
Upper Wensleydale
Newsletter
Issue 122 – Late January
2007–February 2007

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Editorial

“Do your own thing!” “Be independent!” Well, why not? In this day and age when, if you believe all you read or hear, everything is controlled from the centre or by big institutions, it might be attractive to “go it alone”.

So at all levels it seems two contrary movements take place; on the one hand nations states seek ‘independence’ while others are just as eager to join into bigger organisations. Trading companies, from your local plumbers’ merchants, or accountants, to your not-so-local supermarkets or banks come together to be stronger against competition, while on the other hand some break up either to specialise or because they can’t work together.

When it comes to administrative units, there is talk of de-centralisation (though regionalism hasn’t proved over-popular), and giving more power to local parish councils, while at the same time two-tier local government seems problematic, and all becomes more influenced by newer bodies, like Yorkshire Forward.

We are trying to be very even-handed here! The problem surely is, in an area like ours, with a very small population: what is a reasonable way of working together? Time was when every little community had its own water supply! Its own electricity! Even its own gas! Villages had three or four grocers; numerous places of worship; lots more small pubs or bars. But things have changed. Even when people claim to be ‘independent’, are they really? Independence means not relying on anyone or anything else. Is that really possible? The most successful areas are those where each organisation or business sees how it depends on others, and then they co-operate. Councils, at county, district and parish level, the National Park Authority, Community Office, Business Association, village hall committees, committees set up

for special events; it seems sometimes that these do not (and do not wish to) communicate, and yet they are all inter-dependent. In their own way they all have the well-being of the area at heart, yet you wouldn’t think so sometimes.

One hard fact to swallow is that the strength of the area is just not farming any more; it is tourism- but that is hugely dependent on the landscape which is essentially the work of the farmer. Many other trades and businesses are equally dependent on tourism, though it may not always seem obvious. It seems at times that some people look for conflict, or ‘independence’ where co-operation would make more sense.

In an area where because of our numbers it is difficult to keep some things going, it is worth asking whether our local councils, our sports groups, our churches, our schools, our businesses are too small. We are quite sure some will disagree- and go for ‘independence’; but then they mustn’t be surprised if when wanting advice or assistance, they are not all that welcome.

Isn’t the answer to whole-heartedly do together those things which will be better than apart. while still seeing that in other things a bit of competition and independence might be of mutual benefit?

Talking of independence the committee would like to add a few words of tribute to our hard-working editor who through his independence of spirit has guided this Newsletter so competently for the last eleven years. Alan conceived the idea for the Newsletter which he hoped would "inform, educate and entertain" and we hope we still live up to those ideals. Alan has always had the well-being of the area and the people who live here at heart and the continuing success of this newsletter is very much due to his constant commitment and dedication.



Eunice

Eunice was found by Luke Winspear of Camms Cottage, Askrigg. (I was in the angels on the front page).

How many can find me this month?

Bainside Arts

The new programme for all the courses for 2007 is now available. For more information contact the Arts Manager, Jenny Jackson on **650070** (work) or **650483** (home).

Bainside Arts are organising a romantic Valentine's evening on Wednesday 14 February with a concert by Pavlo. This superb guitarist and singer is at Sycamore Hall as part of a nine venue tour of the North of England. His style of "Mediterranean Music" combines flamenco, Latin, classical and Mediterranean guitar mixed with Greek bazuki.

Tickets are £10 (including refreshments). Book now to reserve a ticket by ringing Jenny on the above number.

Jenny Jackson

**Crossword
competition answers**

Clearly the brain cells suffered from an excess of Christmas cheer and we received no correct entries. Perhaps the lack of clue 13 contributed (although is there any word other than *Blighty* that would fit?) .

C	H	R	I	S	T	M	A	S	T	R	E	E
A		U		T		O		T		A		N
R	O	D		A	T	T	R	A	C	T	E	D
O		O		T		I		R		I		L
L	O	L	L	I	P	O	P		L	O	D	E
		P		O		N		C		N		S
B	E	H	I	N	D		M	O	R	A	S	S
L		T		S		S		P		L		
I	S	H	E		S	T	A	R	V	I	N	G
G		E		I		R		O		S		O
H	E	R	O	D	I	A	N	S		I	N	N
T		E		O		Y		M		N		E
Y	O	D	E	L	S		M	A	N	G	E	R

This month's competition

A trip down the North East coast: Tweed to Humber

1. O SHE RAN HERE
2. WALKING NIMBLY THOUGH
LOST IN IT
3. IMPERSONATOR JAN'S VEHICLE
4. A SMOOTHER RASPY?
5. IN HER SWEAT
6. ISITBADINTOHIERS; EVERY
OTHER ONE
7. STROLL
8. UNDERSTAND? WITH L FOR T
9. HUM, O NETTY!
10. CARRIED ME (SUBJECTIVELY
OUT) OUT!
11. NEED BALL (NOT BAT) FOR THIS
PLACE
12. NCL ON THE FIRE

Wild about 'Wild Wensleydale'

After actually being contacted by Mark Flowers of the BBC2 'Wild' series, telling us of the date and details of the programme, we were all disappointed and not a little annoyed at its 'snookering'.

At present we do not know the time of the re-scheduling, and in any case I don't feel like using the Newsletter to publicise it; who knows, they might change their minds again.

A.S.W

Christmas Lights Update

A big thank you to all who became Friends of the Hawes Christmas lights this year. Your donations totalled £2620 and prizes of £241 and £21 were given to the lucky draw winners, respectively Lyn Sunter of Gayle and Mr & Mrs Morrison Barnett of Town Foot.

The total raised is a tribute to the constant generosity of the people of the Dale, the local businesses as well as quite a number of visitors.

This year, erection and removal of the lights has been greatly helped by the use of a van with a hydraulic platform. Thanks are due to the Parish Council who funded the hire charges for the erection plus the County Council who, through the good offices of Councillor Blackie, provided funding for the removal of the lights plus a bit extra towards the work re-lighting the outside of the Market House.

As if the wild, wet and windy weather which battered the lights, fusing them a number of times, were not enough, this year has been marred by mindless vandalism. Four local youngsters kicked in the perspex front of the Crib in the Churchyard just before Christmas; early on New Year's day, someone ruined the light string on the Town Foot Christmas tree, ripping it in half and spreading it over the road to be run

over by passing traffic; on 8th January, out of control youngsters pulled down some of the new rope light from the front of the Market House ripping some of the fixings from the wall (just one of a number of destructive acts carried out around the town on that night).

Given sufficient funding, we hope to install more external sockets and timers (these make erection much easier) and extend the number of the new Christmas trees which we put in the Market Place this year, to give a bigger and better display in 2007. We will also try to get some more weatherproof lights for Town Head, Gayle Lane and Town Foot

AM

Writing to 'Elijah's'

Basil Allen has handed us a number of letters which the shop in Gayle/Hawes received round about 1935. We're going to include a few, unaltered. They give an interesting glimpse of things 70 years ago.

Dear Sirs, we are obliged for your esteemed order, but are sorry to say we are unable to supply Soft Soap in 4lb tins. We attach a copy of our current price list and shall be glad to hear if we may amend the pack to those on offer

Always gladly at your service. We are.,
Your obedient servants. FOR.J.BIBBY &
SONS LTD

Dear Sir. In reply to your letter of the 13th. Easter is late this year and we have not got our season going yet hence the lack of orders we shall be requiring cheese for Easter and I will write you.

I am pleased to say that I am nearly alright again, I hope one day to call in and see you when I get your way. Yours faithfully.
((From the Gaothland Hydro))

Dear Sir, We have been requested by a firm of high repute in the same line of business as yourselves to send them particulars of any businesses we have for sale at Hawes and in this case they will pay our commission and we should not require any commission locally.

We have particulars of one business in Hawes but this is not quite central enough, and we wondered whether you would agree to consider the sale of your business and premises. If so we can meet you to discuss the matter and we can assure you that anything you say will be treated in the strictest confidence, and that we have a genuine purchaser for a business in Hawes.

Yours Sincerely, for A.Stansfield and Son
(Auctioneers, valuers and estate agents, York)

Dear Tom, Just a line in answer to your letter I am asking for a favour I would like

you to let the £33-1-6 stand on a bit if you can see your way as I will have to borrow it but if you can see your way I will be able to pay it by the end of January I will pay you a bit of interest as well hope you will be a friend as you have been in the past. dont run away with the idea that I had come over here and wasent going to pay nothing of the kind. we haven't been selling our milk so long it as cost us a good bit I have been coming over but I cant find much time as I am only by myself hope these few lines find you all right hoping you are well T Pratt
(Foulridge, Colne)

Dear Sirs, We are in receipt of your communication dated Mar. 9th, and regret to learn that your Berkel Auto Scale is not giving you complete satisfaction.

We have passed instructions to our Leeds Depot (112, Albion St.) to attend to this matter immediately, and we are confident that in a very short time the Scale will be giving you every possible satisfaction. Assuring you of our best attention at all times,

Yours faithfully,
for THE BERKEL AUTO SCALE
CO.LTD, W. McCULLOCH,
SERVICE MANAGER

Police Report

I am pleased to say that on the crime front things have been quiet, which is pleasing considering we had the run up to Christmas, when burglars do their shopping. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Farmwatch patrols who gave up a lot of their time before Christmas in order to put out extra patrols – it appeared to do the trick.

I mentioned in the last newsletter about anti-social behaviour, sadly I have to report that on the evening of the 8th January, some local youths went on the rampage and caused damage to various pieces of property in the town. On a good note though I was very pleased with the response from locals who were only too glad to help and provided statements which resulted in 4 youths being arrested and 6 crimes being detected. It goes without saying that without your help we cannot do the job. You are the major part in assisting with our investigations and without your co-operation our efforts go nowhere.

As this is a quiet month I would like to talk briefly about policing in the Upper Dales and how it works! Being policed by a Neighbourhood Policing Team, me being your local Neighbourhood Police Officer, we work mainly on a tasking basis. Mindless wandering about the place solves nothing; targeted patrol works on concentrating on the problems a community has with a view to eradicating them. The problem we face in Hawes is that people appear not to report incidents to the police but tend to report it to Parish Council members or not at all. This has the effect of the true issues not coming to our attention. I do not have a problem with people reporting things to the PC, after all they work in conjunction with the police, but tell us as well. If there is an apparent community problem reported to us, the first thing we do is look at the reported incidents. If there aren't any, then so far as we can see there is not a problem and

cannot respond effectively. We need to know incidents of anti-social behaviour and suspect vehicles etc as without a true reflection of what is happening in the area, we cannot police it effectively. By not reporting it to us but to the PC, the PC gets a true reflection of what is happening, but we don't. We all want this to be a safe and friendly place to live – so if you see anything you think we should know about TELL US !!

Lastly on a personal note – would the person who permanently borrowed my blue and black Berghaus coat on mad Friday from the Crown in Askrigg, please return it as it is sadly missed. Please return it to where you found it.

Anyway that's all for now, if you need any help or information please contact me or any member of staff at the community office and we will help you all we can.

Dave Cousins PC141
Community Beat Officer, Wensleydale



Mystery picture: where and when?

December's picture was of Whitfield Scar and Kate Empsall was the first to spot it.
"Our house is in the middle of the pic.!" she wrote.

Tea Dance

Why not lift the February gloom by coming to hear the music of the Mike-Rose Trio in the Oak Room at Thornborough Hall, Leyburn. Although this is a tea dance, you don't have to dance. The music and the superb home-made tea are worth every penny. The date is Tuesday, 20 February, and being Shrove Tuesday, there will be Scotch pancakes added to the normal fare. We run from 2 until 4 pm and the cost at the door is £5 in support of St. Andrew's Church, Aysgarth. Do come and bring your friends.

Michael Mason

Dalesplay Update

Happy New Year and All the Best for 2007. from all at Dalesplay.

As we are experiencing increasing numbers please could you book your child in advance to avoid disappointment?

We all had a fabulous Christmas Party, playing games, eating party food and winning prizes. We would like to thank Santa for his guest appearance. He brought 2 sacks full of goodies for all children to



take home.

The topic this term is: Winter. If anyone has a pair of Flippers we could borrow as part of our theme 'Cudley Dudley' children's story please could you let me know.

We are now taking bookings for February Half Term when our theme will be: 'The Chinese New Year'.

Dalesplay are registered with the Busy Bee Voucher Scheme. If your employment is registered with this scheme you may be entitled to part of your childcare tax free. For more information please ask Dalesplay or visit the website, www.busybees.co.uk

Thank you to all who donated Tesco Vouchers. We have had a final count and received 820 vouchers. We will inform you of our purchase into the New Year.

Di Burton

Uplift for the Air Ambulance!

Ladies, please, the WI needs your discarded bras! By bringing us your unwanted or unused bras you can help both the Yorkshire Air Ambulance and disadvantaged people. We are collecting these to send to people in Eastern Europe and Africa. No-one puts bras in other collections of second-hand clothing and they are much in demand due to the high cost of new bras in these countries. Don't worry if they are a bit shabby, all will be checked and mended before being sent. They will be sold to an organisation dealing with these and the money raised donated to the Yorkshire Air Ambulance.

Please support us by bringing your unwanted bras to me at Ings House, Hawes or to Hawes Post Office.

Jane Macintosh

The essential guide to revision and beating exam stress.

With exams fast approaching it's important to know how to avoid the stresses and strains that can be associated with this time of year. Whether it's in January or May exam time is stressful for everyone but there are ways to overcome the stress and come out smiling on results day. I did my GCSE's in May and have just sat my first AS Level exam in Biology so I know how hard it can be to focus and revise without worrying about doing badly. My advice would be to try to keep calm and organise your time wisely so that everything gets done and then there should be no shocks when the exam paper is put down in front of you. The key to doing well in exams and not feeling stressed out is to prepare thoroughly. Remember: proper preparation prevents poor performance.

First you need to get all your work together in one place to sort through and to see what you need to revise. Having a syllabus often helps as it will tell you everything that you need to know for the exam. It may seem like a lot but when broken down into manageable chunks it doesn't seem like much at all.

Next you should set aside blocks of time for your revision – Half hour blocks work best in my experience with a 10 minute break in between so your brain doesn't get overloaded. Divide up the work you need to revise into topics and subtopics so that you only revise one topic at a time to avoid confusion. Find a comfy and quiet place to revise and it should go smoothly.

When you have revised a topic I find it helps to test yourself to see if it's all gone in. Make up some short questions to test your knowledge or draw a brainstorm from memory of everything you can remember about the topic. If you can't remember everything don't panic, you can go back to it at a later date.

It is important to set out early enough to revise properly for all your exams so I recommend starting revision at least three months before your exams so that you have enough time to go through everything you need to and to get help with the stuff you're unsure on. If you don't know something you **MUST** ask for help with it because if you don't it will add to your stress and you may end up losing out on those important marks in the exam.

Try to eat healthily in the run up to your exams as this will help your brain to work better and don't forget to drink lots of water – even take some into the exam with you if you need it.

On the exam day the main tip is; **DON'T PANIC!** If you have done all your revision effectively and made sure you have all the equipment you need, you should be able to answer the questions with ease. Make sure you read through each question properly to make sure you're writing the right thing. Answer all of the questions and then when you're done make sure you check them if you have time to avoid silly mistakes.

Remember: Proper Preparation Prevents Poor Performance. **BB**

Going to Church – effects you may not have thought about...

Did you know that there is a significant amount of research suggesting that religious involvement is related to better mental and physical health? There are probably several reasons for this – one study suggests that people who attend church tend to be more optimistic and optimistic people enjoy better health, another points to the benefits of increased social connections.

There are also studies showing that religious attendance is associated with a lower mortality - so if you attend church you are likely to live for longer! Taken together all the studies suggest that church is definitely good for you.

If you do not already belong to a church there is quite a choice available in Wensleydale from the more informal Methodist Church to the traditional Church of England Services, to the Roman Catholics, and also the Quakers. An easy service to attend is at Hardraw – the church there has a shorter service every first Sunday in the month, at 9am, which is suitable for all ages and where you will get a very warm welcome. We sing more modern hymns and there is coffee and biscuits afterwards. Do come!

Penny Blanch

Pennine Bridleway

The section in our area up at Newby Head is being worked on, with another 4km under construction which it is hoped will be finished by early spring.

In the Dales Josephine comes before Jamie

Known elsewhere as Josephine, Jose Hopper's family have been in the Dales since 1741 but my visit to her and this article focus mainly on Jose's own history. Jose is truly at home in Thorlby as she was born in the nursing home there. Her grandfather and father farmed at Yorescott (between Bainbridge and Askrigg) and her sisters are Jean Lambert and Ann Holubecki. Despite the depth and breadth of her local connections Jose spent her working life out of the Dales and enjoyed a very varied life in catering and management in the world of education.

Very happy at Bainbridge and then Yorebridge schools Jose told me she had an idyllic childhood roaming in Grange Gill wood and on to the moors with no wrist-watch, but taking the time from the passing trains in the days when the railway connected to the Settle Carlisle line. It must have been a great culture shock to go away to college, and her mother arranged for Jose to stay with her aunt near St Helens from where she could go daily by bus to the Fanny Louise Calder Domestic Science College in Liverpool. In the first year "I hated it". The course was called Institutional Management and prepared girls for all aspects of catering and its management. But in the early 1950s it wasn't college as we know it. It was single sex, old fashioned and rigid. Jose says it was hard not to be in trouble with all the restrictions. A uniform similar to nurses was worn and if anyone was seen to have borrowed another girl's apron there was trouble. The Principal locked the door sharp at 9a.m. on Fridays only, and Jose, never late but delayed by the bus, had to ring the bell to be formally admitted and well told off by the Principal. Not only this, but in days before student power and political correctness one tutor would mock the accent of girls (never of

Yorkshire though - which must prove that bullies are cowards!). But there were good friendships made and after two years training the final year was spent doing a practical job in an all female establishment. Two of Jose's friends took the initiative to get a placement at Christ's Hospital public school. Not a coup in the horrified view of the Principal "Do you realise that there will be MEN there?".

Jose herself went with a fellow student to Wycombe Abbey a top girls' boarding school in High Wycombe. She was paid £150 a year and had £11 a month in her pocket to spend. This usually went on a day in London shopping, visiting Lyon's Corner House, and the theatre. The work was hard. Jose was Assistant Cook working in the main school building with 250 residents and just one day off a week. She was woken by a cleaner to start at 6.30am, doing breakfast, then lunch for the whole school with a break in the afternoon before preparing the evening meal. The school had in total about 500 girls and staff, was situated almost in the town but with about 200 acres of private land, a lake and woods. Staff were allowed to walk in the grounds, use the boats on the lake, and enjoy the swimming pool on Sundays. The Principal had a suite of rooms including the 'Red Parlour' where she entertained VIPs some of whom came to give talks to the girls. Jose, in her second year, had the responsibility of preparing the menus for such people as Lady Isobel Barnett, various theatre people and a number of bishops. On the Schools Diamond Jubilee occasion 1500 people were invited including the Archbishop of Canterbury and Jose made and iced the special cake.

After qualifying Jose started a series of jobs to increase her skills and respon-

sibilities in catering. Her first job for 2 years was as Lady Cook at Loughborough College (now university). How very different. There were 100 men students at Hazelrigg Hall, including many foreign and mature students, for instance an Indian prince and two members of the Portuguese air force. Jose had help at meal times from Italian and Tyneside maids, providing breakfast, staff lunch and the daily high table formal dinners, at which the Portuguese appeared in full dress military uniform! The students were full of practical jokes. One day they built a pyramid of 100 bicycles, another time a plane was brought from the Aero department 2 miles away without the police seeing them and on another occasion the huge entrance doors were removed so that an Austin Seven car could be pushed into the hall. On the Matron/ housekeeper's evening off, Jose had to take her turn on duty to 'field' requests for replacement light bulbs and medications; frequently it was just an excuse to trick her into a visit to check if they really had a temperature! (I assume that rules about women in the rooms did not apply to the Lady Cook!).

The next job was as Cook-Caterer at Dudley Training College with 150 residents for breakfast and evening meals and 350 at midday. Jose made friends there and in addition to evenings playing Mahjong, and drinks, there were weekend visits to a lecturer's cottage in Wales. It was there that the students really showed appreciation of Jose's meal after complaining about school dinners when out on teaching practice. "You never do one meal the same in a whole term!" This was the start of Jose's sense of mission to do something about school meals ... and I'm not sure if Jamie Oliver was even born then.

After her friends left the college Jose was ready for a change and the next two jobs helped her to get her own car. She worked for four years with Cambridgeshire

County Council as a Peripatetic Training Supervisor . This involved opening 9 new school kitchens with only 3 very intensive days work allowed to transform the premises, as left by the builders, into a pristine working kitchen with all equipment washed and cleaned, groceries and veg. stored away and staff working as a team. Most of that due to a lot of laughter and good will. Jose then had to stay for two weeks 'on the job' training to ensure the meal was ready when the bell went. Jose loved this job finding that her Senior School Meals Organiser was also dedicated to good food. It was all "very civilised" with teachers sitting at table so there was conversation as well as lunch and Jose planned the menus for all the schools. Having a car was great and it was allowed for personal use, but that was expensive. She usually travelled back to Wensleydale by train but one Christmas took the car and it cost most of the next month's pay from her annual salary of £750. (I wondered why Jose never sought work in the Dales but she said she wanted to keep the place she loved separate and not associated with work.).

In 1963 Northamptonshire attracted Jose to be Assistant School Meals Organiser and she was on a mission. In the larger schools there were big canteens and industrial style catering. Jose was in charge of one third of the geographical County . She interviewed staff in their own homes to check on cleanliness and she was responsible for all staff matters and menus. She worked to set standards of nutrition and food quantities and wrote her own recipes for use in the school kitchens. It was part of her job to work with Head Teachers and staff and deal with complaints. In those days before schools had freezers there were problems in getting daily deliveries to rural areas, particularly as Jose insisted on keeping to the regulations of not allowing fresh food to be prepared the day before it was to

be eaten. Lunch must be ready at 12 noon and always was. But Jose did “go berserk” once when she caught someone cooking cabbage at 9.30am for lunch. At first Jose wondered if she would ever achieve the standard of food she wanted but there were great colleagues and she settled in and stayed 29 years with Northamptonshire and in that time worked in all the other areas.

In time regulations changed and different ideas became current so by the 1980s a choice of two hot meals or a salad was introduced. Despite this choice there was never any waste in village schools. Jose told me something I’d never heard before. Apparently Birds Eye invented fish fingers especially for the School Meals nationally, as children did not like the obligatory large portion of fish, fried or baked every week. After WW2 the school meal was based on a nutritionally balanced quantity of food for the midday meal to provide 1/3 of a child’s daily requirements based on the numbers cooked daily. The other 2/3 were the parents’ responsibility at breakfast and evening meal.

Then came the local government’s wish to save money and Jose and colleagues always managed to achieve targets with such strategies as buying in frozen chips to save labour and replacing pudding and custard with biscuits or tray bake and fruit juice instead of water. Jose had risen from School Meals Organiser to County Catering Advisor and then after Compulsive Competitive Tendering in 1989 found herself as Client Catering Officer. The final blow was when the County Council decided to abolish the School Meals Service, except for their statutory duty to provide free meals. In the early 1990s she had the heartbreaking task of, in less than a year, closing the service she had worked so hard to improve. At that stage she was fighting for nutritional standards for sandwiches

and fruit for the free school meals, and fruit juice instead of water, and dealing with the Compulsive Competitive Tendering process. Some Secondary School Head teachers had taken up the offer to run their own self-funding kitchens but some couldn’t make enough money on the meals. Other schools were keen to use kitchen areas for other purposes but these had been built and funded separately. Suddenly Jose was in charge of getting rid of the surplus equipment, selling a lot of heavy equipment from individual kitchens over the phone. It was professionally disconnected and the buyer collected from the site.

For an auctioneer’s daughter named Hopper this was a challenge, if the service was going to close Jose was going to get the best possible price for its relicts! Equipment had to be disconnected, stored and sold by auction and Jose had good staff to help. Some volunteered for redundancy and Jose had to handle the painful process when people didn’t want to leave. She herself took retirement in 1992 aged 58. Jose didn’t come back to the Dales straight away and the story of that and of her many interests and work since returning to Thoraby will make another article. I don’t think there’ll be any shortage of material as Jose told me she is “a hoarder” and showed me the great range of books and papers she has at home ready to answer the many enquiries that come her way about local and family history.

P.J.R

Askrigg Playgroup

In January we said goodbye to one Playgroup leader and hello to another! Nicola Hunt led playgroup for over 2 years and has nurtured many toddlers passing through her care. The children, parents and committee members past and present would like to thank Nicola for her considerable commitment and hard work and we wish her well for the future.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Janette Feather who took over as Playgroup leader at the end of January. Janette moved with her family from Heysham in North Lancashire to West Burton two and a half years ago. Her son attends Wensleydale School and her daughter goes to Askrigg Primary School.

Janette has always worked with children and in addition to being a trained nursery nurse has also undertaken a classroom assistant's course. Her children are both keen Irish dancers and Janette regularly helps at the Irish Dancing School at Catterick. She tells me she has tied many a shoelace! Perhaps velcro should be introduced to dancing shoes!

If you would like further details about Askrigg Playgroup, please contact Janette on **663047**.

Emma Arblaster

‘Increasing Opportunities’

It was the best name for the project I could think of when I was asked for further details, and it seems to have stuck. So what is ‘Increasing Opportunities’ about?

I’ll start at the beginning...early last year, in partnership with the Upper Wensleydale Community Investment Partnership (formerly the ‘Community Investment Prospectus Group’), we launched the Re-vive website as a means of informing local communities about funding available, and to assist groups in the grant application process. In the first 6 months we had sign-posted 22 local groups or individuals to sources of assistance. But it became quickly obvious that providing signposting on a web-based forum idea was not the way forward; without exception all of the groups were contacting us via email (and in some cases picking up the telephone). In other words, the Forum area consisted of myself and three others talking to ourselves.

So we decided to take the project into the community, offer face to face contact, still with the IT access to funding contact details (fingers crossed on this one that the mobile reception works), and providing information to take away.

Over the next year the Re-vive Partnership will be holding Funding Advice Surgeries (now you see why I called it ‘Increasing Opportunities’), all over Upper Wensleydale at community venues. It is a pilot project, as with the website, run on a shoestring by volunteers and impressed individuals. The service is 100% confidential, as with any business advice. Do feel free to bring children as there will be things for them to do while you look around the displays, collect literature or chat to members of our group. Light refreshment will also be on hand, all support-

ing local business (no Tesco’s stuff here).

So keep an eye out for us, come along and let us help you make your ideas reality. This project has been supported by the NYCC Community Chest. **R.B**

Yore Club

It is 37 years since Rev Malcolm Stonestreet started the Yore Club, an afternoon out once a fortnight for the over sixties resident around Askrigg and Bainbridge parishes.

Meetings included slide shows, speakers, demonstrations etc with afternoon teas out and the occasional shopping trip, not to mention some memorable coach holidays all over the U.K.

Meetings began in Old Yorebridge Schoolroom, then Station Road Chapel Sunday Schoolroom. For a number of years now we have met at Sycamore Close and latterly once a month at the very comfortable Sycamore Hall.

Sadly we have had to close the Yore Club as we are without a leader but there is still a good membership who would appreciate the meetings once a month and an occasional trip out.

If anyone is interested in helping to run this Club, please contact **650216**

Eleanor Scarr

Yorebridge Sport and Fitness – Gym and Fitness Club

The turn of the New Year has seen an influx of new gym members and fitness class attendees to the Gym and Fitness Club at the Wensleydale Centre, Yorebridge, Askrigg. There are now over 100 people per week accessing the facilities and classes. Yvonne Peacock (YSDA Ltd Chair) said: “We are delighted at its success and would urge residents of all ages to come along and find out more about what is available.”

Gym membership places is for over 18's only. The gym is open Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 8.00am-9.00pm. The joining fee is £20.00 and monthly membership fees are £18.00 thereafter. Alternatively there is a guest pass/ pay-as-you-go scheme, which is £6.00 per day. The gym induction lasts no longer than 1 hour and covers safe use of the equipment and advice on programmes to achieve your personal fitness goals. Cardiovascular equipment includes Treadmills, Cycling Machines, Cross Trainers and Rowing machines. There is Resistance Equipment such as Multi-Gym Stations, Free Weights, resistance Tubes, Boxing Bags, Steps, and Gym balls.

There is a weekly programme of fitness and dance classes for adults within the Fitness Studio, such as Gentle Exercise, Yoga, Line Dancing, Aerobics, Circuit Training, Step Aerobics and a Healthy Lifestyles Club. Classes are in blocks of 10 or 5 and need booking in advance.

For more information contact the 'YSF' on 01969 650060; 07968 606571; info@yorebridge-sport.co.uk or see our website: www.yorebridge-sport.co.uk

National Park Area Ranger Update

We have been continuing with various projects over the last few months, including the 'off road motorcycle action days' held jointly with the police. The aims of these days are to target illegal use of routes where there are no rights to take motorcycles, and to ensure those that are using the legal routes have machines that are in a roadworthy condition, taxed and insured.

Several fines have been issued to riders in Upper Wensleydale who failed to meet these conditions and one motorcycle was seized because the rider had no insurance. Major changes in legislation occurred in May 2006 which have limited the number of off road routes that can now be used by vehicles. There are however a small number of off road routes that can still be used by vehicles, that are unsustainable, and a lot of ground damage is being caused. The National Park Authority has established a group representing vehicle users, landowners & farmers to discuss how these routes should be managed in the future. This will link into additional new legislation (due in 2007) that will help us manage the remainder of sensitive routes that continue to get motor vehicle use.

Please contact me if you want to check a route to see if motor vehicle rights exist or if you are concerned that motor vehicles may be using a route illegally. Thank you to those who currently send in reports.

Squirrel sightings – just a reminder to let me know your reports of sightings of red and grey squirrels, within the parishes of Hawes, High and Low Abbotside and Bainbridge. The first 18 months of our hair tube survey work has come to an end with a report published. This survey work will continue, which helps us in determining the presence or absence of grey and red squirrels in specific areas for

the next 12 months. Visual sightings are an important part of this, so please let me know what you see, where and how often. It's all important information!

Public Rights of Way – If you're out and about in the new year and find any damage to stiles, gates, footbridges, fingerposts or flood damage along the way then let me know by phone on **666220** or by email to **matt.neale@yorkshiredales.org.uk**

Matt Neale, Area Ranger



Heavens Above

Comet McNaught's brief but spectacular passage in the evening twilight last month was ruined for most of us by the nasty weather we've had to endure recently. Very frustrating as it was apparently the brightest comet for 30 years! Let's hope things improve this month as the night sky is arguably at its very best at this time of the year..

Dominating the south at the start of February are the bright winter constellations of Orion (The Hunter) and his two faithful hounds - Canis Major (the Great Dog) and Canis Minor (the Little Dog). Sirius, Canis Major's leader, is the brightest star in the sky and flashes like a diamond on a frosty night. Orion's majestic oblong figure is unmistakable with a sloping line of 3 brightish stars forming his 'Belt' and the hazy patch of the Great Nebula hanging like a sword beneath it. Taurus the Bull faces up to Orion from the NW guarding the Pleiades star-cluster, while above and to the east of reddish-orange Betelgeuse, marking Orion's left shoulder, are Castor and Pollux, the Heavenly twins. To the east of Sirius the Winter Milky Way streams up towards Capella, the yellowish principal star of Auriga (The Charioteer) almost overhead on a late winter evening. In the NW is the distinct 'W' of Cassiopeia, whilst high in the NE the familiar shape of the Plough stands on its 'handle'. Right on the north eastern horizon the brilliant blue-white star is Vega in the constellation of the Lyre.

As the month wears on the sickle-shaped outline of Leo's head and shoulders becomes more prominent in the SE. Not far from Leo's leader, Regulus, is a much brighter object - the magnificent ringed-planet, Saturn, which comes to opposition on February 10th. Giant Jupiter is low in the east before dawn but is not well placed for viewing. Our nearest planetary neighbour definitely is, however. By the middle of the month Venus sets well over 2 hours after

the Sun and will remain a dazzling 'Evening Star' until early August. Joining Venus in the western sky in the early part of the month is the innermost planet, tiny Mercury. Your best chance of spotting it is between Feb 4th/10th about 30 minutes after sunset *very* low in the WSW. Not many people can claim to have seen this elusive little world so catch it if you can. Have clear skies!

Al Berio

Before I lose my marbles

I lost one - but found a replacement at Northallerton -1 call it "HA" -(hearing aid)

1932 - business and professional men in the Dales had two frequent persistent door bell ringers - smartly dressed in black, trilby hats and briefcase. They were from GPO Telephones (the forerunner of BT) and they were trying hard to interest apathetic dalesmen in having a telephone installed.!! Eventually my father succumbed and signed the contract.!

8 am next day the dark green GPO truck arrived from Middlesbrough, six denim-clad engineers with six wood ladders. Two wires were fixed on white ceramic cylinders on 20 foot poles from our house to the exchange which was then at Yoresscott (more room for the swallows to perch). 4 o'clock in the afternoon - hey presto! we had a telephone - standing vertical like a black candlestick with a separate dangling earpiece.

Our number was Bainbridge 47 - we could dial twenty numbers on the Bainbridge Exchange - they started at 20 and there were some gaps. Any number other than Bainbridge we dialled "0" which put us through to the exchange at Leyburn (still there below the dentist's). If you wanted to call London you would have an interesting conversation with the operator "The lines from Leeds are all busy - will try Manchester". "No luck Manchester putting you thro' Hull."

Trunk calls were 1/3 (7p) for 3 minutes and at the end of the three minutes 3 pips went to remind you of the extra charge.

1934 came - great strides in technology - if we put 8 in front we could dial Hawes! The advance continued - one Monday morning we woke up to find we could dial Leyburn- 9 in front; a few weeks later 975 gave us Aysgarth.

So now we could dial all Wensleydale. World War II ended any further progress and private subscribers could only retain their line if there was no military priority. The War ended and another miracle: we could now dial Richmond and Swaledale (but not Darlington); Bedale (but not Northallerton), Masham and Ripon. We were now Bainbridge 247.

The 1960s brought full subscriber trunk dialling (another new number 50247) with country code 0969 and the whole of the united kingdom was our oyster. Next they put a six in front of the number 650247 (we still have the original "47"bit) and we can now dial world wide - yes even: Russia, Mongolia, Iraq and Fiji! It is good that every country in the world has agreed on the same system.

Returning to pre-war days - severe wintery weather caused icing on the overhead wires - eventually the weight brought the wires and some of the poles down. We had a temporary multi-cable laid on the road verge (bridged at the gates) for many months.

After the war the GPO telephone engineers decided enough was enough and within a few years all lines to the exchange were underground. In 1947-48 a trench one metre deep was dug by hand from Leyburn to Hawes via Redmire and Carperby. So the old familiar poles with cross bars at the top became history.

Poles, trenches, cables, exchanges— what are they? In my trouser pocket I have a piece of apparatus the size of a matchbox and I can dial the whole world (if I have the number) from village street, pasture or the wildest moor Next you will have a video picture of the person you are speaking to. Perhaps the hairdressers and jewelers will be busy! **Michael Weatherald**

Upper Wensleydale Community Office News

The tea dance scheme is a step nearer to reality, with a welcome donation from the Licensed Victuallers Association. It will be handed to us on Monday 29th January at 'The Fountain' hotel at 7.30 pm.

Our Skill Share sessions are going well and our January programme is well underway. **The next sessions are:**

Wednesday 31 January

- Get by in Spanish II 1.30 – 3.30 pm
- SKYPE (to access free phone calls)
7.00 – 9.00 pm

Wednesday 7 February

- Get by in Spanish III 1.30 – 3.30 pm
- Blogging 7.00 – 9.00 pm

Wednesday 14 February

- Woodturning I 7.00 – 9.00 pm

Wednesdays 21 and 28 February

- Getting by in French I time TBA
- Getting by in French II time TBA

Look out for (details TBA):

- Make a Greetings Card using Publisher
- Digital Photo Editing

and tell us what you would like to do.

The lap top loan scheme is also going well. In addition to the laptops, we have a floppy disk drive to lend out - isn't it irritating when the new computer has no floppy drive?

We also have for loan a portable hearing loop for talks, discussions in classrooms and halls, where those with hearing aids could benefit. The projector and screen are available too.

On the 21st of February, Adrienne from 'Next Step' will visit the office between 11.00 am and 1.00 pm. She can advise about what to do when you are looking for a change of direction, in education or in the workplace, whatever age you are.

William Hague MP holds his surgery here at the Community Office Hawes 2.30 – 3.30 pm on Friday 9th March.

Enquiries 667400

WEST BURTON SCHOOL

West Burton CE Primary School

Before Christmas 30 children from Parkinson Lane School in Halifax visited the school. We did a variety of activities such as showing the pupils how to use the animation cameras and making Christmas cards. At the end of the day we performed our play *The Innkeepers Breakfast* and the Parkinson Lane pupils sang four wonderful carols at the end of the play.

Finally at the end of an exciting and a rather squashed day (the class room normally holds 40 it held 60 that day) the pupils left the school on their way back to Halifax



The singing, keyboard, sewing and football clubs have all started again this term. Also all children are entering the tournament of song and they are reciting poems trying to impress the judges so good luck to them!
Matthew Smith (Year 6)

Storms over Snaizholme

I have to say to myself that so far, this year's storms haven't been as bad as the one great storm the year before last. Then, numbers of Larch Trees, beloved of the Red Squirrels, were blown down as if they were match sticks, leaving a twisted, tangled mass on the ground below. This year, Hugh had (so far) only two Sitka Spruce which fell across a new fence and this, curiously, not on the windward side of the wood, but the far side. No serious damage was done to the fence, so there was really no comparison. Nevertheless, I, like many others, long for some clear frosty weather.

The constant wind and rain is certainly somewhat depressing to many people, but the Squirrels continue hungry and argumentative, and the bird feeders are busy all day. I don't have a bird table, but I do have five hanging feeders, I think that they are easier to keep clean, and don't give the big bullying birds such an advantage. So, our three resident types of tits are with us in large quantities. That is Great, Blue and Coal tits, also great numbers of Chaffinches, some Robins, Dunnocks and the resident pair of Greater Spotted Woodpeckers. There are also several pairs of Blackbirds, but even in this mild winter, the Song Thrushes have left for lower, warmer places. The Wrens, of course, stay close to the house, but never use the feeders.

Earlier on, when the enormous crop of berries was still on the trees and bushes, a small flock of Redwing and a few Fieldfares were gorging themselves on Rowan, Cotoneaster, Hips, Haws and Berberis, and for a time we had a group of Long Tailed Tits flitting amongst the trees. This is really unusual in winter. As for Birds of Prey, the Sparrow Hawks have haunted the feeders far less than they do in the Summer, the Kestrels,

as usual, stick to the fields, and we see a few Crows, Magpies and the occasional visiting Rooks and Jackdaws, neither of which seem to have come to nest on this side of the valley yet. The Buzzards we see and hear occasionally, and the Tawny Owls let us know they're still around but they are much quieter at this time of year. Hugh has put up a woodcock in semi open woodland. Presumably this must be a resident?

We do have glimpses of the Roe Deer from time to time, but it will be when the buds swell and begin to burst that they will venture near the house to nibble the juicy tips of the Dogwood, Willow and other shrubs that grow around us. Now that the woodlands are more open, there is far more winter feed for them than there was when it was largely closely packed Conifers.

Snowdrops, not yet in flower, but with a few buds already showing white, are beginning to remind us that winter doesn't last for ever. This also leads to preparation for brighter summer days. Hugh has made several clearings amongst the trees to create habitats suitable for flowers and butterflies, bumble bees and other insects. Already in the last few years, these areas have shown a new richness of wildlife. Also, the newly dug ponds and scrapes are acting as breeding grounds for Frogs, Newts and, we hope Toads. Certainly, Dragonflies and Damselflies and many other water loving insects are each year becoming more and more abundant.

In spite of this article starting as a description of the dreary stormy weather we are all facing, you may see it is impossible not to look forward hopefully to what this New Year will bring us.

Jane Kemp

Read all about it

The 2007 edition of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority's annual newspaper for visitors to this special area will be hitting the streets over the next few days.

The latest issue of 'The Visitor' is packed full of features on subjects ranging from conservation of red squirrels and peregrine falcons to new ways to discover the National Park including 'podwalking' – downloading interpreted guided walks onto an MP3 player – and geocaching – following adventure trails using GPS equipment.

In addition, the free newspaper contains a comprehensive, eight-page pull-out What's On guide covering events throughout the year.

New Artistic Director Appointed

The Swaledale Festival has appointed a new Artistic Director. Justin Doyle (31) joins the Festival in its 27th year.

Justin is already Artistic Director of the Ryedale Festival and Eastern Opera and has extensive experience as a conductor; he was the first Conductor Fellow to the BBC Singers, and broadcasts with them on a regular basis. He is also Musical Director of The King's Camerata and the Dorking Choral Society, and will be working with Opera North this year.

What's on at the Dales Countryside Museum

Half term activities for children in the museum include

Wednesday 14th February

Art in the Park – craft workshop – booking essential – 2 – 4pm

Friday 16th February

Storytelling – Rhoda Frazer will be entertaining the whole family from 2 – 3pm

Contact the museum on: **666210** or email **hawes@ybtic.co.uk**

News from the Wensleydale Railway

DRIVER EXPERIENCE DAYS make a special day out on the Wensleydale Railway, learning to drive a DMU train (diesel multiple unit). A maximum of four people can book for any one date when there are no scheduled services and gift tokens are available. The all-day package includes welcome breakfast, safety briefing and medical check, on-board driver instruction, driving experience and hotel lunch, followed by more driving. See website www.wensleydalerrailway.com to download booking form or tel **08454 50 54 74**.

GUIDED WALKS: Every Sunday until April 1 there are guided walks (usually 5-6 miles) starting from either Redmire station at 11.30 or Leyburn station at 11.50 (but not both). Catch the 10.35 train from Leeming Bar or 11.35 from Redmire when walks start at Leyburn. Details as above.

Ruth Annison

Chairs Need a New Home

Hawes School have 80+ metal framed/ plastic seat & back stacking chairs - large enough for adults. Please contact the school -**667308** if you are interested. Cost - donation to the school.

BIB Babies

BIB Babies is a new community group, set up to encourage and support breastfeeding. We are a 'Mum led' group and meet on Monday mornings at Dalesplay, for a coffee and a chat while the babies can play with the toys.

On 15th January, Joyce Thorpe, a La Leche League Breastfeeding Counsellor, came to talk to us about breastfeeding a baby in the early days. We learnt about positioning and how to get a young baby feeding successfully and comfortably. We talked about some of the advantages of

breastfeeding, and what a positive experience it can be for both Mum and baby.

The next session with Joyce will be on **February 19th** when we will be discussing problems that may be encountered during breastfeeding. We meet every Monday morning at Dalesplay in Hawes 10.30-11.30a.m. For more information ring Dalesplay on **667789** or Charlotte on **667728**, or just drop in. BIB Babies would also like to thank the residents of Appersett and Hardraw for their generosity in helping us to raise £50 whilst carol singing. This will help us to buy information for expectant and new mums. **Charlotte Sowerby**



Winter Gardening

7 years ago I had a craze on planting ivies; gold ones, silver, variegated, I planted the lot. I found walls and buildings quite barren if they didn't have one planted at their base. Most have worked out and reached 10ft plus, providing roosting for sparrows and a great nesting site for timid little flycatchers. 'Goldheart' is my favourite, with all those tightly growing, polished, sunny little leaves creating such a glow all through winter when greenery is scarce. A word of warning though. Only plant on a solid, well-pointed wall and keep well away from window frames and gutters to avoid any structural damage. I cut it back in autumn, donning a dust mask at the same time – you'll sneeze for days if you don't!

Hydrangea 'petiolaris' will also cover any wall. It can cope with shade, but like ivy, needs to be shown who's boss. After flowering, I lightly deadhead so as not to impair the following year's flowers. Self-clinging, support it with canes or wires during infancy.

Next time you're in Leyburn, and have managed to park your car, (halfway to Bellerby!), take a look at the Virginia creeper growing up the front of the Black Swan. It has reached the roof and invaded next door and beyond, intent on world domination. A beauty, although far too aggressive for my modest semi.

If you want to flummox the neighbours, try a perennial nightshade. The solanums do well on a sunny, sheltered wall and will reward you all summer with a mass of blooms. Crispum 'Glasnevin' has blue flowers with central yellow cones and is a touch hardier than the rest. Grow on a trellis or provide full support up a wall.

Honeysuckles are always popular, although I find them unsatisfactory for a high wall. They tend to bunch up at the top, pulling away from the surface and looking

unsuitable for the site. Far better to grow on a trellis, a low wall or over a small building. I would recommend 'Americana' or 'Belgica' for both habit and scent. Plant in deep, rich soil to avoid mildew and leaf drop.

My favourite wall-climber is Cotoneaster 'horizontalis'. The white flowers in summer are followed by bright red berries and lovely autumn tints. With a lot of verbal encouragement and wired support this workhorse will soon be reaching your chimney pots and giving any house that 'country cottage' look. Now get planting and work off those mince pies.

Ed Gardener

Post card from...

still be your friend.

No wonder men are happier.

Dear All,

There's a high-level walk overlooking the river and bridge and we've been up and down the cliff-railway. This pleasant old town has a big church at each end of the main street (one an arts/exhibition centre and the other older one built by a road- and bridge-builder).

We've had a ride on the preserved railway which starts here and tomorrow we're off to the "cradle of the I.R."

Then home on Fri.; will probably take us about 3 hours back to the Dales.

So where were our trippers?

Men Are Just Happier People

What do you expect from such simple creatures?

Your last name stays put. The garage is all yours. Wedding plans take care of themselves. Chocolate is just another snack. You are first in line to the throne.

You can never be pregnant. You can wear a white T-shirt to a water theme park. You can wear NO shirt to a water theme park. Car mechanics tell you the truth.

The world is your urinal. You don't have to stop and think of which way to turn a nut on a bolt. Same work, more pay.

Wrinkles add character. Wedding dress: £1,000+. Morning suit rental: £100. People never stare at your chest when you're talking to them.

The occasional well-rendered belch is practically expected. New shoes don't cut, blister, or mangle your feet. One mood all the time. Phone conversations are over in 30 seconds flat. You know stuff about tanks.

A five-day holiday requires only one suitcase. You can open all your own jars. You get extra credit for the slightest act of thoughtfulness. If someone forgets to invite you, he or she can

Doctors' rotas as supplied by the surgery .

HAWES SURGERY ROTA Wb - week beginning										
Wb	5FEB		12FEB		19FEB		26FEB			
Day	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
Mon	WJ	WJ	J	J	A	A	WF	WF		
Tues	FA	FA	WF	WF	WJ	WJ	JA	JA		
Wed	J	J	F	F	W	W	W	W		
Thur	F	F	W	W	J	J	A	A		
Fri	WJ	WJ	J	J	A	A	WF	WF		
Sat	Emergency service only									
Doctors: A - Arblaster, F - France, J - Jones, W - West , C - Closed Morning S'y: 8.45-10.15 Tues till 10.45 (no appointments) Afternoon S'y: 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										
Wb	5FEB		12FEB		19FEB		26FEB			
Day	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
Mon	FA	A	WF	F	WJ	W	JA	J		
Tues	WJ	WJ	J	J	A	A	WF	WF		
Wed	FA	A	W	W	J	J	JA	J		
Thur	WJ	W	J	J	A	A	F	F		
Fri	A	A	F	F	W	W	J	J		
Sat	Emergency service only									
Doctors: A - Arblaster, F - France, J - Jones, W - West , C - Closed Morning Surgery: 9.00 - 10.30 a.m. (no appointments) Afternoon Surgery: 4.00 - 5.30 p.m. (appointment only) <i>For appointments and all enquiries ring 663222</i>										



Letter

This month's mystery picture is Whitfield Scar photographed from between Bainbridge and Worton.

As a point of interest, my father's initials F.J. are on the south facing slope near the top. My parents spent one weekend, before they were married in the early thirties, gathering stones from the scree to pick out letters some 24 feet high and 20 feet wide.

Frank Johnson (F.J.) was the Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor for Aysgarth Rural District Council.

Mary Scarr, Bainbridge

Gayle mill

On the first Monday of July 1998 Graham Bell addressed the parish council re Gayle mill stating that the national parks had asked NECT to look into restoring Gayle Mill.

After the meeting I asked him if he wanted me to call a public meeting in the institute

This I did and we had two meetings that month at which the outline of the current thinking was put on the table and accepted. i.e education wood based, visitor attraction, green energy.

Looking back at the history of the mill and how it shaped Gayle and its people is very interesting indeed.

When it was originally opened it employed 100 people in the mill itself these being mainly women and children, some men for the heavier jobs, there were two shifts of 50; people working a 12 hour shift six days a week, and either side of Clints house were a large number of warehouses where the cotton was brought in bales, these are of course now houses, there were drivers who brought the cotton bales from the quay side just outside Lancaster all the way to Gayle by horse

drawn wagons and then took the finished spun cotton back into Lancashire, some indeed going to London

No lorries or trains imagine setting off from Hawes to London with 4 horses and a large wagon on a wet day, must have taken a week or more. In all in excess of 125 people employed by this mill.

If you go back before the mill there were very few houses in Gayle at that time, but of course work brings people and people need houses so Gayle had a population explosion and a property boom.

Gayle men had always been builders and many of the miles of walls in the upper dale were built by the stone masons of Gayle and to this day they are still some of the best stone masons in the upper dale either in Gayle or can trace their ancestors back then.

My own family name being one of them So there would have been no problem of building houses, big ones small ones depending on what you could afford.

I trace my ancestors back to 1612 in Gayle, many of my forbears worked in the mill, and there are numerous notations in our family tree relating to working at the mill.

When the mill stopped working in 1870's all those people would be thrown out of work. No social security, no dole, no nothing. It must have been devastation.

When I look at my family tree around that time a large number of Dinsdales took off around the world to find work or a better life. Some went to Nebraska, Omaha, California, in the U.S.A and yes to Brown Moor in Australia. I have a photograph of the nameplate over the original house out there. My Mother took a stone from our house at Brown Moor to London, where one of the Australian Dinsdales now live, for her brother to take back to build into the fireside of the new Brown Moor they were building. I wonder what customs would make of that now. The Aussie lot

own a 40.000 acre farm ,the American Dinsdales own banks, villages and have Dinsdales trust and all sorts, I think I fell of the wrong branch of the tree.

Our family would not be the only ones to leave Gayle at that time to find work elsewhere, so Gayle Mill has a lot to answer for.

Moving on to the saw mill times and the turbine that replaced the wheel .It is still in place and as far as we can ascertain is the oldest in situ working turbine in the world. No one has ever come forward to dispute this claim.

In the early 1920;s another turbine was put in to generate electricity. The Routh family who still owned the mill at that time were close friends of the Armstrong family of the North East and they were one of the first if not the first to generate electricity. Mr. Armstrong visited Gayle to see the new turbine that Routh had installed and swapped ideas and Gayle was one of the very first places to generate electricity and perhaps Clints House was the second house in the world ,after Armstrong's to be lit by electric light. Indeed Gayle mill was one of the first mills to have electric lights. There are still a number of artifacts in the mill from that era and they are being carefully retained, in fact the control board has been refurbished by the original makers

The wood mill itself served a huge community in the upper dales, farming, joiners, builders, anyone who wanted anything that had to do with wood. That in itself would include just about everyone who lived in the upper dales. In hay time when I was in my teens to early 20's, I can remember going hell for leather in the old pickup held together by bale wire and bits of string to the mill for connecting rods for the mower or sweep teeth and of course these had been pre-made during the previous winter. In those days there would

be 50-60 farmers racing up and down for bits for various implements .especially on a wet day We seemed to get a lot of them some years.

This of course tailed off when the big firms started on mass production and farmers became more mechanized and the mill became redundant.

When we first started out on this venture I had a vision of using the superb listed machinery that is in the mill and is 150 years old and still as good as the day it was made

A vision to return it to a working life either for teaching joiners or making wood products. But no, we cannot use these machines because of red tape and the nanny state that we now live in. They cannot use these because of health and safety. What a load of tommy rot. We can use them for demonstration purposes only; one wonders what the difference is. But of course we now live in the litigation era where it is never your fault for doing anything. Nobody seems capable of accepting their own responsibility and for sure we have to put guards round them in case they leap out and bite them

This of course is a severe restriction as we now have to buy new machines and find somewhere to put them .The old machinery has to stay in situ as it is listed

We are now closing in on the refurbishment which as far I am concerned has not come up to the standard of work we expect in the upper dales, by our own local builders, but NECT were told by the funders whom they could have and local firms were not on their list, our misfortune, their mistake Would a local firm have waited till winter rains to do up the weir, I very much doubt it? They could not have had a better summer to do it, one of the driest on record.

There are still some mountains to climb and we have been severely restricted by

one of the most onerous 106 agreements ever written. Perhaps there are some N.P, committee members who have had far too much input into this document

We are still going out to funders for grants to set up the business, but I sometimes wonder where these business plan experts get their figures from. They seem to talk in thousands where an old farmer like me talks in pound notes, but then of course I am growing old and have been out of business for 16 years so I could be wrong. They think money now grows on trees, must be the climate change. They assume we are going to hit the ground running but I have called for caution and to crawl before we walk & walk before we run, let us not get carried away and become a one day wonder.

I have worked eight and a half years on this project and my life style has changed .I now spend winter in warmer climes as my wife has arthritis very bad and lives on pain killers so we fly south to warmer climes. It is better for both of us .So when I arrive back in the spring and all is starting to work I think the time will have come for me to quietly retire from the scene as it worries me how we are going to continue to make a go of this when the grants stop. I can quite happily do without any more worries and anyway half the time I am not here. It is time for the younger ones to take the bull by the horns and go forward but of course they are now dehorned so they will have to improvise.

I have spent over 8 years on this, travelled many thousands of miles to meetings, hundreds of hours on the phone, innumerable e-mails many of which never got a reply.

I have done my bit so I would like to wish all those that want to continue with the good work every success but make no mistake this is in the heart of my home land so I will be keeping a weather eye on you.

Alec Dinsdale

Household tip

(No not a landfill site!)

Thread won't get in a tangle so easily if, when you hand sew, you knot the ends separately.

Dental floss is the answer for a strong hold when sewing on big buttons or those which take the strain on jeans etc. -it's virtually impossible to break.

When mending the fingers of gloves, pop a thimble on your finger before you put it into the glove to avoid pricking your fingers.

When you sew on buttons, paint the thread with colourless varnish to stop fraying.

To sew buttons without straining the material, place a matchstick over the button and sew over the stick to secure it.

Remove the matchstick and wind the shank of the button with thread, securing it in the usual way. The button will stay on longer than if sewn without a shank.

Kids' page

We would like to thank Katherine Head of Bainbridge who has composed our Kids' page for a number of issues over the last year or two. We are now looking for a replacement (or two) from any of the primary schools in the area. Over the years we've had one from Hawes, Bainbridge and three from Askrigg!

Kids, parents or schools please get in touch: **667785**

RAINFALL FIGURES FROM JUNE TO DECEMBER 2006

	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total for 2006
Hawes	72.0	164.0	142.0	184.0	243.0	494.0	2077.0
Carperby	22.1	142.0	87.6	98.5	133.9	257.1	1135.5
West Burton	33.0	128.6	87.7	97.0	154.12	310.4	1156.94
B a i n - bridge	40.2	126.2	112.0	123.0	180.0	327.0	1454.6
Stalling Busk	41.3	124.7	131.3	142.8	206.1	329.2	1641.3
Askrigg	40.0	130.0	101.0	110.0	149.0	263.0	1290.2
Thornton Rust	42.0	164.0	126.0	124.0	167.0	297.0	1470.0

MEASUREMENTS IN MILLIMETRES

Modern technology aids historic railway site

The archaeological remains around the Victorian railway shanty town site at Ribbleshead Viaduct on the Settle-Carlisle railway are to benefit from modern technology with a new audio download which can be transferred from the Internet onto an MP3 player or Ipad for visitors to guide themselves on a short walking tour.

Built between 1869 and 1875, the Ribbleshead viaduct carries the railway over an expanse of wild moorland which once housed thousands of navvies. The footprint of their shanty town and construction camp can still be seen today, including a brickworks, limekiln, tramways, engine shed inspection pit, and even a smallpox hospital!

The self guided audio tour has been produced by the Friends of the Settle-Carlisle Line, the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and Drystone Radio. It can be downloaded free of charge from the Friends website at [\[carlisle.com/ribblesheadtour\]\(http://carlisle.com/ribblesheadtour\). An accompanying map can also be printed off showing the route and points of interest.](http://www.settle-</p>
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The distance covered by the trail is about two miles and can be over quite rough ground, so it is advisable to have good footwear and waterproof clothing.

Peter Shaw

My favourite view

We spent 20 years coming to Hawes on the Ingleton road and always loved the point where the road led over the brow and Wensleydale came into view, showing Sedbusk nestling on the fell side, watching over the dale below, and Shutt Lane leading up to Smuker Hill. But now, coming often from our daughter on Teesside, my favourite view has changed to that from the Tank road when Penhill lies ahead. Bishopdale, with its trees, runs off to the southwest and there is often a grey lowering sky over the hills leading up to Stake Fell. The river is out of sight below but the pattern of lower fields, barns and greenery leads the eye to Addleborough standing up far ahead. In the distance the high fells of upper Wensleydale beckon, but those on the northern side are still tucked out of view. We know that we will only see Great Shunner Fell and Stags Fell when we are almost home to Hawes.

AM

Hawes Playgroup

In Autumn term we had a visit to Hawes Library for a story telling session. This is going to happen regularly this year.

For Halloween we made a pumpkin face which the children enjoyed scooping out the middle and watching a candle inside.

We made pictures to celebrate bonfire night. The children made food pots for the birds to eat in the cold weather.

Thank you to Simon and Bec from the pottery for the clay we used to make Christmas candle holders. The term ended with a party and a visit from Santa.

Playgroup is on Mondays and Wednesdays 9.15 – 11.45 a.m in term time for all 2 – 5yrs old

Emma Fothergill

MARKET PLACE AND JOB ADVERTS (more on page 29)

JOB VACANCY

Parish Clerk for Preston-under-Scar

Approx. three hours per week
Some evening Meetings
Salary: £1,000 per year
Word processing skills and willingness to undertake clerk's training essential.

Apply to: The Clerk, Sunnyholme Cottage
Preston-under-Scar LEYBURN DL8 4AH
d.ashforth@btinternet.com
Tel: 01969 622438

HATFIELD

Congratulations Mum
and Dad on your 40th
Wedding
Anniversary



25th February
Love and Best Wishes
Yvonne, Kevin and families. XX

Olive and Bill Sharples

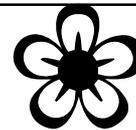
Would like to thank all family and
friends for the lovely cards, presents and
flowers received on the occasion of their
Diamond Wedding



Anniversary
Thank you

I would like to thank relatives and
friends for their kind enquiries,
cards, gifts of flowers and food and
especially for all their support
during my recent illness. I am
feeling much better and well on the
road to recovery. **Pauline Teasdale.**

I would like to thank everyone
who helped to make my
birthday special
For the many cards, and
donations to Yorkshire cancer
which amounted to £190
Margaret (Sans-Souci)



DINSDALE

Allen and Mabel would like to thank family
and friends for all
inquiries, cards, gifts, home cooking, during
Mabel's broken leg experience.

They have all been very much appreciated
THANK YOU

ANNE DINSDALE (GAYLE)

Would like to thank Linda, the two
caring ambulance men, and all family
and friends for their kindness, cards
and gifts received after my fall.

Not forgetting Richard
my rock.

Thank you all so much



**Mary Hugill
(Gran Gayle)**

Would like to say a **big** thank you to
all family and friends for the cards,
flowers and presents received on her
50th birthday

WHAT'S ON LISTING *Transfer these dates to your diary!*

Museum events on page 25 ;

January

- 27 Bainbridge Methodist Church annual gift day. 2.30 to 4.00 pm
- 27 Burns' night; Thoraby village hall. 7.30pm
- 28 Methodist Service at Sycamore Hall 10.30am (open to all) (instead of Bainbridge Chapel)
- 30 YDNPA full authority meeting. Ingleborough community centre, 10.30am

February

- 2 Wensleydale Society; Work of the County Records Office and Dales history. West Burton village hall, 7.30pm
- 2 White Tie & Tiara Ball at Simonstone Hall Strictly ticket only. Admission £15 from **667192**
- 3 Table top sale; Carperby village hall 663368 for details. See pg 4.
- 3 Museum Friends 1960s evening and dinner. Tickets 666210
- 4 United Dales churches service: Leyburn R.C. church; 7.00 pm
- 6 Hawes Drama group reads "One for the road". Gayle Institute 7.30pm
- 7 Upper Wensleydale Darts League Individual Knockout. White Hart, Hawes. 8.00pm
- 8 Meet the Funder Event, 7.00pm-9.00pm, Thoraby Village Hall
- 10 Wensleydale Society walk. Meet Carlton village hall, 10.30 am
- 10 Yorkshire Dales Society talk: "The Dalesman magazine" by Terry Fletcher. Clapham village hall 2.15pm
- 12 West Witton Village Hall will be closed for six weeks for renovation.
- 13 YDNPA planning committee; Yoredale, Bainbridge, 10.30am
- 14 Coffee Morning for the Bishop of Leicester's Appeal for the Children's Society at Overdale, Redmire, 10am to 12noon.
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 14 GuitarConcert at Sycamore Hall featuring Pavlo, arranged by Bainside Arts. Tickets £10 inc refreshments. Contact Jenny or Nigel on **650070**

20 Shrove Tuesday

- 20 Tea Dance for St Andrew's Church, Aysgarth at Thornborough Hall, Leyburn. See pg 8.
- 21 Ash Wednesday
- 23 Redmire village hall Soup 12 noon to 1.30pm Contact Evelyn Abraham **663243**

March

- 2 Bed Push in aid of Hawes Gala. Askrigg to Hawes. Leaves Askrigg 10am. Ring **667202** for more info.
- 2 West Burton village hall Soup Lunch for Christian Aid 12 noon to 1.30pm
- 9 William Hague Surgery at Community Office, Hawes 2.30-3.30pm

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For others

These are the figures we have been able to assemble for the amounts raised for various charities over the Christmas period:

West Burton Methodist Church for N.C.H.	
Action for Children	£600
Aysgarth - Crisis at Christmas	£195
Aysgarth Methodist Nativity for needy children, home and abroad	£155
Aysgarth Whist Drive for Children in Need	£100
Hardraw church for 'Stop2nite'	£100
Hawes Toy service for Salvation Army	£242
Hawes Methodist Carols by Candlelight for 'Tear Fund'	£168
Hawes carol singing for Alzheimer's Society	£94
Hawes charity concert for Multiple Sclerosis	£1864
Askrigg St. Oswald's for Children's Society	£190
Askrigg St. Oswald's for Shelter	£155
Stalling Busk church for the Children's Society	£108
Gayle Christingle for King's Club	£65
Thornton Rust carol singers for Multiple Sclerosis Society	£93
Carperby luncheon club, for Air Ambulance	£70
Redmire Church:	
Coffee Morning for Ludhioma Mission	£56
Carol Service for Tear Fund	£59
Crib Service for Tear Fund (Darfur)	£68
Castle Bolton carol singing for St. George's crypt	£119
Total	£4501

In addition St Bartholomew's, West Witton donated their Christmas Eve Crib service collection to the Children's Society.

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



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:

For Hawes area and westward: **Lorna Ward,
East House, Gayle: 667405**

For elsewhere: **Sue Duffield, Fellside,
Thornton Rust: 663504**

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. Articles by committee members just use initials for the by-line. Please ask before reproducing any part of the newsletter.

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