

Upper Wensleydale Newsletter
Issue 111—Late January,
February 2006

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EDITORIAL



A sledge hammer to crack a nut; making mountains out of molehills; like a bull in china shop!

Read on.

The problem with the sledge hammer is that it not only smashes open the shell but mangles up the nut as well. Isn't that the case with so much of the legislation or the regulations that pour out from organisations, councils, regional authorities, government, continental or international bodies? We get the impression that overkill is the order of the day. This seems especially true when the sledge hammer approach is applied to small rural areas. "One size fits all" does not work. Rules and regulations from on high weigh down on small concerns, small new businesses and especially on small village halls. Also the heads of tiny schools, the ministers of small chapels or churches, the leaders of youth groups or Brownie packs or the clerks and secretaries of small councils or clubs and charities can all become disillusioned with what is seen as 'over the top' administration, with reports, evaluations and questionnaires.

It isn't that all this is not well-intentioned; it just seems that a few more feet on the ground at the drafting stage might help. Of course health and safety matters are very important, but are we not getting to the point where no-one will risk doing anything, especially where it involves children, without days of research, assessment of risk, trying closing every conceivable loop-hole (which is well-nigh impossible when dealing with people... some of whom don't listen!), all taking up so much time that it becomes 'not worth the hassle' or the response 'I'm not volunteering'? Rather than improving the

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overall quality of life, it reduces it. One small unfortunate individual incident or accident, and the drafters of the regulations move into over-drive.



Now to the mountains! When the above rules, regulations and guidelines come out they are by the bucketful (if you'll pardon the mixed metaphor) only encouraging readers to ignore them! The ease with which, with computers, we can all produce heaps of material can become part of the problem; a waste of words and paper, and it's not only the amount but also the clarity, or lack of it. So much seems to be sent out without being read and checked. So let's go for molehills but make them neat and tidy!

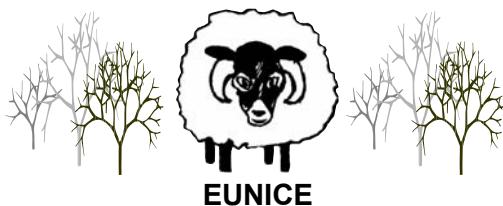
So all this load of information arrives and...Enter the bull! Getting hold of the



wrong end of the stick(!), he/she wields it around having not properly read what is written, (all the more reason for clarity) nor listened to what is said, nor understood anyone else's point of view. Chaos ensues.

Are we guilty? For our part our resolution will be: not to go over the top, to keep to clear, accurate, balanced and hopefully interesting English, and to be careful not to smash the china.

A happy new year.



Eunice says "I was at the bottom of the ladder on page 5 in December and many readers came to see me."

The winner's name, selected very properly from a real hat, is **Joan Sharpe, Cockermouth**.

"I have decided in this issue to hide in a rather more secretive place!"

LOST AND FOUND

Wooden memorial seat at Town Foot, Hawes. Grateful thanks to Sid Iveson who found it and to Eric Bell who retrieved it for me.

Thank you very much.

Mary Grainger

Drop-off points and contacts

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

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

CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD ANSWERS

Across

- 1. Christmas
- 8. Acme
- 9. Condoning
- 10. Poor
- 13. Bells
- 15. Persil
- 16. Spider
- 17. Lights
- 19. Carols
- 20. Holly
- 21. Crab
- 24. Party line
- 25. Rome
- 26. Bethlehem

The winner chosen was:

Jane Ritchie, West Burton

Down

- 2. Hoop
- 3. Indo
- 4. Tinsel
- 5. Annals
- 6. Accordion
- 7. Terrorise
- 11. Apple core
- 12. Programme
- 13. Birth
- 14. Spray
- 18. Solace
- 19. Clutch
- 22. Sloe
- 23. Once

THIS MONTH'S COMPETITION

A “New” alphabet for the New Year.

Each of the answers begins with “New” followed by each letter of the alphabet.

Example: Y = New Year.

- A** Lifestyle and philosophy of the 1980s
- B** There's one in Bishopdale
- C** There's one in Pendle
- D** There's one each sunrise
- E** N.E. U.S.A
- F** Just invented! Can't understand it!
- G** Old London jail
- H** In E above
- I** Not really old! Quite fresh.
- J** In U.S.A Got one for winter?
- K** “... there's a —— born today” (Carol)
- L** Model industrial complex in Scotland
- M** About every four weeks
- N** It became Y and J
- O** It's in Notts.
- P** Shining like it
- Q** There's one in Central Wales
- R** In Powys
- S** Temple ——
- T** It might be great crested
- U** Huddersfield as opposed to Oxford
- V** Bird flu is one
- W** “Going home” tune from it.
- Y** grande pomme
- X** Replacement presented to percussionist!
- Z** Antipodean Islands

£10 available for the winner selected from those getting them all correct.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS UPDATE

First of all a huge thank you to all who became Friends of the Upper Dales Christmas Lights. So far this year, over £2000 has been donated to the funds by Friends - a real testament to the generosity of the people and businesses of Hawes and the surrounding area. This has helped put the lights finances on a much sounder basis – more of that later. The lucky Friends who won a massive £194 (10% of the fund when Father Christmas arrived) were Mr and Mrs Ian Newiss of Brandymires.

Many of you exercised your brains on the Christmas Lights anagram competition organised by Trish Woof. This raised a splendid £76 for the lights fund. From a surprisingly large number of correct entries, the two lucky winners drawn from the hat were Mrs E M Taylor of Crook who won £10 and Netta Davidson of Bainbridge who won £5. Results at the end of this article.

We are now in the unusual position of going into 2006 with a surplus in our account. This will allow us to refurbish some of the displays which need major attention, consider buying some new displays and, most importantly, start installing weatherproof external sockets to power the displays. You may have noticed that this year the committee and other volunteers have erected the lights themselves. This has helped us to reduce costs significantly. With the external sockets we will also be able to power the lights up ourselves, reducing the ongoing costs further, leaving more to spend on the lights themselves as well as on Father Christmas's arrival, children's gifts and the children's party.

Again our thanks to all who have donated, fund raised for us, helped with the storage, repair, erection and transport of the lights and sleigh and, not least, thanks to Father Christmas himself who once again honoured us with a personal appearance, despite his busy Christmas schedule.

Without your help Hawes would not look nearly so bright at Christmas.

**Alastair Macintosh
Christmas Lights Committee**

Anagram answers:

- 1 Apperset 2 Mallerstang 3 Garsdale
- 4 Semerwater 5 Gunnerside 6 Chapel-le-Dale
- 7 Wild Boar Fell 8 Rogans Seat 9 Buttertubs
- 10 Blea Moor 11 Selside 12 Settle
- 13 Frostrow 14 Addlebrough 15 Fleet Moss
- 16 Whitaside Moor 17 Oughtershaw
- 18 Sedbusk 19 Snaizeholme 20 Kilnsey Crag
- 21 Malham Tarn 22 Arnccliffe 23 Castle Bolton
- 24 Great Shunner Fell 25 Horsehouse
- 26 Preston Under Scar 27 Penhill 28 Caldbergh
- 29 Halton Gill 30 Silver Hill 31 Raven Seat
- 32 Pendragon Castle 33 Stags Fell 34 Cotter Force 35 Simonstone

A HAPPY WEEKEND

The “Dalesfolk” got it going on Friday December 9th with foot-tapping popular, and very local, songs accompanied by double bass, guitars, penny whistle and mouth organ in the John Baker round room at the Museum.

Then on the Saturday and Sunday the “Crafty Christmas” saw the rooms filled with stalls, crafts, activities for girls and boys (very popular, these), Mother Christmas, and a steady supply of mulled wine and mince pies.

It was a very pleasant occasion made possible by the support of a large number of the Museum “Friends” and the planning and organisation of Fiona Rosher, Debbie Allen and all the Information Assistants.

At the latest meeting of the Museum Friends details were given of the plans for this year which include return visits of two very popular theatre groups. Theatre of the Dales will present “**Two**” in April and North Country Theatre will present “**The 39 Steps**” for two nights in June, and the museum is hoping to develop a “Young children’s trail” round the museum and to develop a theme on water energy. Of the exhibitions in the pipeline one on the environment and “rubbish” sounds good.

NEW GUIDES TO THE NATIONAL PARK

Visitors to the Dales will be able to get their hands on a raft of new information booklets starting next year thanks to a new agreement between the YDNPA and a publishing company.

Settle-based DalesCountry Publishing, a division of Kingfisher Productions, has agreed to pay for the production of a range of guides including one book listing the **top 50 accessible wildlife sites** in the National Park and another explaining how to identify the wildlife to be found at each location. These are written by Dr Tim Thom, the YDNPA’s Senior Wildlife Conservation Officer, natural history author Brin Best and Paul Evans of English Nature and are due to be published in the autumn next year.

TOMMY BRIDGE—TOO FAR GONE

Horse-riders and cyclists will soon be able to cross the River Dee in comfort thanks to a £35,000 Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority maintenance scheme.

Tommy Bridge straddles the river just east of Dent village and, over the years, thousands of walkers have used it to cross the river.

But horse riders and cyclists have not been so lucky – because it was too narrow for them, they have had to get their feet wet walking through the water. And that could be a problem when the river was running high. But that will soon change.

Area Rangers and Dales Volunteers are now working with contractors to replace the 16.5m long footbridge with a new bridleway bridge that can accommodate horses and cycles too. And they will be upgrading the network of paths in the area as well.

Paul Wilkinson (Sedbusk), the YDNPA Area Ranger for Cumbria, said: “The main wooden supports on the existing bridge had rotted away – it was too far gone to repair. “Depending on the weather, we are hoping to have the new bridge itself finished soon – but it will remain closed until early February because there is a lot of work involved in the whole scheme including improving the bridleway link to Sike Fold Lane below Whernside Manor for the first time.”

“The bridge is being built to bridleway standards with handrails and kickboards. It will be supported by three steel girders and there will be ramps at each end to give improved access.

“The bridge is at the junction of three public footpaths and two bridleways and also carries the Dales Way long-distance walking route so it is quite busy although it’s in a rural location. We are getting more horse riders who are local as well as visitors coming to the area so the new bridge will be of benefit to an increasing number of people.”

On Friday November 18th Shelagh Philips the Road Safety Officer visited. She dressed up Damon, Ester, William and Laura in fluorescent clothing to remind us all about road safety and how to be safe in the dark which we found really useful.

Friday November 25th - West Burton school visited Askrigg school to share a production by 2 actors of "A Christmas Carol" which everyone really enjoyed and got us in the mood for Christmas.

Lucy Burton and Ellie Ashford

WEST BURTON SCHOOL NEWS

The end of term production of "Hump the Camel" provided an unusual twist on the nativity with Key Stage 1 children all taking parts. Hump the camel was played by William Drake, with Key Stage 2 providing excellent musical support.

The children also enjoyed Christmas Lunch, Christmas Party and an end of term assembly in the chapel. Congratulations to everyone who received prizes.





On Thursday December 8th, the children Y5 and Y6 went to Carperby to entertain the Luncheon Club with a programme of Christmas music, including songs, carols and instrumental pieces. The children were a credit to the school and the appreciative audience were responsive both with their applause and the generous unexpected donation given to the school. We have decided to buy a new music songbook and to give half (£25) to the Starlight Foundation who grant wishes for terminally ill children. Thank you to the Mums who drove us there.

(Advertisement/information)

Commission free

**BUREAU DE CHANGE ON
DEMAND**

**From mid-January
At Hawes Post Office**

Foreign currency at the Post Office has been popular over the short time we have been here at Hawes and now we are adding to this service by offering commission free Euros and US Dollars currency and Traveller's cheques over the counter. Sterling Traveller's cheques will also be available over the counter. All other currencies will continue on the same basis as before - order by 2.00pm and it will be here next day.

We have invested in the on demand service ourselves because we feel it will be of benefit to the local community as well as our many overseas visitors.

We will also have the facility to buy a wide range of currency and Traveller's cheques commission free, whether or not they were purchased from Post Office Ltd.

We are hoping to bring the Passport Check and Send Service to Hawes in the near future which will again help the local community. Post Office travel insurance is also available and has recently been revised to make it even more competitive.

We do welcome your support in this venture as without it we may forfeit our investment. Happy New Year to all our customers and here's to Happy Holidays 2006

Linda and Stephen

POLLY IN PANTOLAND

By Ann Wilkinson

presented by Hawes Amateur Operatic Society 5-10 December 2005

If as Shakespeare said 'All the world's a stage' it is certainly not true that all the world's a pantomime stage. For though, as the Oxford Companion to the Theatre points out, the word pantomime has seven distinct meanings, the one we are all accustomed to has as uniquely British an origin and flavour as cricket, and is nearly as hard to explain. So, to go to a pantomime with say, a young German visitor, as I once did, is an odd experience. 'Vy' he asked, 'is der hero a vooman, and vy is he vearing tights? And vot vos ze purpose of ze laundry scene? And vy hafa camel in China?' - it was Aladdin in case you haven't guessed. The answer to all his questions is of course, 'Because it's a pantomime!' but he didn't find that very helpful. So much for the stage history.

However this year's HAOS offering by a local author of evident talent might have fooled you into thinking it was a straight, slightly sentimental play, beginning with an upper-crust Christmas Party with demure young ladies singing carols, and restrained conversation among the guests. Until, that is, the advent of Aunt Aggie - a splendidly over-the-top performance by Alison Wade making a welcome return to the stage. Thereafter all traces of logic and respectability vanished as Rosie Dinsdale's charming Polly took us into her dream and Pantoland. There we met in rapid succession a motley crew of heroes, heroines, villains and villainesses not to mention sundry barmpots and animals from various pantomimes. In so far as there was a plot - and pantomimes are better without too much plot - it hinged upon the Winter Queen - Shona Dinsdale all sleek black and silver malevolence - and her evil design to impose permafrost upon

the world. This wicked scheme Prince Nicholas (Aunt Aggie's magic-boxed dream present to Polly) enlists her help to frustrate. He was played with jaunty vivacity by Joanne Hardwick. During their knockabout ramble around Pantoland, they recruit allies and opponents, including Jennifer Fawcett's golden Fairy Godmother, to whom the author I think might have given a bit more magical clout. Old Mother Hubbard, nicely doubled with Mrs Perkins by Hazel Waldman, a smooth Aladdin - full of Eastern promise - by Angus McCarthy (doubling the nasty Sheriff of Nottingham) and his chirpy little Genie of the Lamp (Ryan Richardson). They suffered the dubious assistance of the Ugly Sisters: Magenta played as a Bearded Lady (whiskers cunningly obscured) by Mike Waldman and Dave Jackson as Floribunda. They attacked their splendidly hammy roles with huge gusto and a nice sense of contrast, not to mention a sly innuendo here and there for the adults.

Emily Pickard gave a neat vignette of Cinderella while Alan Harpley and John Drew as the intellectually challenged Trouble and Strife displayed a nice sense of comic timing besides - transmogrified into Daisy the Cow - playing one of the three, yes three, non-human parts. This bonus for those like me who love pantomime animals also had Kim McCarthy's appropriately bouncy Baby Bear - making the kids in the audience hoarse in the much-loved 'Look behind you!' routine - and a stately Frosty the Snowman from Carolyn Rukin. The last two, like Cinderella and the Genie, were played by members of the Intermediate Ensemble - couldn't we just call them teenagers or is that no longer PC? But one of the great strengths of this show was the fact that it offered plenty of scope to younger players who actually outnumbered the adults if you count the juniors too,

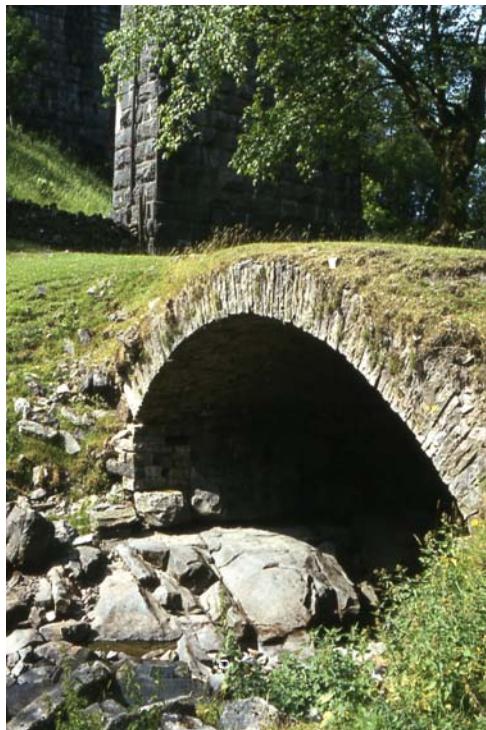
which augurs well for the future of HAOS. For the musical numbers the author had cannily stuck to the kind that don't call for complex harmonies or bravura solos, and which even old fogies like this reviewer can recognise and join in.

As usual, Norma Fowler and Colin Bailey persuaded us that they were a seven-piece orchestra while as for the crucial but largely invisible backbone of any production, the direction (by Colin Bailey and his assistants), the choreography, lighting, sound, set design and construction, stage management and front of house they could not be faulted. I feel it right to quote Shakespeare again 'Their true intent was all for our delight'.

Trevor Johnson

WILSONS

The refurbishment work on Wilsons (formerly Laura's Cottage) in Hawes has now commenced and steady progress is being made. Chris and Chris hope to open on Friday February 10th or thereabouts with a comprehensive take-away service and of course a full sit-down waitress service. Look out for the advert coming.



Mystery picture.

Last issue's picture was taken in **Whitfield Gill, Askriгg**. One reader thought Mill Gill, but that was as well as anyone did! This month's is easier!

MORE ACCESS INFORMATION FOR THE DALES

A new leaflet has been produced to promote walks and facilities in the Yorkshire Dales for people with limited mobility and families with very young children.

The new publication, called Access for All, has been produced by the Sedbergh and District Community Trust in conjunction with the YDNPA and provides information about countryside routes and details of access to facilities and places to visit in the three parishes of Dent, Sedbergh and Garsdale as well as Cautley and Killington.

It also lists other maps that can be used, details of websites full of information on different routes and attractions within the Cumbria area of the National Park.

The leaflet is the final phase of a project that has involved extensive access work to create suitable walks in the area, with work being carried out by YDNPA staff, Trust members, Dales Volunteers and youngsters from local schools.

Paul Wilkinson, YDNPA Ranger for the Cumbria area of the National Park, said: "We hope the leaflet will help improve people's access to the open countryside. It is only a guide to some of the walks and facilities we have in the park but, hopefully, it will give new visitors a taste of what is on offer so they will want to come back again."

FOR OTHERS

Over the Christmas season concerts, carol services and all kinds of activities took place raising money for various charities. Here are the results we've managed to collect:

West Burton Chapel, carol singing and services for the NCH Action for children
£555

Hardraw Church for Stop2Night in Darlington **100**

Group of carol singers, Hawes Town Centre, Pakistani Earthquake appeal **90**

Hawes Methodist Annual Carols by Candlelight for Childline **220**

Hawes churches united Toy Service donation for Salvation Army **100**

St Oswald's Askrigg Christingle for the Children's Society **191**

Carol singing round Askrigg for children's sports **207**

Askrigg School children donation to Starlight Foundation **£25**

Hawes Charity concert for Hospice Homecare **1557**

Plus donation from Barclays Bank **750**

West Burton School, Raffle for Amala **120**

Gayle Carol singing for Asian Earthquake appeal and for King's Club **250**

Castle Bolton carol singing for the Salvation Army **115**

Redmire carol singing for St George's Crypt, Leeds **90**

Carperby Luncheon Club for Askrigg School and the Air Ambulance **108**

St. Andrew's Aysgarth for St.Martin's Hospice, Wetherby; Scripture Union; Tearfund for the Pakistani earthquake appeal; Diocesan Ordinands' Fund; USPG; and Churches Housing Trust **600**

Thornton Rust for the Starlight Foundation **106**

Also Thoralby village hall carols for High Hall
This makes a total of about **£5200**

Apologies for any we haven't been able to track down.

POEMS GALORE IN DALES CONTEST

Judges had a hard job to pick out a winner and runner up in the two classes of the wildlife poetry contest, held during the *Wild at Heart* exhibition at the Dales Countryside Museum last summer, but they have finally made their choice and the youngsters will all receive a bumper bundle of National Park goodies.

Museum manager Fiona Rosher said: “It’s the first time we have held a poetry competition and it attracted more than 40 entries. We even had some poems from adults, which was wonderful.

“The quality and standard of entries was very high and we really had our work cut out to choose just one in each category — in fact, we couldn’t resist giving prizes to two additional poems.”

The competition — on the theme of wildlife in the Dales — was just one of the activities organised during the exhibition, which aimed to help children understand more about the huge variety in the natural world around them.

Judges felt the winning poems reflected the wildlife theme of the exhibition and showed a creative response to the things the children learned on their visit.

Winner of the over-10s category was **Karl Peart**, aged 12, from Keelby, North Lincolnshire, with his poem:

*I saw an Otter:
I saw an otter with its smooth fur and its
magical blue eyes
On a picturesque green river side
And then like an angel it glided into the
sparkling water of the Dales*

Winner of the under-10s category was **Emily Lauterpacht**, aged 7, of Barrington, Cambridgeshire, with an untitled poem:

*Swishy green meadows
Tall hills and wildlife
Falling down barns
Very strong winds
Very cloudy days
Red squirrels are rare but I've seen a few.*

AMALA IS TEN!

We are pleased to pass on some details from the latest **Amala Children's Home** Newsletter at this important anniversary and also to put on record our admiration for the commitment and dedication of **Kim Pollit** in West Burton.

Here's what was written ten years ago:

"It is common knowledge that so many children living in the Third World countries live extremely impoverished lives. India is no exception. From the very youngest age some children find themselves orphans, begging and living like animals on any scraps they can find. These young boys and girls may be exploited by parents or by owners. Mortality is very high when compared to the healthy and generally comfortable living in the western world."

Little has changed for these children except for those who have been helped by AMALA CHILDREN'S HOME. Life for these has been, and is being, changed. In ten years many hundreds of boys and girls have come to Amala, some residents as young as three and a half. They have passed through our home and school to become healthy, responsible and mature adults.

You have given them life. Their health, knowledge and understanding will be taken with them into adult life and passed on to their own families. The very poorest of Hindu, Christian and Muslim 'Dalit' families clamour for their children to be accepted into Amala which supported just thirty five boys in 1995 and now supports **four hundred** daily. This has happened and continues to happen because of the generosity and prayers of Amala's supporters.

The school takes children from three and a half up to sixteen or seventeen to a standard similar to GCSE and on receipt of this certificate the young people can go on to sixth form or college for two more years and Amala agrees to completely support them with fees, maintenance and accommodation. With help from sponsors

some students can then progress to higher education, and this year for the first time two young men from the poorest of the poor who came to Amala at the start have just qualified: BA and BSc.

This is all made possible by the Amala "family" of teachers, wardens, cooks, clerks, drivers and labourers, many of whom have been living there from the early days.

Building and development over the ten years has been remarkable; a fine girls' home, a replaced boys' home, dispensary, new kitchen, storage and staff rooms, kindergarten, offices and small library, land bought for crops and additional development.

The task ahead. A new high school has to be built separate from the home, so too has the kindergarten and primary school; these are huge requirements placed on Amala.

Our area feels to have a special link with Amala, and readers might like to become sponsors or make a donation which will help to bring children out of extreme poverty, free from disease and prevented from drifting into towns with the begging, abuse and child prostitution.

This Newsletter is happy to commend the work of Amala and its links with Wensleydale School. For more details or to support financially, call **Kim Pollit, Mill House, West Burton. 663597**

NORTH AND SOUTH

As I told you last time, I recently spent a week in London playing in an orchestra where I was one of only two people from north of the Home Counties. Conversation was a bit strained to begin with and I wondered why. It turned out that I was regarded as thoroughly "Yorkshire". This seemed odd to me because at my school - mainly because of how I sound - I'm regarded as an "incomer" from the South. As a result, I have since been reflecting on some of the differences I have found since being "up here".

I spent my entire first decade in Surrey before my parents decided they'd had enough of London and its environs and "emigrated". I was consulted of course, and of course I agreed feeling that it was better to be supportive than obstructive. In truth, it has turned out very well and I certainly don't wish to be back in Surrey, but my recent reception at the orchestra course gave me to wonder quite where I belong.

I was certainly regarded as an outsider by the home-counties players, whereas I know I'm pretty much considered an outsider by my friends up here as well. And this after seven years. We were warned frequently that it would take a long time to become accepted as natives in this part of the world. I didn't believe that at the time but now I'm not so sure.

I think this difficulty with integrating has a lot to do with respective accents. At school they all hear my Southern accent and pull my leg on that account, whereas in London I was mimicked for my "Yorkshire". Can they all be right? Perhaps Americans and Britons are not the only people to be famously "divided by a common language". For example, "it'll be reet" not only means "don't worry everything's fine" but also "stop nagging it's becoming annoying". Another classic

example is the greeting "a'right?" where everything depends upon the body language and the inflection of the word. Whereas on the one hand it means "hey, what are you up to?" on the other it means simply "hello." This applies especially when teamed with a quick nod. "Hellish", too, has many contrasting meanings. Rather than implying 'terrible' or 'scary' as one might expect, "hellish" can substitute 'very', as in 'hellish good', or can simply replace 'cool' or 'wicked' to describe an experience. At first I was mystified by these phrases and when anyone said "a'right" to me I'd immediately begin explaining that yes I'd had a cold for a week or so which was annoying, but on the whole I'm fine thanks - how are you? I now nod sagely when told the day is "fairing up"; I no longer press for a definite decision when told it's a case of "six and two threes"; I know to look sympathetic when somebody is "right twined"; I press no more food on guests who are as "full as an egg"; I know what to wear when it's "right clarty" underfoot and I am aware that workmen eat their dinners from a "bate box" (or is it "bait box"?)

Life here is so much less pretentious too and face value much more reliable. If you catch someone's eye they invariably smile or nod at you in acknowledgement, shopping is a much more friendly activity, community seems still to matter, ostentation is unwelcome. 'Up here' it is a perfectly normal sight to see landrovers driving about coping with potholes and muddy fields. In my hometown of Weybridge it is also perfectly normal to observe the multitudes of bottle-blonde mothers-of-three clambering out of their gleaming 4x4s in sunglasses, pearl earrings and rose pink tracksuits to do the school run. It should also be pointed out that monster 4x4s as often as not have evil-looking bull bars attached to their fronts.

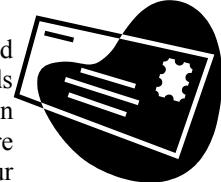
When did anyone last encounter a loose bull in suburban Surrey?

As I reread this article it occurs to me - if my naturalisation continues at this pace, do you think one day my friends might forget I come "from off"?

Megan Price, Bursary student

LETTERS

Dear UW Newsletter,



Having failed miserably with regards to spotting Eunice in recent months, we are pleased to offer our entry for December as we have at last spotted her - at the bottom of the ladder on page 5. This does seem a somewhat insulting position as for us, Eunice is 'at the top'. She offers great entertainment to all our members - both in Kent and also within Bromley Social Services Family Centres where her fame has spread.

We all read your December editorial with interest. With regard to the national statistics you mentioned, no doubt some of the indicators of deprivation have some relevance but it always feels as if Wensleydale is rich in the qualities and attributes that many other communities - especially urban - have lost. People in Wensleydale know their neighbours and will support them at times of difficulty. Children are 'looked out for' and senior citizens receive affection and respect.

As for general facilities - the variety and quality offered within Hawes is always commented upon by our Kent friends and colleagues who spend time in Wensleydale.

A Happy New Year to you from Kent

Best Wishes

Sheila Birkin

Hello;

Greetings from Cyprus. Spotted Eunice in the December UWNL; it's time I found it.

Thought it would be fun to enter, and by so doing let you know that your publication travels this far!

Best wishes,

**Matt Blyton
(former Head, West Burton School)**

SAMSON BY HANDEL

Are the Swale Singers a bit crazy? Fancy thinking about putting on a ‘Handel Night’ in Muker in the middle of February! Before you decide that they are crazy - and you won’t come along - hang on a moment. Here are four reasons for risking it.

*First, there’s a bribe. You will get a pound off your post-concert drink at the Farmers Arms.

*Second, the boiler at Muker Church is in fine fettle, so the welcome should be warm.

*Third, Handel’s *Samson* is a tuneful and exciting work and the choir find themselves humming the tunes as they go home from choir practice at Low Row on Sunday afternoons.

*Fourth, do you remember a highlight of Prince Charles’s wedding to Lady Diana? You know, Kiri te Kanawa in her cute hat singing “Let the Bright Seraphim”? That is the Finale of *Samson* and, while hats will not be worn, it promises to be a rousing end to a jolly evening. So do come.

The Swale Singers perform Handel’s ***Samson* on Saturday, February 4th** at 7.00pm in Muker Church. Tickets are £5 from choir members, or by phone from Barbara on **01748 886535** or at the door.

THANKS, SARA

Some people would think running a youth club for over six years was worse than a life imprisonment; but thank goodness people do it. Sara Mason started with the Junior youth Club in Hawes and moved to the older group three years ago, but is now retiring. Thanks, Sara.

There is a wide-ranging re-organisation of youth work taking place in the area.

THE HILLS OF HEAVEN

I was asked to write about my favourite place in Wensleydale. What a task!! Which part is a favourite; it nearly became impossible to choose.

Looking at the above question again I think perhaps the view as you enter our dale from any quarter is spectacular, a wonderful sight whether it is down the long road from Ingleton, over from Muker or the way up from Northallerton.

An elderly man used to travel and help me to set up my market stall in Thirsk, Ripon, Leyburn and Hawes. I used to pick him up from his small flat in the industrial part of Batley; near Dewsbury in West Yorkshire where all he could see from his windows was a brick wall. In his youth he had walked our hills and dales and longed to see them again. It was a great joy for him to come with me even though it meant a 5.30am start.

One early beautiful clear, still morning we were approaching Leyburn from Harmby and from our lofty position in the van we caught sight of the wonderful curves of Pen Hill and the hills of Coverdale. As we carried on further up the dale towards Hawes we continued to see the wonderful shapes of the top scars and of course the familiar shape of Addlebrough. The hills enclosed us and the valley carried the sparkling waters of the river Ure and the gentle slopes of the pastures gently protect the animals. What a history this dale carries, it is all before us. To Sidney, this Wensleydale will always be the most beautiful place in the world and to him we are surrounded by the hills of heaven; it will do for me this God given land.

Sheila Fawcett

1906-2006

About twenty five years ago Jennie Siddle, who then lived in Sedbusk, wrote of the memories from her father, Kit Metcalfe, about how this bit of the Dales reacted to a 1906 contest between two old enemies. We are grateful to Gavin Edwards for supplying us with details for this extract.

CON v LIB

Pre-election mischief and the strange ways of spreading news

In 1906 the Liberals defeated the Conservatives in the Richmond constituency for the one and only time to date.

Mr Acland, the Liberal candidate, came from a wealthy landed family and rented part of Coleby Hall and some land at Skellgill, accompanied by his family, maids and a donkey. Acland canvassing in Raydaleside called at High Fors where the curate of Stalling Busk, Mr Geiky, was lodging; he was a keen Liberal so they arranged a meeting on Marsett Green where Mr Geiky, opening it, had to apologise for his poor performance because of a boil on the back of his neck! James (Jammy) Metcalfe from Bainbridge shouted "It should've been on thi' backside!"

Jammy (Butcher) Metcalfe, a Liberal this one, from Bainbridge, who had called one of his sons Winston (and was furious when Churchill swapped parties) had a pony and trap and went to Richmond to hear the election result; there weren't any telephones.

John Willie Hodgson from High Blean galloped to Bainbridge to hear the result and then straight back to be the first to bring the news to Raydaleside. He rushed out into his garth and fired his gun to let his brothers at Counterset know, so they could spread the news over there.

When Acland came back after the election, Liberals from Askrigg and

Abbotside met him at Askrigg Station with a horse and float. They wheeled their new M.P. in triumph to Askrigg. The Aclands used to buy cheese and bacon from Jennie Siddle's grandfather who was then at Gill Gate near to Coleby. He had a Christmas card from them showing the M.P. wheeling his bike in a snowstorm.

Kit Calvert (Hawes), was a boy of four and living in Burtersett. His father stuck a bill up on some double doors advertising a Liberal meeting but it kept being taken down so he stayed up until midnight and put another up. He went back home and was in the kitchen taking his boots off when the notice came through the window-wrapped round a stone!

Kit's father lived in a row at right angles to where uncle George Fothergill lived and when the result was known he told Kit to go and tell him "Shay's down the drain" - Shay being the Conservative candidate. Kit didn't know what it was all about but he ran to the house and shouted the message. His uncle set about him and was giving him a good hiding, but his grandfather who also lived there stopped him and told him not to take it out on the bairn. If he wanted a fight he should "Go and see t'feyther"

There was great excitement in Hawes on election day and the result was brought from Northallerton by the signalman ringing his bells to pass the message on. John Mason (Ivor's father) was the signalman in Hawes and he stayed in his signal box all night and when the news reached him he blew his fog-horn to let the Liberals of Hawes know that they had won.

SEDBERGH SCHOOL BAND

Those who attended their last concert a few months ago will remember the almost overwhelming quality of the performance and the enthusiasm of the young individual performances.

There is to be a return visit on **Thursday January 26th at 7.00 pm in the Hawes Market Hall.**

You won't be disappointed!

SCHOOLS CALL EXTRA TIME!

Schools in Wensleydale want to extend their provision to meet the needs of the local community. They have appointed me as Co-ordinator to help them build partnerships with other organisations to provide after school clubs, holiday activities and learning opportunities for adults. In other areas around the country, such initiatives have led to new arts and sports activities after school, family learning and drop-in sessions with the school nurse, for example. Also schools are being seen much more as the hub of the community.

What ‘extended schools’ will mean in Wensleydale depends on needs expressed by the community. Some schools are opting to survey the opinions of their families so please do respond if your child brings home a questionnaire. Alternatively you could talk to your local Head Teacher or contact me direct via email or phone with your views and ideas. I’d also like to hear from anyone living locally who has specialist skills and would be willing to deliver activities after school or during holidays.

So, if you’d like to see more happening for children and young people throughout Wensleydale, have more choices around childcare or find out how to support your child’s learning ,please get in touch.

Eve Galloway (Extended Schools Co-ordinator, Wensleydale)

The Wensleydale School

Leyburn. 622244 ext 145 or email:

egallow@wensleydale.n-yorks.sch.uk

HAWES MARKET HALL

Please note that for the month of February, (owing to a delayed honeymoon) the Market Hall diary will not be available for bookings. If you need assistance, the caretaker is on the premises most week-day mornings, and the management committee can be contacted through the community office.

S.H.

**RACE NIGHT
In aid of Kidney Research
ROSE AND CROWN BAINBRIDGE
Saturday February 11th
8.30 pm**

HIGH HALL NEWS

Childhood memories

Well, we have had some quite interesting discussions about games children played years ago. One memory seemed to spark off another. Marbles; how many names there were for them: pop alleys, glass alleys, agates, and toes were just a few of the names we came up with.

Conkers was another game; they were even put in the oven to bake to make them really hard, or soaked in vinegar. Whip and Top; George said he nearly got a good hiding for playing with his in the middle of the road. This was in the days of the horse and carriage and seemingly the horse shied at the sound of his whip and top which quite upset the carriage driver.

Nora, 94, said she remembered playing Punch and Judy with her younger brother who, to make it more authentic, hung her up on a cupboard.

Mary, 98, said hopscotch, skipping and rounders. I said, "What about Tennis?" "No" she said, "Tennis was for the better end not for the likes of us."

Yo-yo, French Cricket, Leap frog. Hopscotch, Block 1 2 3, What time is it Mr Wolf? Farmer's in his den. Poor Mary lies a weeping, Ring a ring of roses. Please Mr Crocodile can we cross your golden river. Tig or Tag... It just goes on and on.

Skipping was a great pastime, especially for girls, with all the different rhymes that went with them. "*I'm a little girl guide dressed in blue, these are the actions I must do, salute to the officer, curtsey to the queen and turn my back on the football team.*" "*All in together girls, never mind the weather girls, when I call your birthday, all fall out.*" "*Raspberry, strawberry, gooseberry jam, tell me the name of your young man*" are but to name a few. Another came up about "*I'm a little brownie dressed in brown,*" but we won't go any further with that one.

Playing with balls:- often two against a

wall, juggling with them, then under the legs and if you were really clever you could flick one round your back or do a quick spin in the middle. These all went to rhymes: "*1,2,3,O'Leary, I spy my aunty Mary, sitting on a bumbleairy, eating bread and toffee. One clap your hands, two fold your arms, three roll your arms and four under your leg.*"

Handstands against the wall was another pastime for girls. My friend Jean remembers a little gypsy girl Loretta doing handstands in primary school, Loretta's undergarments were bright red flannel, not the normal white aertex. Was she envious!... went straight home and asked her mum if she could have some. (I forgot to ask if she ever got any). Party games: hide and seek, pass the parcel, postman's knock, wink, musical chairs and the list just goes on.

Margaret Metcalfe

MUSINGS FROM THE READING ROOM



This is the year that an apparent consensus of high-level energy analysts predict is the year that world oil production will peak, after which the supply begins to decline. Have you

begun to think about how this might affect you and those you love? Well, maybe you should, – if you want to be prepared for an unravelling of our carbon-powered lives which seemingly lies ahead; - because so far there seems little prospect of any appropriately viable alternative to meet the accelerating scale of demands for power as the fossil reserves run out.

“The end of the world as we know it” may sound like a tabloid headline, but there’s a growing undercurrent of intelligent warnings to this effect; - not intended to be apocalyptic but practical, - to reduce our dependency on carbon-based power. How might we prepare? What steps can we take? Is there a local network for exchange of ideas, small-scale initiatives, mutual support and encouragement? – because we’re likely to need it, and there’s no sign that government will provide it. Not only will production decline (even Dick Cheney has said so), the rate of depletion is accelerating all the time as the demand from developing economies increases, - especially, we are told, China and India – enormous countries whose combined populations are a quarter of the world’s total.

The clamour of concern about rising CO₂ emissions from fossil fuel consumption, and the effects this has on what all

reputable opinion seems to acknowledge are increasing unstable climate conditions, has not yet galvanised any realistic commitment from the international community to voluntarily curb the patterns of consumption which produce the emissions. It may turn out that diminishing supplies of oil and gas (with all that might ensue) will eventually reduce the emissions, but will that happen soon enough to make any impact on the processes now in motion?

Dr James Lovelock, the famous inventor, also formulated the Gaia hypothesis, which suggests our planet may be a living organism in its own right, with its own integrated mechanisms of *homeostasis* or balance, just as the human body has. (Human agendae are irrelevant, in this model, to the planet’s overall integrity). So just as the human body has systems for eliminating invasive organisms which threaten its life, this theory speculates the planet could well have similar mechanisms to protect itself. The human species, behaving somewhat like a virus on the body of the earth, so a part of the argument goes, may provoke inflammatory reactions in the earth to purge it of the disease. It’s a coldly clinical hypothesis, scientifically, appropriately, Godless (notwithstanding Gaia was the Greek goddess of the Earth), but not therefore necessarily unspiritual.

(Go to foot of next column)

LOST IN A BOOK

Reading is a solitary occupation, but a reading group gives you the opportunity to share that reading experience and your views on the books you have read.

The Readers' Circle at Middleham Key Centre welcomes new members. It's easy to join, just read the chosen book and come along. We have recently embarked on the novels which were short-listed for the Booker Prize. We meet on the second Thursday in the month and on 9 February at 2.00 will be discussing 'A Long, Long Way', by Sebastian Barry.

Forthcoming meetings will look at The Whitbread Prize winner, 'The Accidental' by Ali Smith and John Banville's 'The Sea' which won the Booker prize.

We look forward to seeing you, you will be very welcome.

Middleham Key Centre, Park Lane,
624002

We all have a choice: to be part of the disease, or part of the cure. Do we realise how many opportunities we have, every day, in all the myriad of choices that we make, in every thought, word and action, to make a difference, to be the difference? - without needing, as Dr E F Schumacher himself (author of the seminal 'Small Is Beautiful') said, "to bother our heads or burden our souls with whether we'll succeed". What matters is how we use our power to choose, - in even the smallest ways.

PS. If there is a local group(s) or network exploring the issues raised in this column, the writer is keen to hear about it.

Thank you.

Sue Lightfoot

Many readers would have heard Sue on a recent radio phone-in programme on Radio 4.

"I CAME WITH THE BUILDING- and I've gone with it!"

When Christine Thwaite started doing a bit of casual relief work at Sycamore Close as it opened a mere twenty five years ago, she hardly expected to be retiring as its warden as they were pulling it down! "It's had a very short life" she said, "And how things have changed".

The residents were much younger then; now they are all in their 80s and 90s, but as Christine says, she wouldn't have stayed if she hadn't enjoyed the work, rising to assistant warden and then taking over from Nora Smith over nine years ago. She has enjoyed the training needed and meeting people, but is now taking early retirement from January 21st, for a break, and moving to Harmby and we wish her well.

The demolition begins on January 23rd. Christine has been concerned about the effect on the fourteen residents left as, with mixed feelings, they move into the new Sycamore Hall but, as she says, the council has been helping them in every way so that they will "Just go over".

The Day Centre has already started and we will be featuring Sycamore Hall and the new Manager, Michelle Mottershead in the next Newsletter.

A.S.W.

DON'T BIN IT – RE-USE IT!

Recycling – How green are you?

Do you simply bin things, or do you recycle them?

Currently I hope you take your newspapers, glass, cans and clothes etc. to recycling skips in Hawes and Askrigg, or that your young children take them to their school's bins.

Have you ever felt a need to get rid of computer cartridges and old mobile phones, and know they will be going to a useful end? Did you know that it is estimated that there are 90 million old mobile phones sitting in drawers in the UK, and that over 54 million computer cartridges are binned each year, and they could earn money and be reused ? Well here is your chance to recycle and raise some money for a good cause. The W.R.V.S needs funds.

£1 is raised from each inkjet/laser computer cartridge

**£2.50 from a redundant mobile phone.
50% of the money goes to national W R
V S funds, BUT 50% comes back to
North Yorkshire Meals on Wheels funds.**

How does this concern us?

This area can benefit as in the upper dale a number of elderly people receive meals on wheels twice each week cooked at the Crown Hotel in Hawes and delivered by Margaret Johnson and her team. In Askrigg & Bainbridge they are cooked at High Hall, and delivered by Kate Empsall and her team.

What to do next- Get all your friends, neighbours and your employers to recycle their old mobile phones, laser and inkjet cartridges.

DO NOT take toner bottles, ribbon cartridges, Canon BJC/BC! Cartridges, Canon inkjet cartridges, broken cartridges, or re-manufactured inkjet cartridges, as they cannot be recycled in this scheme.

Simply take your cartridges and old phones and drop them in a large BLUE box at either -

The Community Office and Resource Centre, The Neukin, Hawes

Hawes Post Office

Bainbridge Post Office

Sykes House, Askrigg

We will empty the bin.

contents and keep you in touch to let you know how much has been raised .for North Yorkshire Meals on Wheels project.

MOORCOCK INN CHANGES HANDS

A busy start for a young couple in their 20s with Christmas and New Year festivities, but Simon Tijou and Caz Field were happy and relaxed when I went to see them at the Moorcock, Garsdale Head, in their first 'dream pub'. They have both gained valuable experience at the Wheatsheaf in Carperby, and jumped at the chance to run their own pub

Since moving in on November 10th they have been renovating three guest double bedrooms which they hope to have ready for visitors by the end of March. The unique character, ambience and atmosphere of the Moorcock is being retained, much to the delight of the locals who have made them feel very welcome. New extensive lunch and evening menus of traditional and genuinely home-cooked food at reasonable prices (with a children's menu) have been produced by Caz, who is also planning weekend and summer 'specials'.

Through their special interest in art, Simon and Caz are hoping to replace the traditional pub wall decoration with originals from local artists, either through purchase themselves or possibly by using the Moorcock as an outlet for local artists.

Caz was 10 when she moved to Carperby with her parents and went to Wensleydale school before a temporary move to complete her further education where she met Simon, whose home was in Romsey, Hampshire, whilst they were both studying at Portsmouth.

We wish them success in their new venture.

P.H.J.

FEBRUARY GARDENING



February is an optimistic month for gardeners - the days are lengthening, bulbs are starting to pop their green tips through the soil, buds are just beginning to swell and the bird song is just that bit louder. There's the urge to be outside again and if the weather permits there are some jobs to do. Walking on very cold wet soil and lawns should be avoided at the moment as it pushes out air causing compaction. This in turn prevents the bacteria from working properly and spoils the structure of the soil. So when it is very cold and wet it's better to stick to jobs such as cleaning the greenhouse, checking for fungal growth, and cleaning up garden tools and lawnmowers.

While the greenhouse has been dosed during winter very often botrytis or grey mould will have infected plants. It's quite common and the simple remedy is to remove any infected leaves and scrape away the top layer of soil. At the same time it's worthwhile checking tubers, corms and fruit that are being stored for any rot or disease. On a warm day it pays to wash the windows and open them for a while to let fresh air and light in.

On a good day work can begin outside on the vegetable plot. Trenches for runner beans and sweet peas can be prepared. Both like a sunny aspect and plenty of moisture, so a 12" trench needs to be dug and lined with lots of moisture-retentive material such as manure or old newspapers. Other parts of the plot can be covered with cloches to warm up the soil ready for planting. If large areas are going to be used then it's worth using a large sheet of clear polythene. This too will warm up the soil and help seeds or seedlings get off to a good start as they tend to rot more in cold

wet soil; plus any dormant weeds will germinate and these can be hoed away quite easily. Indeed it's a good time to keep an eye on weeds in borders generally adding some slow release fertiliser e.g. chicken manure at the same time.

If it's not too wet lawns can be given a good rake over to get rid of last year's thatch followed by spiking all over using a fork. Brushing sharp sand into the holes will help aerate the lawn. It might look a bit of a mess for a week or so but once the grass starts growing again it will look better than ever.

Birds will start to become more active soon, so a couple of things need to be done to keep them happy. Firstly any deciduous hedge should have a last trim before they start to nest. Keeping bird tables topped up with food will encourage them into the garden as during summer they're extremely useful at devouring aphids and pests. February is a good time to put up bird boxes as it gives the birds a chance to get used to them as they are deciding where to nest.

Any day spent outside gardening is such a treat at this time of year. Hopefully it will be a foretaste of lots more days to come.
Happy gardening,

Peduncle

Doctors' rotas as supplied by the surgery

AYSGARTH SURGERY ROTA Wb - week beginning										HAWES SURGERY ROTA Wb - week beginning											
wb	06Feb		13Feb		20Feb		27Feb		06Mar		wb	06Feb		13-Feb		20Feb		27Feb		06Mar	
Day	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	am	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	A+F	A	F+W	F	W	W	A+J	J	A+F	A	Mon	J+W	J+W	A+J	A+J	A+F	A+F	F+W	F+W	J+W	J+W
Tues	J+W	J+W	A+J	A+J	A+F	A	F+W	W	J+W	J+W	Tues	A+F	A+F	F+W	W	W	W	A+J	A+J	A+F	A
Wed	A+F	A	J+W	J	A	A	A+J	J	A+F	A	Wed	J	J	A	A	F	F	W	W	J	J
Thur	J+W	W	A+F	F	F	F	F+W	F	J+W	W	Thur	F	F	W	W	W	W	A	A	F	F
Fri	A	A	F	W	W	W	J	J	A	A	Fri	J+W	J+W	A+J	A+J	A	A	F+W	F+W	J+W	J+W
Sat	Emergency service only										Sat	Emergency service only									
Doctors: A - Arblaster, F - France, J - Jones, W - West , C - Closed										Doctors: A - Arblaster, F - France, J - Jones, W - West , C - Closed											
Morning Surgery: 9.00 - 10.30 a.m. (no appointments)										Morning S'y: 8.45-10.15 Tues till 10.45 (no appointments)											
Afternoon Surgery: 4.00 - 5.30 p.m. (appointment only)										Afternoon S'y: 5.00-6.00 Tues 1.00-4.00 (appointments only)											
<i>For appointments and all enquiries ring 663222</i>										<i>For appointments and all enquiries ring 667200</i>											

THE UPPER WENSLEYDALE COMMUNITY OFFICE

We have said a sad goodbye to Hilary and Nigel who left the Community Office just before Christmas. Hilary having moved to Hawes from Swaledale is going to concentrate on her new B+B business in Burtersett Road. Nigel was one of the longest serving members of staff at the Office, and he kept our accounts in neat order. We thank them both for their assistance over the years and wish them well in the future.

Meanwhile it is business as usual with Pat West from Counterset joining Abbie Rhodes on the staffing rota and between them covering the same opening hours and offering all the same services as before. The Community Office (and the County Council's Resource Centre, including the Library and Internet suite) is open from 9.30am-4.30pm Monday-Friday, with the late night opening 5.30pm-7.00pm continuing on Thursdays. They look forward to seeing you whenever you call by.

We are looking to recruit an extra person to help cover the front desk at the Office for one day a week (the exact day to be agreed) with the possibility of additional employment from time to time covering for annual holiday, sickness and training.

If you enjoy meeting people, helping people, being rushed off your feet from time to time, and ideally have some basic accounts skills we would like to hear from you. We offer a good rate of pay along with all the necessary training.

Please call me on the contact details below, or call in and leave your name and telephone number at the Community Office.

John Blackie
Chairman - UWCP Ltd
0796 758 9096



HEAVENS ABOVE Astronomy page

'All the art in the world can't beat a good meat and potato pie' L S Lowry once remarked. As a pie lover myself I couldn't agree more. All the same I'd like to think the great man might have agreed with me that even the world's best 'growler' can't quite match up to a starry sky on a clear and frosty February evening—glorious spectacle from a dark location like ours here in the Yorkshire Dales.

As the month opens the southern sky is still dominated by Orion the Mighty Hunter of ancient legend, and his retinue of bright winter constellations - Taurus, Gemini, Auriga (The Charioteer) and Canis Major and Minor, The Greater and Lesser Dogs. Sirius, leader of Canis Major, is the brightest star in the sky and is unmistakeable flashing diamond-like low in the SW. To the east of Sirius is the winter Milky Way flowing up from the southern horizon to Auriga high overhead in the Zenith. Fainter than its summer counterpart it's still well worth sweeping with binoculars especially where it meanders down through the constellations of Cassiopeia and Perseus in the NW. Two other fine sights in binoculars at this time of the year are M42, the Great Nebula - a hazy patch of light below the line of 3 sloping stars forming Orion's 'Belt' - and Praesepe - The Beehive - an open star cluster in the constellation of Cancer the Crab. Not too far away from The Beehive this year you'll find the ringed planet, Saturn, which reaches opposition (when the Sun, Earth and planet are in a dead straight line) on January 27th. The rings are a beautiful sight in even a small telescope.

By the end of February Orion is heeling well over to the SW at midnight and the eastern sky is showing signs of the

impending change in the seasons. The distinctive 'backwards question-mark' of Leo is well up in the SE, and as the night creeps on the blocky figure of Hercules climbs into view. High in the NE the familiar shape of the Big Dipper stands on its handle. Following this downwards brings you to the constellation of Boötes, the Herdsman. To seasoned observers the reappearance of its golden-orange leader - Arcturus (The Guardian of the Bear) - gleaming low on the eastern horizon, is a sure sign that winter is at an end and the warmer days of Spring only just around the corner. Have clear skies!

Al Birio

LIFE IN THE ANTARCTIC OVER TWO MILES DOWN

Following his recent scientific expedition to the southern seas, Dr. Mike Thompson is giving an illustrated talk on **Wednesday, February 22nd, 7.30pm** at Thornton Rust Institute.

Tickets, including light refreshments, are £4 for adults, and children are admitted free. Proceeds in aid of the renovation of Thornton Rust Mission Room.

NATIONAL PARK RANGER'S REPORT

2005 has been a busy year for us in the Lower Wensleydale area with the introduction of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 in May and the ongoing maintenance of the public rights of way network throughout the year. We have, with the assistance of volunteers, replaced or repaired seven footbridges and repaired or installed a large number of stiles and gates. We have also undertaken other projects such as repairs to the stone flagged paths around Askrigg Village. We will be continuing with our ongoing maintenance programme with some larger projects such as repairs to the riverside footpath between Aysgarth and Askrigg.

Our Dales Volunteers will be out surveying all the footpaths, bridleways and footbridges within the area over the course of this of this year to ascertain their condition. Any maintenance work that is required from the survey will then be included into our work programme.

I would like to make you aware that there is a Temporary Footpath Closure Order in place at Forlands Plantation near West Burton. The footpath is closed due to many windblown trees over the footpath. Alternative routes are available and these are posted on maps at either end of the closed section of path. It is the intention to start works to remove the fallen trees in the near future. One final item, can I remind all the local residents with car parking passes to renew their passes with the new 2006 pass which is available from your local National Park Centre and the Dales Countryside Museum at Hawes.

**Nigel Metcalfe, Area Ranger Lower
Wensleydale; 662912**

UPPER DALES FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

A drop-in family history computer club will be held at Hudson House, Reeth, **on Saturday, February 4th, from 1.00 to 5.00 pm**

Group members will be there to help either to get started or continue with your research and to show you what resources are available through the internet. Stay as long as you like; cost £1.00 per hour.

The next full meeting of the group is at Middleham Key Centre, **Wednesday, February 22nd, 2pm**, when Joyce McKay will talk about what to do if you have "Scottish Roots".

Everyone is welcome - non members £1.



Miss Mary Burrow opening the “Good Life” at Hawes on her 100th birthday

FREE HELP FOR EMPLOYERS ... BUT FOR HOW LONG

Hambleton and Richmondshire Citizens Advice Bureau are providing employment law advice and information for local small businesses for free. The scheme has been in operation for two years with little take up. John Garner the Employment Rights Caseworker at the bureau said, "We only have a year's funding left for this project, and if businesses don't use the service there is no prospect of any continuation. The businesses that have used the service have found it incredibly useful"

The service can provide information and advice on all areas of employment law. From simple enquiries about the differences in the national minimum for different age groups, to writing and implementing equal opportunities policies in the workplace. The introduction of statutory grievance and disciplinary procedures, and changes to the Disability Discrimination Act, has had the biggest effect on small employers, many of whom are unaware of these changes and are in a very vulnerable position.

The aim of the project is to help both employers and employees in the districts of Hambleton and Richmondshire. Advice and information is available on all aspects of employment law.

John Garner can be contacted by email at john@richmondshirecab.org, or on **01609771784** on Tuesdays-Thursdays.

HAWES SCHOOL NEWS

On Wednesday January 11th, classes 1, 2, 3 and 4 went to the pantomime at Darlington to see Beauty and the Beast. We all had a great time and there were lots of funny parts and one of them was when a man skated across the stage naked, first with a box then nothing on at all, just his hands covering, everyone laughed.

There were famous people there such as Anthony who won Big Brother last year, all the girls screamed.

Holly McAllister

We went on the bus and when we got there we skipped the queue and went to find our seats. Then the pantomime started. It was so funny. These are the characters:- Bell, The Beast, Dame Gerti, Chester, The Grumbleweeds and Antony., It was the best pantomime ever.

Stuart Dore.

(Sorry we haven't room for all the reports sent in.)

Skills Bank

Do you have a few hours to spare?
Have you got any interesting skills/hobbies?

We would like to compile a bank of contacts containing the names of parents, friends and grandparents in the local community who would be willing to volunteer for a few half-hour sessions during primary school lunchtimes.

We would ask you to 'coach' the pupils with your skill, be it knitting, sewing, skipping, drawing, juggling or singing and the like. You can do as few or as many sessions as you wish.

If you are interested please contact the school- **667308**. Please mention this to someone you know who has a hidden talent.

RAINFALL FIGURES FROM JULY TO DECEMBER 2005
MEASUREMENTS IN MILLIMETRES

	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total for year
Hawes	39	116	156	189	172	83	1612
Carperby	45	56	70	118	98	60	924
West Burton	40	60	86	102	101	76	952
Bainbridge	43	70	94	135	122	61	1086
Stalling Busk	51	88	122	164	153	86	1266
Askrigg	37	59	83	113	110	63	999
Thornton Rust	49	65	97	134	131	70	1136

WONDERFUL WENSLEYDALE

If you live in Wensleydale and love the Dales you ought to join the Wensleydale Society. We aim to improve your enjoyment of this wonderful part of Yorkshire through our programme of talks and walks. You are very welcome to come and sample our winter programme of monthly talks at West Burton Village Hall.

Our next event, on Friday February 3rd is 'The Sons of Apollo and the Yorkshire Dales', a talk on the local origins of Quakerism by Sir Christopher Booth. At the March meeting, on Friday March 3rd, Rodney Donaldson investigates 'Bell Ringing and Aysgarth'.

Entry fee is £1 and annual membership of the Wensleydale Society is only £5.

Our monthly walks programme lets you discover and enjoy Wensleydale and its wider environs and is graded to suit the average as well as the more energetic walker. It's a wonderful introduction for anyone new to the area. We also arrange occasional visits to theatres, concerts and visitor attractions.

If you need any further information please contact **Mike Flux (Chairman) 623202 or Rodney Donaldson (Secretary) 624609**.

We look forward to seeing you at West Burton Village Hall.

MOBILE SKIP

**The mobile rubbish skip will be in
Aysgarth village
Saturday, February 18th
10.00am to 2.00pm-
earlier if full**

The actual location will be given in the press nearer the time.

MARKET PLACE AND GREETINGS

WANTED

Small modern piano
Please ring 663481 or
01748 886517

LOST PROPERTY

HAWES POST OFFICE is keen to reunite with their owners a rather stylish gents telescopic umbrella and a black fabric shopping bag containing a pair of ladies navy gloves.

ANNUAL LENT LUNCHES

Save the date

The annual soup and cheese lunches for Christian Aid will start Friday 3rd March at West Burton Village Hall followed by Thornton Rust on 10th March. The venues for the following 4 Fridays will appear in the next issue

Evelyn Abraham.

IN MEMORIAM

A wayside seat beside Appersett viaduct has come to the end of its useful life. If anyone would like to consider a place for such a bench in memory of a family member or friend please have a word with

Kevin Nugent 667672

MARY BURROW

(Hawes)

Wishes to thank all her friends and ex-pupils who so kindly sent cards and gifts for her 100th birthday

Mrs Annie Alderson

now in Rosedale Home, Catterick, would like to thank all friends and relatives for their Christmas cards and presents.

Hilda Thwaite

Would like to thank all family and friends for the lovely cards and presents sent to her on her 90th Birthday. Also thanks to everyone who attended her party, and made her birthday so special.

WHAT'S ON AT THE DALES COUNTRYSIDE MUSEUM

Film comes to the Museum

On the afternoon of the February 22nd, we will be showing a matinee film, Wallace and Gromit – Curse of the Were-Rabbit. The film will begin at 2pm. Tickets will be £3.50 for adults and £2.50 for children under 16 years, available at the museum. (phone **666210**) Refreshments will be available.

Half-term holiday activities

There will be activities for families throughout the half-term holidays in the museum education room. Opening on the February 11th for 2 weeks there will be lots to do and make with a puppets and theatre theme.

Local visitors

Although it is a quiet time for visitors in the museum, and the temporary exhibition programme does not start until March, why not call in and see what there is in the newly refurbished centre. We have all kinds of information about the area and staff are on hand to give advice and help.

The new shop is extended which stocks a variety of books, guides, clothing, toys and games.

As a local resident, you can pick up your parking pass which entitles you to free parking in any of the National Park Car Parks.

As well as the museum, there are local and family history archives to explore.

We are open every day 10am – 5pm.
Look forward to seeing you.

Fiona Rosher and Debbie Allen

WHAT'S ON LISTING

Transfer these dates to your calendar!

January

- 18 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity starts
- 20 Pie and pea supper. Crown, Askrigg for Football club; 7.30pm
- 21 Theatre group presents "Sleuth" West Burton Village Hall 7.20pm
- 26 Sedbergh School Band 7.30pm Hawes Market Hall. See p. 21
- 26 Gayle Ladies meets 7.30 pm
- 28 Bainbridge Methodist Church gift day 2.30pm. Refreshments and stalls.
- 28 Singles Darts K.O. Fountain, Hawes
- 29 World Leprosy Day
- 29 United Church service for Askrigg and Bainbridge at Bainbridge Methodist Church, 10.30 am
- 29 Joint church service for the Benefice (Aysgarth, Bolton cum Redmire etc.) Redmire Village Hall, 10.30 am
- 31 YDNPA Full committee 10.30 am Dales Countryside Museum
- 31 Red squirrel conservation meeting, Dales Countryside Museum 7.00 pm

February

- 3 Pie and pea supper. Crown Askrigg for Bainbridge School. 7.30 pm
- 3 Darts K.O. Crown, Hawes
- 4 Family history computer club. See p.31
- 4 "The Limestone Country Project" lecture; Yorkshire Dales Society, 2.15pm Addingham Village Hall
- 5 United service; Leyburn R.C. church 7.00pm
- 7 Hawes Drama Group reads "Once a Catholic"; Gayle Institute 7.30 pm
- 10 Video Race Night for Kidney Research; Fountain, Hawes
- 11 Karaoke and quiz; Board Hotel, Hawes
- 11 ...for two weeks. Museum half-term events. See page 37
- 11 Race Night; Rose and Crown Bainbridge 8.30 pm See page 22
- 14 St. Valentine's Day
- 14 YDNPA Planning committee; Ingleborough Community Centre 10.30am
- 16 Hawes W.I. "Visit to Russia" by Sue Foster; 7.00 pm
- 17 Pie and pea supper. Crown Askrigg for

Askrigg Children's Sports. 7.30 pm

- 17 Ladies Darts K.O. Crown, Hawes
- 18 Rubbish skip in Aysgarth. See p.35
- 22 Family history talk; see page 31
- 22 Film at Museum. See page 37
- 22 Life in the Antarctic; Thornton Rust. 7.30 pm. See page 30
- 24 Keith Johnson pairs darts; White Hart, Hawes
- 26 Winter walk; Aysgarth/West Burton. Meet Aysgarth Memorial 11.55am
- 28 Tea dance; Thornborough Hall. 2 to 4pm

Food for Thought

This year's Lent series of talks and suppers are on Fridays March 17th, 24th April 7th and Thursday March 30th

For details of venues and to order tickets please contact Anthony Day, Redmire **624171**



Advance notice

August 7th to 11th 2006

Askrigg Primary School

SWALEDALE FESTIVAL

Friday May 26th - Sunday June 11th

The 2006 Swaledale Festival will explore the context of artists within their time, society and place. It will also weave all 15 Shostakovich string quartets into the programme to celebrate the centenary of his birth, and will feature international ensembles such as the Borodin, Brodsky, Fitzwilliam and Callino String Quartets.

The Festival will also honour the 250th anniversary of the birth of Mozart with performances including Mozart's Requiem.

There will be plenty of non-classical music, the launch of a Swaledale Songbook project and a walks programme. More details later— or **01748 880018** for brochure

Religious Society of Friends
(Quakers)

Friends Meeting House,
Bainbridge, DL8 3EF

Meeting for Worship on
Wednesday at 10.00 – 10.30 am
and on Sundays 10.30 – 11.30am,
except on the last Sunday in the month
when it is held at
Countersetts Meeting House at
10.45 – 11.45am.

Friends Meeting House
Grove Square, Leyburn, DL8 5AE

Meeting for Worship on
Sundays 10.30 – 11.30 am

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

Learning Pays
For Adults

There are so many ways to learn
nowadays from one hour courses to
PhDs

First Aid for Children, How to Produce Digital Photography, Help Your Kids With Homework, Local History, Administration, Upholstery, Photography, Accounting, etc

Why not let me organise a fun activity for your group. We can bring learning to you, or possibly arrange transport to a more appropriate venue and, It's often FREE!

Give me a ring and have a chat
Fleur Butler Tel: 07756 483340
Email: fbutler@V21.me.uk

You can also contact me through:
The Upper Wensleydale Community Resource Centre in Hawes **Tel: 667400**

A LETTER TOO MANY; for your entertainment



The insurance company claimed he was pliable

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Sue Harpley, Katherine Head (Kids' page),
Peter H. Jackson, Tony Philpott,
Megan Price (Bursary student), Pam Robinson,
Janet W. Thomson, Lorna Ward.