make room for variety, and for news and information from all parts of the circulation area. We’ve been a bit serious lately so have made an attempt to include the odd ‘funny’. But please keep writing!

### Drop-off points and contacts

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

<b>Hawes :</b>	Alan S. Watkinson, Old Station House. 667785
<b>Gayle:</b>	Lorna Ward, East House. 667405
<b>Bainbridge:</b>	Hammond’s Butchers 650631
<b>Askrigg:</b>	Rima Berry, 8 Mill Lane. 650980
<b>Carperby:</b>	Margaret Woodcock, Bella Cottage. 663488
<b>West Burton: + postal subs</b>	Nadine Bell, Margaret’s Cottage. 663559
<b>Newbiggin:</b>	Lynda Bayne, Meadow Barn. 663324
<b>Aysgarth:</b>	Garage. 663199
<b>Redmire:</b>	Ann Holubecki. 622967
<b>Thoralby:</b>	Elaine Miller, P.O. 663205

## COMPETITION ANSWERS

### How well do you know the upper dales?

Places within the Newsletter area.

1. Simple man's sound **Simonstone**
  2. Snow rib **Borwins**
  3. Den stew **West End**
  4. Bottle snow **West Bolton**
  5. Defer wool shored **Freeholders Wood**
  6. Huge pile of biros? **Pen Hill**
  7. Signal red frog **Forelands Rigg**
  8. Tickled-me-fancy prison! **Nancy Nick**
  9. Small fire card game **Littleburn bridge**
  10. Le Regency rap **Carphey Green**
  11. Is this where the murdering sparrow left his victim? **Cock Robin Cottage**
  12. Sounds like an order to attack beer **Raydale**
  13. Copper stream **Cubeck**
  14. It's back in though not rowdy. **Worton**
- No-one got them all but **Margaret Proctor** managed twelve. Well done!

## NSPCC

Jean Cockburn would like to thank all helpers and supporters who enabled her to raise £215 at her coffee morning held in her home in Aysgarth on Saturday November 5th.

## BONUS BALL

Several year ago Reg Fagg had a good idea to raise money for the Upper Dales Christmas Lights Fund. He organised the Bonus Ball scheme which was run in pubs and the club in Hawes.

This was very popular with the regulars especially in the club, so Margaret Ward and Mary Dinsdale have continued, and raised hundreds of pounds over the years.

The money goes to local charities (mostly they support young people) and of course still contribute to the Christmas Lights. The following amounts have been given this year.

Christmas Lights	£200
Brownies	£100
Youth Club	£100
Market Hall	£100
Bonfire Fund	£100
Christmas Lights	£100

**Mary Dinsdale & Margaret Ward**

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

You have done even better this year! 242 beautifully decorated shoe boxes filled with all sorts of goodies have been prepared by many individuals, church and school groups. Soon they will be taken with thousands of others to desperately poor children in Azerbaijan and Kyrgyzstan.

Azerbaijan, on the western coast of the Caspian Sea, declared independence from the Soviet Union in 1991. However, war with neighbouring Armenia in 1993 has resulted in many of the 8 million population living close to the breadline.

Kyrgyzstan is a small, mountainous nation of 5 million people in central Asia, bordering China to the east. The largely rural population has a high infant mortality rate.

We have also been able to send to Operation Christmas Child £535 and they will be able to claim an additional £31.36 from Gift Aid. Thank you for your generosity! We are grateful to Stephen and Linda at Hawes Post Office and the Resource Centre staff for receiving the boxes.

**Heather and Nelson Caplin  
BREAK FREE.....**

For people with memory problems and their carers; call in for coffee and a chat on **Fridays from 10.00am to noon at the Leyburn Community Centre.**

Tel: 07891 698974, and at other times 01748 823817, the Alzheimer's Society Richmondshire, for information

## CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD

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17					18		19				
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25											
				26							

### Down

2. Famous bear comes up
3. Indoor—or not!
4. Listen round; it'll be on the tree
5. Year's events
6. Squeeze for a tune
7. A mistake in his ties to scare
11. A different 21 will have one
12. Look in your TV Times for it
13. Nativity
14. Put on your glitter with it
18. Comfort in grief
19. Rage needs it
22. Can't make a quick drink with it!
23. — in Royal...

### CLUES

#### Across

1. Look above
8. Came to the top
9. Forgiving
10. It feels good to help them at 1.
13. They jingle at 1.
15. It gets things clean
16. It might be prised out of its hiding place
17. They might go out— on the tree!
19. 20 and the ivy is one
20. See 19
21. Ten legs but won't go forward
24. We are asked to toe it
25. More of a confused city
26. 1 started here

*Send in your solutions by the deadline date, January 12th.*

*Each year we ask one of our local church ministers to write a Christmas message. We are pleased to have this, his first, from Rev. Henry Dubois*

### **CHRISTMAS - FACT OR FANTASY?**

Have you ever had an experience so profound that you could not find words that were adequate enough to describe it? That is precisely what happened to many people who came into contact with Jesus. "Who is this man?" they would ask. They did of course know what his name was. They knew his profession. And, they knew his family. That however, did not answer the question. There was something much more than all of that.

What they did know was that, through this man, as with no other, they seemed to be in touch with the very mystery of life itself. A mystery that was given the name God. To meet with Jesus was to meet with God. No wonder then that he was known as the Son of God. All God's people would have been known generally as his sons and daughters, but there appeared to be nothing general about this man, Jesus.

Small wonder then that both Matthew and Luke, in trying to describe the birth of this man and its significance for the world, would use words and images that would reflect how profoundly different this event was. They are saying through the angels, wise men (see elsewhere in the newsletter if it had been "wise women"! ) and shepherds, that the arrival of Jesus among his fellow human beings, is none other than the arrival of God himself among us. This was the fact that they wanted to convey. They were not caught up in fantasy but in mystery. A mystery so profound, that even the words and images they do use are limited.

That is in the end what Christmas is about. The fact that Jesus was born and that through contact with Jesus, we are brought into the mystery we call God. And though

we still cannot find words adequate to describe it, we know that Christmas is no fantasy.

I wish you all a very happy and blessed Christmas and New Year.

**Henry Dubois**

### **GAYLE MILL**

Things are moving! A Mill Manager is to be appointed in January and now the Board is looking for a logo which can be used on products made at the mill, as well as publicity materials, website etc. To help you design a logo, you should bear in mind the following: -

- The logo should reflect aspects of Gayle Mill's past and/or future (see [www.gaylemill.org.uk](http://www.gaylemill.org.uk) for more information)
- The logo should reproduce well in colour and black and white
- The logo should be capable of being reproduced in a variety of sizes and formats.

The competition closes on **17th January 2006** and the winner will be announced by 31st January 2006. Entries should be submitted to Gayle Mill Trust c/o Dales Countryside Museum, Station Yard, Hawes, DL8 3NT. There is a £25 prize for the one chosen.

### **Quick and quirky**

#### **Signs of the times:**

You've just tried to enter your credit card PIN on the microwave.

Your daughter sells her home-made biscuits via her website.

You pull up on the drive and use your mobile to see if anyone is in.

You hear most of your jokes via e-mail instead of in person.

You disconnect from the internet and feel you've lost a loved one.

You forward things like this to a friend!

**Care about the future of the Dales?  
So do we!**

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*The Yorkshire Dales  
Society* 

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**Campaigning for the Dales,  
Voicing your Views**

**Join us now, call 01943 461938 or visit  
[www.yds.org.uk](http://www.yds.org.uk)**

## HOW YOU CAN HELP RED SQUIRRELS

### in Upper Wensleydale

The regional importance of the Hawes area for Red Squirrels has now been officially incorporated into a new Red Squirrel conservation strategy for the North of England. This document has been developed by a broad partnership of organisations called **Red Alert North England** which includes representatives from the Wildlife Trusts, Forestry Commission, landowners, businesses, and the local community. Across the north of England sixteen carefully selected Red Squirrels Reserves or Refuge Areas have been identified, one of which is the Widdale area of the National Park.

As part of this strategy, the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority is hoping to form a local red squirrel group to cover the Hawes and Widdale area. Although many local people and landowners have been reporting red squirrel sightings and undertaking management work for a number of years, now it is hoped that this work can be developed and co-ordinated through a local group. It will also mean that there will be a clear link between the

regional organisations who oversee the strategy and the local residents and landowners in the Hawes area who will hopefully be involved in the management work 'on the ground'.

The formation of a local Group will enable us to continue and develop the work that many people are already involved in. We will be able to develop the recording system for red squirrels and also begin to determine the distribution of grey squirrels in the area. It will also enable a more co-ordinated approach to red squirrel conservation to be developed and ensure that best practice guidelines, and management advice can be passed on to the local people in the area who are involved in red squirrel conservation.

If you would like to find out more about red squirrel conservation in the Widdale and Hawes area and would be interested in joining a local group then please come along to an inaugural meeting at DCM, Hawes on **January 31st 2006 starting at 7.00 pm**. If you would like any further information please do not hesitate to contact either: **Ian Court**, YDNPA Species Officer on **0870 1 666333** or e-mail [ian.court@yorkshiredales.org.uk](mailto:ian.court@yorkshiredales.org.uk) or **Matt Neale**, YDNPA Area Ranger for Upper Wensleydale **666220** or e-mail [matt.neale@yorkshiredales.org.uk](mailto:matt.neale@yorkshiredales.org.uk)

## **SURGERY CONSULTATIVE GROUP**

Some years ago the Central Dales Practice Consultative Group was formed. It is made up of representatives of various Parish Councils who are patients across Wensleydale, Swaledale and Dentdale. This group acts to liaise between the surgery and patients to discuss common ideas and concerns.

Since July 2005 I have been Hawes and High Abbotside Parish Council representative and intend periodically to let other patients know about some of the successes and concerns discussed in past group meetings.

As you are aware doctors now work under new contracts which have brought new working practices. Their performance [clinical, organisational, added services and patient experience] is now 'measured' by government. Points are awarded according to how well the doctors perform; these are then linked to financial payment for the surgery.

In 2004-05 the practice performed well and all members of the team are to be congratulated on the marvellous service they provide for the community. You may have noted the increased monitoring of many conditions - blood pressure and cholesterol checking especially have been thought to be a good thing for us maturing patients!

The surgery staff brought up a problem. Because of changes by government to retail pharmacists' contracts serious differences for dispensing doctors have emerged. This has created a £10,000 shortfall each month for Hawes surgery. The consequences of this loss could be catastrophic. Concerns relate to the financial viability of: -  
maintaining four doctors should anyone

wish to leave, and maintaining two surgeries should there ever be only three doctors.

No one is intending to leave at present so the above is unlikely to happen in the medium term. Further discussions are to be held with relevant bodies about the unfairness of the new contract, working against rural surgeries that dispense drugs. I will keep you informed of further developments related to this concern.

Other items were discussed at the July meeting. Copies of the minutes of the meeting are available at the Hawes Resource Centre . **Ann Wood**

## QUAKERS AT COUNTERSETT

**S**ir Christopher Booth's talk on the history of Quakers at Countersett, held at the Dales Countryside Museum, described several influential families connected with the hamlet. During the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, different generations became prominent members not only of the evolving Quaker movement but also of the scientific and commercial communities elsewhere. Believed to be the first Quaker in Wensleydale, Richard Robinson of Countersett Hall joined the Friends after hearing George Fox preach at Sedbergh, and thereafter Countersett Hall became a meeting place for Friends. After Robinson's death in 1693 a proper Friends Meeting House was built at Countersett, in 1710.

**Another Quaker family, the Fothergills**, lived at Carr End House and many of the travelling ministers stayed at their home. Alex Fothergill, besides being a Friends' preacher, oversaw the surveying and construction of the turnpike road from Richmond, and built the Quakers' Bridge across the River Bain at Countersett. His son John graduated from Edinburgh Medical School and set up practice in London, becoming an influential member of the Friends there and a Fellow of the prestigious Royal Society. He owned a large garden, West Ham Park, and its flora were recorded in 1200 paintings, now in a St Petersburg museum; his renown in the botanical world is commemorated in the shrub *Fothergilla* (Witch alder). John Fothergill also owned property in Cheshire; he also founded Ackworth School. Alex and two of his sons, John and Samuel, visited America several times as preachers.

**The Hillarys became a Quaker family** when John married Mary Robinson in 1692. Their son William established a medical practice in Ripon and then in

London; he moved to Barbados in 1747 where he wrote one of the earliest books on tropical diseases. Whilst there he witnessed the seas retreat from its coast after the Lisbon earthquake and recognized the feature (now known as a tsunami) as being an effect of the earthquake. John's nephew, Sir William Hillary, who moved to the Isle of Man after becoming bankrupt, set up a national appeal for funds to save shipwrecked mariners, founding the Royal National Lifeboat Institution in 1853.

Commerce also benefited from a Quaker family which had its origins in Countersett. The Harrisons occupied Countersett Hall after the last Robinson died in the 1790s. They left in 1802, moving to Liverpool where they became prominent merchants, dealing in tea and coffee and, subsequently, rubber. **Sir Christopher concluded by emphasizing the remarkable influence that members of this small community had had on the world far beyond Wensleydale.**

J.W.T.





For the second year running, Year 5 and 6 pupils were delighted to have been broadcast on BBC Radio York's School Choir Christmas Competition. They were picked as one of the top ten schools that were heard in the semi-finals on the radio last week.

Although the children did not make it to the final five choirs to sing at Selby Abbey, they were very proud to have been chosen from the very many schools that entered from across the County.

**Diana Hartley, Music Teacher**

### **CRACKDOWN ON OFF-ROADERS**

Police and Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority staff will be out in force in the National Park over the winter in a crackdown on illegal off-road motorbikers and 4x4 drivers.

The aim is to educate vehicle users about their rights and responsibilities when they go on to 'green lanes'. Trail riding on 'green lanes' does not mean that you are 'off-road', and you are still subject to the same laws as on the surfaced road network. That means that, to be legal, you and your bike need a current licence, MOT and insurance, as well as road legal tyres, number plates and exhaust.

### **'PUGWASH HAS RETURNED'**

Graham and Hilary would like to thank the many people in and around Hawes, who made it their business to try and locate our much loved cat 'Pugwash', subject of the many posters about town that explained his absence.

Further to a phone call from an extremely kind gentleman in Burtersett, who described a dark and furry feline using his cat flap without permission, we were able to find him and bring him home. It just goes to show what a great and caring community we have chosen to join.

Having purred his way through a tin or two of meaty chunks, Pugwash would, if he were able, tell you how grateful he is to be home again too and has promised to curb his wanderlust and stay put.

Many thanks.

**Hilary Ayling**

### **MICHAEL WALDMAN**

...would like to thank everyone who contributed to his sponsored slim. A cheque for £250 has been presented to the Central Dales Practice Equipment Fund

#### **Quick and Quirky**

If it's true we are here to help others, what are the others doing here?

If money doesn't grow on trees, why do banks have branches?

## WELCOME TO WILSON'S

Yes, that is the new name of the Tea Room on the corner at the top of the Holme in Hawes. Chris and Chris Monksfield (which is quite confusing) and Mrs Chris's sister Shirley, all from London's East End were full of excitement and some apprehension as I met them prior to the first day of opening on the wettest Tuesday imaginable a couple of weeks back.

Having spent twenty years making frequent visits to the Dales (Mrs Chris is keen on Richard the Third) they had always longed for a tea shop but for a couple of years had had to 'make do' with having Crosby House as a B and B, so were delighted when "Laura's Cottage" came on the market.

Mrs Chris worked in the N.H.S. with people of all ages and disabilities and Mr Chris worked in the City "For the firm that owns 'the Gherkin'", he said. Shirley, looking for a new start, comes from working with the Citizens' Advice Bureaux. "She's a fantastic cook" says Mrs Chris.

Our talk was interspersed with shouts of delight like "The soup kettle's working" or of anxiety "get that sign down, it doesn't apply now!" as the first customers were expected. The waitress-service tea room is to be open until mid-December with totally home-made meals. 'White Rose' Preserves of Leyburn are used and sold and 'Wilson's own-brand coffee' will be available in the new year.

During January it will be completely gutted—tea room and kitchen—and half of the premises will become a takeaway. In the summer there will be a few evening meals served.

As we talked about the new signs about to be put up, I asked, "Why Wilson's?" Well it's a case of back to roots, as Mrs Chris's and Shirley's forebears were Wilsons from Yorkshire. That's O.K.

then!

I exited into the pouring rain and wind, wishing them all well! Give it a try. **A.S.W**



**Until April 2nd 2006 trains run as follows, Saturdays and Sundays only:**

REDMIRE	11.35	13.35	15.35
LEYBURN	11.48	13.48	15.48
FINGHALL	12.02	14.02	16.02
BEDALE	12.21	14.21	16.21
LEEMING	12.26	14.26	16.26

LEEMING	10.35	12.35	14.35
BEDALE	10.41	12.41	14.41
FINGHALL	10.59	12.59	14.59
LEYBURN	11.14	13.14	15.14
REDMIRE	11.26	13.26	15.26

**EXCEPT: Christmas Eve—first two trains only  
Christmas Day—no service**

There will be extra trains December 19th to 23rd and December 26th to January 2nd

**SANTA SPECIALS run morning and afternoon on December 3rd and 4th; 10th and 11th; 17th to 23rd and am only on 24th. These depart from Leeming or Bedale. Meet Santa; a present for every child; hot mulled wine and mince pie for adults. For full details and booking ring: 08454 50 54 74. Santa Special tickets also include free same-day travel on Redmire to Leeming service.**

There are now opportunities for discounted travel for groups—church, walkers, special interest groups, reunions etc. on Mondays to Fridays during the winter. Details from **Richard Russell: 01677 425805**



## LETTERS

Thank you for a “monthly breath of fresh air” when my Newsletter arrives— keeps me in touch with the Upper Dale. I do enjoy the articles bringing back memories from my childhood and young adult life at Askrigg Station House— when the trains ran.

**Mrs E.M. Chapman, Hinckley**

### HAWES PLAYGROUP

On Wednesday, November 2nd, we had fun planting daffodil, snowdrop and crocus bulbs at the side of the Market Hall on the grassed area.

Thank you to the Newsletter for donating the money for the bulbs\*\*. We look forward to seeing them grow in spring.

On Monday, November 7th, you may have heard us if you were in Hawes. We were having a go at ringing the St. Margaret’s Church bell. The children were very good at this.

**Emma Fothergill**

**\*\* If organisations are considering small community projects they might like to ask the Newsletter for a donation. There could be some money available.**

## BAINBRIDGE SCHOOL NEWS

On Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November, the school had an auction of promises to try to raise money for the new play equipment. People were quite interested especially for a basket of ironing! The bidding started at 8:00pm but you could go and look around from 7:00pm. Most things went for a lot of money, people were going mad. We raised over £3400.

**Becky Williams**

There were lots of excellent donations from a lot of the people that came. Before it all started children gave out different kinds of cheeses, there was wine for the adults and juice for the children. It was a good laugh for everyone that was there. I’m sure everyone loved it. I got a quote from Margaret Metcalf: “The effort the PFA of Bainbridge School put into the auction of promises was brilliant and the evening was a most enjoyable time.”

**Katie-Jean Lambert**

On Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November in Bainbridge temperance hall, there was an auction of promises for better play equipment for Bainbridge school. The auctioneer was Mr Lambert, the clerk was Claire Lambert who had a laptop to put the amount that each item raised and who had bought it.

**Scott Guy**

# KIDS PAGE

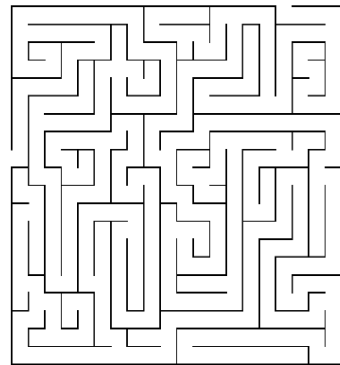
HI EVERYONE, HAVE YOU ALL DECIDED WHAT YOU WANT FOR CHRISTMAS AND WRITTEN YOUR CHRISTMAS LISTS. REMEMBER TO SEND THEM TO SANTA IN PLENTY OF TIME.



## Christmas Word Search



Santa is lost! Can you help him find his way back to the North Pole?



- |       |           |        |
|-------|-----------|--------|
| merry | christmas | holly  |
| santa | presents  | tree   |
| star  | carol     | wreath |


## MEGAN AT PLAY in an orchestra

**A**gain I am writing about a course I have been on - I had such a fantastic time during the week at half term that I cannot avoid writing about it. I promise I shall move on to things other than myself soon –well maybe!

About half a year ago my music teacher at school, Kath Barker, handed me a brochure of the **English Schools Orchestra** and an application form. Although rather daunted I decided to have a go at applying as a cellist. Having rather to my surprise been accepted, it was only when we set off southward that I began to appreciate what I had let myself in for - one, a course including residential stay (who would I share a room with?); two, grade 8 standard minimum (I've only recently passed so they would probably all be better than me); three, a restricted age of 13 - 18 year olds (it seemed likely I'd be

the oldest there, surrounded by child prodigies who knew each other from previous courses). It suddenly didn't sound so great.

We arrived at Haberdashers Askes Boys School in London - the daytime site for rehearsals and sectional coaching - and drove through the gates. I felt that Dad neatly summed up Haberdashers when he pointed out that while most schools have an adequate patch of concrete as a playground, Haberdashers had fountains and fake herons, as well as a music department bigger than my entire school. As I lugged myself bulkily inside with my cello I was gratified to witness one of the bassists tackling the swing doors with a monster of an instrument - at least someone had a bigger problem than I!

 I wandered into the canteen and nearly ran out again when I saw the long trestle table of more than half the orchestra chatting and laughing together -



Mystery photo. Last month's was of Hell Gill Bridge on Lady Anne's Highway, spotted very quickly by Ed Allen, Bainbridge: "I used to live just down from there", and by Geoff Bell, West Burton, who works with the County's bridges: "That's one of mine", he said. There were several others who got it right.

being new I was obviously not one of the majority. Luckily though, I had met a fellow cellist when I came in (we're fairly easy to recognise!).

Our concert programme was to consist of George Butterworth's *A Shropshire Lad* and Brahms' *Symphony No. 1*. Our first practice was full orchestra sight-reading of the Brahms. I sat down and was faced with pages and pages of syncopated rhythms, nightmarish fingering and some truly impossible flats and sharps. I would be lying if I said that I managed OK. **I remember glancing about me and trying my best to look as if I was playing at all - sadly, the lack of sound being emitted from my instrument may have blown my cover.** However, although I found it difficult I was by no means the only one and my visions of these god-like musicians who could play anything were slowly dispelled as I learned that even the lead cello had needed to improvise some passages. From this point on my experience of the week became an ever-steeper curve of enjoyment. Although we were playing around six to seven hours a day it never felt anything less than fun, and even when we weren't playing I could hardly wait to get back to the rehearsals. The feeling of excitement is almost unbeatable when you play in an orchestra - knowing that you're part of such an incredible sound.

The evenings we spent at the centre where we slept were also excellent. There was one piano and a terrible acoustic guitar and yet everyone made the most of them. One of my new friends took out his trumpet and sat curled up in an armchair while he improvised jazz melodies over the chords of another boy at the piano and these two were accompanied by two other new friends busking away at the guitar and a ukulele (!). I soon ended up singing with them but was by no means impressive, as I only ever knew the chorus (and at a stretch) the first verse of every song.

The final day we rehearsed was the day of the concert at **St John's, Smith Square**, so we all had to be up at six and dressed in our concert clothes for the performance at three in the afternoon. The lads had it much easier than we did because they only had to put on bow ties along with dinner jackets (and trousers obviously) at the last minute, whereas we had to stagger around all day in full evening dress! That aside, although nervous we had fun on the coach trip up into London, even though I did spend a large amount of time worried about the cello stored haphazardly in the belly of the bus. We had an hour free before the concert and this was spent wandering about Westminster. I'm still surprised none of us was mugged - we must have seemed perfect targets dressed in our ridiculously posh clothes (although any thieves would have found us disappointingly free of cash). It was when we appeared back at the steps of the concert hall I recognised what a big affair the concert was - members of the audience were milling around the doors and I realised that it wasn't just family and friends when I was told that 800 people had turned up. The orchestra just managed to squeeze on to the stage - it was almost a performance in itself for the audience who watched me tiptoe from the back to the front of the section trying desperately not to fall off the stage or knock over a fortune's worth of instruments!



The time I spent with this orchestra made me question my whole idea of myself. For me, nothing can match the thrill of playing exhilarating music on a stage in a proper concert hall with amazing musicians. The volume of applause was fantastic and capped what was in many ways the best week of my life so far. When I went back to school I missed playing the cello so much that as soon as I arrived home I practised for about two hours, and it hasn't worn off yet. I never thought that I would play music professionally but I do

## MOUNTAIN BIKE WEBSITE LAUNCHED

The Yorkshire Dales has always been recognised as one of the top places in Britain to go cross-country mountain biking, but with more than 800km of bridleways, byways and un-surfaced lanes to choose from, it can be difficult to pick out the best routes if you are not familiar with the area.

All that is about to change thanks to a brand new website launched by the National Park Authority with funding from Yorkshire Forward.

Now mountain bikers planning a trip can get all the information they need simply by logging on to [www.mtbthedailes.org.uk](http://www.mtbthedailes.org.uk)

## BARRY: from last page...

begin to wonder. I certainly see that I shouldn't carry on as before - more or less confining my music to lessons and practising at home. First and foremost I'd like to find a local orchestra to play in - there are at least three and I'm hoping one of them will be happy to take me on! Although I'm unsure whether the choices I will ultimately make about my future have been affected, I certainly know that all my current priorities have been transformed.

As I finish this piece, I cannot but reflect how much I owe - mainly to my lovely cello teacher Kath Banks, but also to the Redmire and Castle Bolton Educational Trust and also the Wensleydale Rotary who very kindly helped fund my week.

*PS; Since my last contribution to this newsletter, which chronicled my school visit to Bewerley Park, a dreadful and tragic accident occurred there. All I would add is that while we were there we felt that a complete trust in the caring professionalism of the staff was entirely justified.*

Megan Price, Bursary Student

## QUOITS CLUB White Hart, Hawes

The members of the quoits club would like to thank Cllr Blackie for his help in acquiring a grant from the Upper Dales allocation of the North Yorkshire County Council Richmondshire Area Committee budget.

The money has helped towards the cost of refurbishing the quoits pitch on the community field.  
**Angela Lee**

### Dales Countryside Museum

**Spinning and demonstrating woolcrafts** in the foyer between 2.00 and 4.00pm on Tuesday, December 6th.

Christmas festivities at the museum kick off on Friday December 9th with a **“Christmas Spirit” concert by the Dalesfolk**. An evening of seasonal songs, stories and tunes starting at 7.30pm. Tickets are £5 including wine and available from the museum ( 666210)

**The Crafty Christmas weekend** of the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> will include free museum entry, Christmas stalls, children's craft workshops and quizzes, music, things to make, mince pies and mulled wine and Mother Christmas will be here with a gift for every child. Open 10am – 5pm.

**COACH TRIP TO  
TRAFFORD CENTRE, MANCHESTER**  
will leave Hawes Market Hall at 9.00am  
Sunday 11th December  
Seats cost £10 and can be booked at  
Streetwise or from 667192

**HAWES POST OFFICE**  
will close at 11.00am on Christmas Eve and re-open 8.30am on Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> December.  
Please note we are open 8.30am – 5.30pm  
Monday – Friday and  
8.30am – 12.30pm on Saturdays

## ***BIRTHDAY GREETINGS***

**HAYDEN**  
**Happy 13th Birthday**  
**On the 11th December**  
**Love from**  
**Dad, Kore and Steffie**



**HAYDEN**  
**Have a Happy 13th birthday**  
**on December 11th**  
**Love from Nanna and Great Grandma**



**HAYDEN**  
**Happy 13th birthday**  
**On 11th December**  
**Lots of love; Mum, Dave & Fion**



**HAPPY 9TH BIRTHDAY, JAMES**  
**10th December**  
**Lots of love from Mum, Darren,**  
**Katie, Chloe and Jessica XX**

**26th December**  
**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**  
**CHLOE AND JESSICA, 4 TODAY**  
**Lots of love, Mummy, Daddy, Katie, James**  
**xxx**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY, TEENAGER!**  
**KATIE, 13 TODAY**  
**19th January 2006**  
**Love from Mum, Darren, James, Chloe and**  
**Jessica**

**25th December**  
**HAPPY BIRTHDAY, SAM**  
**Lots of love;**  
**Mum, Dad and Katie xxxx**

**CHLOE & JESSICA JOHNSON**  
**4 years old on 26th December**  
**Happy Birthday and lots of love to you both.**  
**From Nana, Grandad and Uncle Kev**  
**XXXX**

**METCALFE**  
**HAPPY 50TH, SUE**  
**December 23rd**  
**with love from Guess Who XXX**

## **CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU**

In a recent Quality of Advice Audit the Richmondshire branch has scored 83% and come in the top 17% of Bureaux nationally.

The audit does a thorough check that lasts for two days on all aspects of the service offered to the local community.

If you would like to be part of the Richmondshire C.A.B. you can be trained for free and claim travel expenses. Please contact **Angie House 01748 823862**



## DECEMBER / JANUARY GARDENING



**W**inter's well on its way so any opportunity to get out and about in the garden very much depends on the weather. Frosts, persistent rain and the prospect of snow mean that lots of gardening activities like tending the soil or even walking on the lawn need to be left for the next few weeks. It's time to stay indoors by the fire and observe the garden from the window. Now that the leaves have fallen and most borders and plots have been cut back and tidied up it means that the "bare bones" can be seen.

Evergreens and conifers stand out well during the wintertime and so they are worth thinking about this month. One of the most popular evergreen conifers at this time of the year of course is the Norway Spruce or common Christmas tree, *Picea abies*. The genus Spruce in fact is a very large collection of conifers all varying in colour, shape and size, and all have attractive needle foliage and cones. One of the largest is the vigorous Sitka Spruce grown specially for its timber in lumber forests.

Shop bought Christmas trees will have been commercially grown and harvested whilst young but if the common Norway Spruce is left to mature it too makes a tall handsome specimen. The smallest at no more than a foot high is the dwarf *P. abies: Nana* and these smaller spruces look very much at home in a rockery or container. As well as *Nana* there's *P. Abies: Conica*. This one is very dense and compact and grows very slowly, putting on no more than an inch or two a year. It looks just like a perfect miniature Christmas tree. *Nana* is also slow growing and has similar dense foliage, plus it's very hardy making it ideal for an exposed rockery. *P. abies: Nidiformis* is another dwarf form which

grows slowly into an almost horizontal shape with its spreading branches having an unusual depression at the centre, hence its common name Nest Spruce. If the Norway Spruce is allowed to grow to full maturity it develops into a very handsome tall tree but there's also *glauca* - White Spruce or *mariana* - Black Spruce and both will become quite large. The White Spruce is very good for cold windy sites and its foliage is thickly coated with a silvery grey tinge. It produces cones from an early age and has quite a neat attractive conical shape with plenty of branches right down to the ground. The Black Spruce is not quite as tall but still has dense short leaved foliage this time in a dark bluish green hue. It's also very tolerant of very wet ground.

Perhaps the prettiest of all spruces is *orientalis* or Oriental Spruce. Its shining dark green foliage hangs on branches which reach right down to the ground, making a lovely medium sized tree. Then there's the weeping forms. *P. abies: breweriana* or Brewer's Weeping Spruce. It's slow growing, eventually making a medium sized conifer but patience is needed since its lovely elegant long pendulous branchlets need time to grow to maturity. Eventually it grows into a spectacular specimen tree with a distinctive weeping habit.

The West Himalayan Spruce or *P. smithiana* also has long weeping branchlets which again make an attractive tree when once established and like all spruces it has plenty of cones adding to its beauty.

Happy Christmas to all and best wishes for gardening in the New Year. **Peduncle**

## VICTORIAN SINGERS BRING MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS

The HARP Singers bring the magic of a Victorian Christmas this month when they present a charity evening of “Carols by Candlelight” at the Bolton Arms, Leyburn.

The Singers who will wear Victorian dress and carry candles perform a varied programme of Christmas music and readings, as well as carols for the audience to join in, on Wednesday, December 21st (7.30pm). Mulled wine and mince pies will be served

“The last two years, the concert has been packed,” said HARP chairman Ray Marriott. “After raising more than £1,000 last year for Motor Neurone Disease Association, it’s now the turn of Downside Up, a charity, started by an English couple, which runs a day centre in Moscow for more than 600 Down’s Syndrome children.

“The couple, living in Moscow, heard that in Russia, Down’s babies are put away into institutions and 50% of them died before their first birthday,” he added. One member of the choir, Henry Thompson,



**Course in December**  
**29th: Peace and Purpose.**  
 Old year-New Year; Janet Willoner  
**Scale of charges:**self-select within the  
 range  
 £25 to £35.  
**Deposit** on booking £10  
**Bursaries** available; please ask  
**650070 or 0845 3305105**

visited the centre last summer and was warmly thanked for the choir’s fundraising efforts.

Tickets, £6 including two glasses of wine and mince pies, are available from the Bolton Arms, or by ringing **663738 or 01677 422879**. They will also be touring Wensleydale singing carols: see the What’s ons listing.

## NEWSLETTER CHRISTMASCAR- CARD

We send many cards with our thanks to our advertisers, writers and helpers and we had a good response from children in the Brownies and from West Burton school to the competition to design a cover; so we’ve used four of them.

The winners were Joe Everitt and Jodie McGregor from West Burton, Chloe Metcalfe and Fiona Lambert in the Brownies.

Here’s a tiny peep at the pictures.



Chloe



Fiona

Joe



Jodie

## FLYING HIGH TO HYPNOTISE HEDGEHOGS WITH A SONG

**G**oing to see Eunice Musgrave at Redmire this month I was expecting to meet “a lady with a big voice and who looks after hedgehogs”. This sounded fascinating but within minutes of meeting Eunice I realised there were many other strands to her life.

**Eunice was born into a military family** and went to school in Singapore and Germany. Her mother’s family were mainly professional musicians, her mother being an opera singer, violinist and pianist who performed as 1<sup>st</sup> violin in the Singapore Symphony Orchestra and who sang on Radio Malaya. Eunice too trained as a singer from childhood and won a scholarship to the Guildhall School of Music. However, her mother advised her instead to prepare for a “proper job”. So Eunice went from school into nursing and she tells me that nursing has always provided “bread and butter” alongside her musical activities.

**Eunice did sing professionally** part time in these early years, mainly oratorios as a mezzo soprano. This may sound like a full life but Eunice felt ready for a change after nursing and so spent the next 8 years as an air stewardess. During this time she met her husband and as he was a pilot working a variety of hours Eunice suspended her musical activities to be at home.

**On her husband’s retirement** she moved to Redmire about 22 years ago. They had often holidayed in the Dales as her husband’s family were from Aysgarth originally. Eunice’s father was a Yorkshire man and her mother came from Cumbria. So she felt a “northerner” and has felt safe and at home in Redmire ever since. I was surprised at the size of her sitting room but apparently it used to house three snooker tables as at one time three cottages were joined to form the village institute. The old

Methodist Church was later bought to be the new institute and Eunice’s house had been an architect’s home-cum-office for about three years.

**Once the house renovations** were dealt with Eunice found herself singing again with Hawes Operatic Society. She was then asked to restart the Redmire pantomime group. Productions did well and in the late 1980s they were invited to perform at the theatre in Leyburn, now the Elite Cinema, but at that time owned by the late Brigadier Ponsonby. Eunice loved running the Yore Panto Group with her friend Ronnie Walters. She remembers it as a wonderful partnership with herself writing, producing and performing and Ronnie responsible for choreography and also singing and acting. The group went on to perform musicals each summer with the first being “The Sound of Music”. For 10 years there was a pattern with the pantos, written by Eunice, helping to fund the musicals which cost £2-3,000 to stage each

year. But then Eunice felt 10 years was enough, She was ready for a change and handed over to Anne Peach who renamed the group The Wensleydale Troopers.

**And so we come back to an earlier theme of nursing** when Eunice looked for a new way to apply her skills. She applied for training as a clinical hypnotherapist and was one of the first students to complete her Diploma with the newly opened Northern College of Hypnotherapy. The College has links with Leeds Infirmary where Eunice did her clinical training. Later she was invited to become a tutor and continues travel to Leeds to teach although most of her lecturing is now done at Newcastle General Hospital. Eunice is enthusiastic about the challenging work she is able to do both for the NHS (under the accreditation of the Medical Hypnosis Board) and with private patients. She told me she helps patients with pain control, stress relief, anxiety and blood pressure control, smoking cessation, phobias and weight control. She also helps women who have chosen to have home births. Eunice has also trained in terminal cancer care and following this she worked for about four years in total, first at St Teresa's in Darlington and then at the Bishop Auckland Hospice.

**Since starting this further career** Eunice has largely given up music. She told me she feels that although music provided her with wonderful emotional expression, "hard work in the real world" has given her very much lately. But she can be tempted into music. Some of us have seen the Harp Singer performing carols in Victorian dress. These performances originated from an idea of Ralph Robinson as a member of the committee of the Action Research charity which Eunice used to Chair, and was one of the performers in the first of these Christmas events.

**Clearly Eunice has enjoyed all her work** in both health care and music so I wondered what she did for relaxation. This

too turns out to be linked to caring, but this time for animals.

Eunice got the name of the "Redmire Mrs Tigglywinkle" because she started rescuing hurt hedgehogs. The vet and the RSCPA would send hedgehogs to Eunice for care and then release into the wild. At one time she had as many as 6 in residence and some have special stories. The vet had to amputate a leg so "Hector" had to become a pet and he survived three years. He became very tame and allowed his fleas to be dealt with by regular baths followed by a blow-dry. (I wonder if he started the modern fashion for spiky hairstyles, maybe a Hector instead of a Mullet!). Another hedgehog took 4 months to recover and on the day of release Eunice took him several fields away and let him go by a stream. It was a hot night and Eunice was out in the garden relaxing at about midnight when she heard a snuffling. Back in the kitchen there was the hedgehog sitting by the fridge waiting for his dinner. He kept coming back and used to like to eat from the cat's dish sat up on the counter. Prickly, maybe, stupid ...no!

*Concludes on next page*

## REVISED DUSTBIN DAYS

Over Christmas and New Year

From Monday December 26th to 29th:  
two days later.

Friday December 30th becomes Tuesday  
January 3rd.

From Monday January 2nd to 5th:  
two days later.

Friday January 6th becomes Monday  
January 9th.

From January 9th up to 13th:  
one day later.

### Quick and quirky

Why doesn't glue stick to the bottle?

If a deaf person has to go to court is it  
still a hearing?

What is the speed of darkness?

### *Continued from previous page*

The last shaggy dog story relates to Eunice finding blood on her kitchen floor and a huge hedgehog, brought in by her dog, Simba. Anxiously she examined the hedgehog but could find no injury. Simba it was who was bleeding from the top of his head and under his eye. Seeing the injuries the vet enquired what sort of dog had attacked Simba and roared with laughter when heard the true story. Simba, however, took no offence and became best friends with the hedgehog which he brought often into his own bed. Needless to say all four of Eunice's dogs and the five cats were "cruelty cases" needing help

**So with such a varied life** Eunice reckons "you have your moment, you're here for a purpose". Her current purpose she feels is to be a therapist and too teach in a profession where she can go on learning and giving. As I left Eunice mentioned that she had also won competitions at the Wensleydale Tournament of Song. And now we come full circle back to Eunice's mother, as Eunice has given the Tournament a cup to be awarded to best junior string instrumentalist in memory of her mother, The Eileen Hankinson Cup.

**P.J.R.**

## Doctors' rotas as supplied by the surgery

Aysgarth Surgery Rota Wb - week beginning											Hawes Surgery Rota Wb - week beginning										
Wb	28Nov		05Dec		12Dec		19Dec		26Dec		Wb	28Nov		05Dec		12Dec		19Dec		26Dec	
Day	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	Day	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
Mon	J+W	W	J	J	A+F	A	F+W	F	C	C	Mon	A+F	A+F	F+W	F+W	J+W	J+W	A+J	A+J	C	C
Tues	A+F	A+F	F+W	F+W	J+W	J+W	A+J	A+J	C	C	Tues	J+W	W	J	J	A+F	A	F+W	W	C	C
Wed	J+W	W	A+J	J	A+F	A	F+W	F	J	J	Wed	F	F	W	W	J	J	A	A	F	F
Thur	A+F	A	F+W	F	J+W	W	A+J	J	A	A	Thur	J	J	A	A	F	F	W	W	J	J
Fri	W	W	J	J	A	A	F	F	F	F	Fri	A+F	A+F	F+W	F+W	J+W	J+W	A+J	A+J	A	A
<b>Doctors:</b> A - Arblaster, F - France, J - Jones, W - West, C - Closed <b>Morning Surgery:</b> 9.00 - 10.30 a.m. (no appointments) <b>Afternoon Surgery:</b> 4.00 - 5.30 p.m. (appointment only) <i>For appointments and all enquiries ring 663222</i>											<b>Doctors:</b> A - Arblaster, F - France, J - Jones, W - West, C - Closed <b>Morning S'y:</b> 8.45-10.15 Tues till 10.45 (no appointments) <b>Afternoon S'y:</b> 5.00-6.00 Tues 1.00-4.00 (appointments only) <i>For appointments and all enquiries ring 667200</i>										
Aysgarth Surgery Rota Wb - week beginning											Hawes Surgery Rota Wb - week beginning										
Wb	02Jan		09Jan		16Jan		23Jan		30Jan		Wb	02Jan		09Jan		16Jan		23Jan		30Jan	
Day	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	Day	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
Mon	C	C	A+F	A	F+W	F	W	W	A+J	J	Mon	C	C	J+W	J+W	A+J	A+J	A+F	A+F	F+W	F+W
Tues	F+W	F+W	J+W	J+W	A+J	A+J	A+F	A+F	F+W	F+W	Tues	A+J	A+J	A+F	A+F	F+W	F+W	W	W	A+J	A+J
Wed	A+J	J	A+F	A+F	W	W	W	W	A+J	J	Wed	W	W	J	J	F	F	F	F	W	W
Thur	F+W	F	J+W	W	A	A	A	A	F+W	F	Thur	A	A	F	F	W	W	F	F	A	A
Fri	J	J	A	A	F	F	W	W	J	J	Fri	F	W	J+W	J+W	A	A	A	A	F+W	F+W
<b>Doctors:</b> A - Arblaster, F - France, J - Jones, W - West, C - Closed <b>Morning Surgery:</b> 9.00 - 10.30 a.m. (no appointments) <b>Afternoon Surgery:</b> 4.00 - 5.30 p.m. (appointment only) <i>For appointments and all enquiries ring 663222</i>											<b>Doctors:</b> A - Arblaster, F - France, J - Jones, W - West, C - Closed <b>Morning S'y:</b> 8.45-10.15 Tues till 10.45 (no appointments) <b>Afternoon S'y:</b> 5.00-6.00 Tues 1.00-4.00 (appointments only) <i>For appointments and all enquiries ring 667200</i>										

### Christmas and New Year Surgeries

Friday December 23rd – **Normal surgeries**  
 Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day and Tuesday  
 December 27th **CLOSED**  
 Wednesday 28th – Friday 30th – **Normal surgeries**  
 Monday Jan 2nd – **CLOSED**  
 Tuesday Jan 3rd onwards – **Normal surgeries**

The out-of-hours service will operate when the surgeries are closed. In case of serious medical emergency only, please telephone **667 200** & your call will be re-directed to the call centre.

### Repeat Prescriptions

Wensleydale:- Order by Tuesday Dec.20th for pick-up from surgeries or drop-off points by Friday 23rd.  
 Swaledale:- Order by Tuesday 20th for collection from drop-off points late on Friday afternoon Dec.23rd  
 Dentedale:- Order by Thurs.Dec.15th for deliveries  
 Monday Dec.19th

### Flu vaccination campaign

At the time of writing we have approx 150 flu doses left – all reserved for those in the at risk groups. It is unlikely that there will be any vaccine left for those whom the press have dubbed 'the worried well'. Do not delay in booking your appointment: it will be first come – first served.

### Chemist's details

J.E. Hogg Chemist in Hawes will be open as usual 9.00am-5.30pm on Christmas Eve. We will be closed on Christmas Day and will re-open on Wednesday 28th to Saturday 31st (9.00am-5.30pm). However, on **Monday December 26th we will be open from 12 noon until 1.00pm**. We will be closed on New Years Day and will re-open on Tuesday January 3rd 2006. We will be receiving normal deliveries on Christmas Eve, and on the Wednesday, Thursday and Friday before New Year.

Make sure you have a few simple over-the-counter remedies in the medicine cabinet in readiness for those minor ailments that can take the enjoyment out of the festive season. Painkillers (liquid form for the kids), cough/cold remedies, something for an upset stomach, and a few first aid essentials. Pop in and ask for advice or ring **667213**.  
**Angus, the pharmacist**



## HEAVENS ABOVE

### Astronomy page

I was soundly berated by a couple of friends(!) last month for describing Mars as a "bright, red spark" when really "it only looked a bit orange-ish". Well I suppose it's true to say that most heavenly bodies (apart from those with the fake tans!) aren't really that strongly coloured. Certainly they don't appear as colourful to the naked eye as they do in modern day astronomical photos. A closer look, however, soon shows that many of them do have a definite colour cast. Now that the spectacular winter constellations are back on the scene, it's an ideal time to try and catch a glimpse of some of these for yourself, and test your colour vision at the same time. So dust off those old binoculars (but mind you don't drop them, Margaret) and get yourself organised for the new stargazing season.

By 8 o'clock in the middle of the month the southern sky is filled by the unmistakable blocky figure of Orion. Marking his left shoulder is Betelgeuse, a noticeably reddish - orange star, while diagonally opposite (below the sloping line of three stars forming his 'belt') is brilliant Rigel, which has a decidedly steely-blue glint. Following the line of Orion's Belt upwards brings you to another reddish star - Aldebaran, the baleful eye of Taurus, the Bull - a nice sight in binoculars surrounded by the loose stars of the Hyades cluster. Higher up still is the more compact cluster of The Pleiades. Overhead on a winter's evening is a beautiful yellow star, Capella, the 6th brightest star in the sky. The brilliant blue-white star low on the NW horizon is Vega, leader of the constellation of The Lyre, while right on the eastern horizon is a pure white star, Regulus, chief star of Leo Major. Low in the SE on a winter's evening is Sirius, the brightest of all the stars, which flashes like a diamond

all the colours of the spectrum - 'corruscates' is the word for this effect, I believe.

This December is a good month for planet spotters. Mars is fading rapidly but still shines at a respectable magnitude, minus one, for most of the night amongst the stars of Aries. The ringed-planet Saturn rises at 8 pm in the middle of the month and will become more prominent as the winter progresses. It has a yellowish cast to the naked eye. Jupiter is visible in the very early morning hours, as is tiny Mercury, the innermost planet.

You'll find it very low down in the southeast in the pre-dawn sky. Venus is a spectacular evening object throughout the month, shining brilliantly in the western evening twilight, where it makes a very appropriate 'Christmas star' - have a good one and here's to clear skies in 2006.

**Al Birio**



Do you always eat too much at Christmas? Do you make the same New Year's resolution every year but rarely stick to it? Do you want to get fit and lead a healthier lifestyle?

Why not come along and try out our new sports facility?

We can offer:

Football (5 and 8-a-side), Tennis, Netball, Basketball and Fitness Training.

The costs are:

£6.00 per hour for ½ a court

£12.00 per hour for full court

We also offer further reductions for block bookings. Are you a sports coach or would you like to become one?

We are interested in hearing from you, please feel free to contact us for an informative chat.

For more information on how to book or become involved please phone **650060 or 07968 606571**, or you can contact us by email [info@yorebridge-sport.co.uk](mailto:info@yorebridge-sport.co.uk) or visit our website [www.yorebridge-sport.co.uk](http://www.yorebridge-sport.co.uk). (Paul Price is no longer in post).

*The Yorebridge Sports Development Association (YSDA) would like to wish all readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and thank everyone who has supported and given their time to make this project possible – now let's use it!*

## **JOB ADVERTISEMENT**

**JOB TITLE:** Sports & Fitness Development  
Co-ordinator. **Yorebridge, Askrigg DL8 3BJ**  
**HOURS:** 32 hours per week  
**SALARY:** £14,500 (pro rata £12,547)  
**CLOSING DATE:** Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January  
**INTERVIEW S** Week commencing  
Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2006

The YSDA Ltd. covers the Upper Dales area

and is a new initiative based at the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) in Askrigg.

**Further details and an application form can be obtained from: Colin Bailey on 650060 or 07711 211169**



## **THE POOR'S CLOSE CHARITY**

### **Sedbusk**

A field at Sedbusk is being offered for sale by the trustees of an old Sedbusk charity.

The charity originated in 1782 when the income from land in Sedbusk was used for the relief of poor persons resident in Sedbusk. In 1976 the charity was formalised by a scheme approved by the Charity Commissioners. The trustees were confirmed as the Vicar for the time being of St Mary and St John, Hardraw, a descendent of one of the original trustees and two persons nominated by the Hawes and High Abbotside Parish Council. Over the years gifts have been made by the trustees to residents in Sedbusk who were in need and from a reading of the letters of thanks in the charity's records these were much appreciated.

Recently it became clear to the trustees that as the income from the land barely covered the expenses of managing the field and the nature of Sedbusk had changed to the extent that it was not possible to identify the "poor" of the village the charity could not continue in its current form. As a consequence three of the long serving trustees, Mr E Chapman, Mr J Dinsdale and Mr G Sumner decided to retire and pass the administration of the charity to others who could take it on to its next stage. The Parish Council appointed Mr A Fawcett of Hardraw and the Clerk Mr I Fowler as its nominees. Mr Sumner is the descendant of one of the original trustees but no member of his family wished to be appointed in his place. The Vicar, the Rev Bill Simms, continues as a trustee.

The new trustees, after consulting with the retiring trustees, have decided that the field at Sedbusk, comprising just under an acre in area, should be sold and the proceeds of sale, after paying for the costs of the sale, should be invested. It was also

decided that the area of the charity should be widened so that the income from the investment could be used to provide for the relief of poor persons in the whole of the Hawes and High Abbotside Parish.

Information about the future operation of the charity will be published in due course following the sale of the field. If any one is interested in purchasing the field details are available from the agents, JR Hopper & Co in Hawes.

**Ian Fowler**

## **WOODLAND LEGACY**

A brand new wood is being planned for the Dales thanks to a legacy from a regular visitor. Jean Staples from Doncaster loved the Dales so much that she left £23,566 to the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority when she died at the age of 69.

Now all that is needed is a generous landowner prepared to provide about eight hectares for the project.

Geoff Garrett, YDNPA Trees and Woodland Officer, said, "The legacy presents the opportunity to make a significant contribution to new woodland planting, as well as providing a lasting memorial to Miss Staples and for the benefit of residents, visitors and the local wildlife."

Farmers and landowners have already been taking part in another scheme in which they will be paid to plant more trees. So far 11 have asked to be included.

## HIGH HALL NEWS

### Residents Birthdays:

**Anne Eldridge 13<sup>th</sup> November**

**Ruby Westwood 29<sup>th</sup> November**

Residents and Day care clients are very busy at the moment. There are various activities on the go; varnishing the pebbles/stones for paper weights, painting material to make into sponge bags, painting silk scarves, starting to make Christmas hampers, ornamental fish bowls, and coat hangers. We have had aromatherapy, manicures, bingo, dominoes, word searches and quizzes. They have also had a trip out round the dale stopping at the Mill Race Tea Room for a bite.

Leading up to Christmas Sue is organising Harp singers, Hawes Band, Christmas Lunch, Singalongs, shopping trips to Darlington and the Watershed at Settle. Residents are also going to the Pantomime.

Sunday December 4<sup>th</sup> is the Friends of High Hall Christmas tea.

Monday December 5<sup>th</sup> is High Hall Christmas Whist Drive

### We have Vacancies:

Laundry 20 hours

Kitchen 16 hours

Dining Room 29 Hours

If interested in any of the above posts please ring High Hall ( 650316)

### Sycamore Day Centre

Angela and Liz have been busy organising in-house entertainment and outings. They have also now set up a regular Luncheon Club. Photography, bread making, and clay modelling have been some of the in house activities plus a Restaurant Extravaganza (see website for photographs of this and other events [www.sycamoreclose.com](http://www.sycamoreclose.com)).

### Sycamore Hall

This time when I went back I was given my hard hat which fitted perfectly, I might

add, to keep until my next visit. (I thought that means they're going to let me go back; might get a jacket next time- could end up with a new outfit.)

Now the roof is on, the scaffold down and the outside is getting tidied up we can really see how it is taking shape and going to look. It is quite a building and the comments I have had from the local people are all favourable (so far) "What a grand looking building". Rooms are getting doors on so are looking more defined. Plasterers are plastering like mad, electricians electricianing (I know there isn't such a word but, there should be) plumbers are plumbing, joiners are joinering (another wrong one) and painters are painting like mad. Kitchens and bathrooms have been fitted, tiled and flooring is being laid. It is looking good.

Angela took some photographs in October so look on Sycamore website [www.sycamoreclose.com](http://www.sycamoreclose.com) and get a sneak preview. **Margaret Metcalfe**

## ESPAÑOL NOCHE"

A Spanish Tapas Night is being held at the Crown, Hawes on **Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup> from 8.00pm onwards**. Price £12 per head and includes a glass of sangria. Booking is essential by phoning **667212**.

Also note well - Spanish Classes on Thursdays with Monica will be starting again from 7.00 to 9.00pm on **December 8<sup>th</sup>**. All welcome.

## **'SWALEDALE AND WHARFEDALE' REMEMBERED**

In October 2004 I launched a book called 'Wensleydale Remembered' at the Dales Countryside Museum, Hawes. It recalled the lives and deaths of all the servicemen throughout Wensleydale who lost their lives in the two World Wars and whose names are inscribed on parish war memorials.

I am now in the process of writing a second book entitled 'Swaledale and Wharfedale Remembered' The men who lost their lives from Swaledale and Arkengarthdale (Keld and Tan Hill to Richmond) and from Wharfedale (Buckden to Bolton Abbey) will be included. With many photographs showing life in the dales before the Great War and throughout the 20s and 30s, the book will attempt to place these men back in the dales they would have been so familiar with.

Many people from these areas have already provided me with information and photographs about many of the servicemen, but I am still lacking information of many others. Through this newsletter I'm asking for any help from family members who lost relatives in the two world wars from the Swaledale area. I would be most grateful particularly for more information on any servicemen whose names are on the Richmond war memorial.

I can be reached either by post to Keith Taylor, 'Wensleydale', 4 Oker Road, South Darley, Matlock, DE4 2JQ or by phone on **01629 732622 (mobile 07790 575077).**

**Keith Taylor**

## **WENSLEYDALE PAST AND PRESENT...**

...is a local web site for and by the people of Upper Wensleydale and all who visit her.

The web site is **[www.thedales.org.uk](http://www.thedales.org.uk)**

The idea for this site came about after creating **[www.sycamoreclose.com](http://www.sycamoreclose.com)** (a care and information site) for Service providers, Service users, friends and family in Upper Wensleydale with some local history thrown in, which has proved to be very successful.

We felt it would be a good idea to create a similar site but this time for the people living working and visiting in Upper Wensleydale. This site has been many months in development and will continue to grow.

### **Dales Diary**

An up to date (click on) diary of local events, fundraisers, attractions etc.

**Local Information** on your local college, the community office, local job opportunities, local WEA information, local library facilities, the Dales Countryside Museum and much more.

**Past and Present** - we hope to eventually include some thing about all the communities in Upper Wensleydale.

We have recipe pages, dales flora and birds, dales tales (past and present) and many other little tit bits to whet your appetite.

### **Old Photographs**

There is an old photographs section with lots of digitally restored pictures and information.

Help would be greatly appreciated with any information, photos, tales etc. you feel might be of interest to a larger audience.

Comments can be added at the bottom of each page. Or you can e-mail me at **[angela@kershaw.org](mailto:angela@kershaw.org)**

## HAWES SCHOOL NEWS

On Wednesday November 16th classes 3 and 4 set off to East Barnby for the annual school trip. It took two and a half hours to get there. It was really good and every one had a great time. We went to Runswick



Bay and searched for crabs and sea insects; we also went to a wood and made shelters from wood and bits of things on the ground. We went rock climbing and some people climbed blindfolded and we went orienteering through the local area. For most of the activities we had to wear blue suits that made us look like teletubbies.

The food was lovely and the overall trip was brilliant.

**Thomas Fothergill and  
Ryan Richardson**

### **Beware of SCAMS**

We are aware of a number of callers who are contacting business people in the area to ask them to support local schools by providing books or booklets on Bullying or Drugs Education. Whilst we are very grateful to local businesses in wanting to

help children in the Dale, often the books provided are not really suitable or helpful.

If you would like to support your local schools please contact them directly.

The callers can be very persuasive.

**Mrs J. Woodyer**

## **BAWB IS BORN**

Six terms ago all the staff of our three local small schools **Bainbridge**, **Askrigg** and **West Burton** held a meeting to plan how we could promote links between our schools for the benefit of the children. **BAWB** was launched and activities have often been reported in this newsletter.

We agreed 3 main aims:

- To allow the pupils to get to know others of similar age from the neighbouring schools;
- To give the teaching and support staff of the three schools opportunities to work with single year group classes and with each other;
- To have fun; teachers teaching areas of specific expertise and interest, not necessarily the National Curriculum.

As we approach the last activity day of the six termly days we originally planned, I have been finding out if those involved feel the events are worthwhile and if we have achieved our aims.

Representatives from the three schools met recently having asked their children for comments. Overall a feeling that the days are enjoyed and worthwhile came over. A small number seem dissatisfied but mainly positive reports from the children. Staff, parents and governors I have spoken to are keen for the links to continue.

In October the children in my Infant class all reported an enjoyable morning. I have a display of prints on the classroom wall (thank you Askrigg teacher) that the year 2s brought back. One boy said he hadn't wanted to go but he had enjoyed it when he got there (aim achieved). Some of the Reception children had been apprehensive but came back full of confidence having enjoyed their trip to Bainbridge Nursery.

Of my own activity when asked what

they enjoyed Year 6 comments included: "Being proud when I got to the top of the hill"; "Going down the fossil field"; "The view"; "Getting out and meeting new people and making new friends".

My activity, in case you haven't guessed, is a walk as so many children want activities outside. This time I went up Morpeth Lane, along Hudson Quarry Lane and back down the fossil field. Lots of interest – the road to the old quarry, wildlife, fossils, THE VIEW. Things they didn't like? Several said nothing, but two said "having to socialise" which makes me think it is all the more important to continue!

If anyone connected with the above schools, or indeed anyone else, would like to comment on the project please get in touch.

**Sally Stone,**

**West Burton School 663230**

## **WEST BURTON HERITAGE PROJECT**

A Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority heritage project will allow us to extend our 'Old Photographs' collection.

This collection preserves and displays memories of life in West Burton over the last 100 years or so. I think the oldest photo is from 1896. It includes school groups, village events and adverse weather (e.g. the waterfall freezing over in 1896). If you have any pictures you think could be included please would you contact either **Sally Stone 663373** or **Tony Ellender 663882**. All originals will be returned.

**A LETTER TOO MANY; for your entertainment**



**They couldn't understand  
the architect's planks**

**AND FINALLY,**

here's one version of a few circulating:

**If they had been Wise Women:**

They would have asked directions,  
Arrived on time,  
Helped deliver the baby,  
Cleaned the stable,  
Made a casserole,  
Brought practical gifts,  
And there would have been  
Peace On Earth!

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Whilst we try to make sure that all information is correct we cannot be held legally responsible for omissions in articles, listings and advertisements or for any inconvenience caused thereby. Views expressed are not necessarily the views of the committee. Please ask before reproducing any newsletter articles.

**ADVERTISING**

**Boxed adverts: £5, £10, £15**

There is a one-third reduction for three issues or more, so for twelve issues the totals are  
**£40, £80 or £120**

**Greetings etc. £2.00**

**What's ons (non-commercial) are free.**

**Contacts:**

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For elsewhere: **Sue Duffield, Fellside,  
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