

Upper Wensleydale Newsletter
Issue 143—December 2008
January 2009
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Editorial

We are used to walls in the Dales; there are so many: ancient boundary walls, long straight enclosure walls and numerous walls round garths. Are walls good or bad (not in terms of how 'nice' they look)? Field walls protect livestock from wind and weather; riverside walls save land from flooding and retaining walls can prevent earth falls. Sea walls protect villages or houses from tumbling down cliffs (not always too successfully). These are all good.

In more ancient times castle walls meant defence against the enemy and led to prolonged sieges. Hadrian and Offa had a nice line in walls, as indeed had China. Whether they were to keep people in or out is debatable, and even, considering how long they took to build, whether they were really more like status symbols. Nevertheless they are now wonderful monuments.

But we could say that some walls are a sign of failure, or of misunderstanding or greed. Walls built to land-grab or enclose for the wealthy can hardly be said to be good. And it has still gone on in recent times though often out of fear as well: the Berlin Wall, the walls in Ulster or the hastily erected ugly concrete walls in Israel/Palestine. These are often a sign of diplomatic failure - to be open or co-operative in government or community. You should also see some of the garden walls round the huge posh houses of the newly rich. They are all you will see of the property; evidence of a defensive secrecy? Fear of losing great wealth?

Now call to mind the overwhelming joy abroad when the Berlin Wall came down. Rejoice in the gradual dismantling of the barriers in Northern Ireland.

Maybe in a very different way some 'walls' have been broken down in the last couple of weeks as so many people of

power and of different politics the world over have welcomed the election of Barack Obama. Is it going to be a time for more openness, more listening and less fear? Breaking down of walls?

The question is, is it time to break down some of the unappealing walls we have? Consider our relationship with others. Is there a wall round it? Could we widen our warmth towards those we don't know too well, or even those we feel we don't understand? Take our 'giving'. Is there a wall round it? Do we spend and give only within the wall of our close circle, often ludicrously, with needless or unwanted gifts being received with feigned over-the-top gratitude or tongue-in-cheek thanks? How sad.

"Charity begins at home" is one of the least understood and over-used phrases! It might begin there but the salient word is 'begins'. For some it also stays there. Does it more likely mean "Charity, our attitude to giving, is first learnt in the home"?

For the sake of the great world of need, might we dare to break down a 'wall' or two, open wider our hearts and maybe our pockets? It is the season of giving; and the time for new resolutions is only a few weeks away.

We would like to wish all our readers and supporters a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.



*Don't forget the Pied Piper!
See page 22*



Eunice

I was in Rhodes Pet and Garden supplies last month and spotted by **Margaret Haygarth**, Hawes. Where am I this month?

Romanian choir to sing at St Andrew's Thursday December 18th

The choir is a Greek Orthodox choir attached to the University of Arad which is just over the border from Hungary, and about 120 miles SE of Budapest. The concert will start at **7.30pm**, and there is concessionary parking in the "Falls Country Club" at £1.00.

The choir is very professional; they will sing traditional Romanian carols, both choir pieces and solos, and in the second half there will be the opportunity to join in English carols. There will also be violin duets. The evening costs £5.00 and proceeds are for church funds.

Trafford Centre Shopping Trip Sunday December 14th

Coach will leave Hawes Market Hall at 9.15am, picking up beforehand at Askrigg and Bainbridge. Tickets are £10.00. For details and to book: **667192**

November competition answers

TV programmes.

1. Coronation Street
2. Panorama
3. Heartbeat
4. Who do you think you are?
5. Countdown
6. Deal or no deal
7. Silent witness
8. Strictly come dancing
9. Emmerdale
10. Midsomer Murders
11. Match of the day
12. The Simpsons

The winner of the £10 prize was **Loraine Nugent**, Hawes

Christmas competition

Seasonal missing links.

Example: Happy——— resolution

Answer: NEW YEAR

Now try these:

1. Merry——— pudding
2. While——— pie
3. Yule——— jam
4. Carol——— kettle
5. Wise——— dips
6. Virgin——— port
7. Virgin——— ocean
8. Mistle——— cap
9. Sea——— berry
10. Santa——— trophobia
11. Christmas——inal
12. Mince——— chart
13. Lam——— lehem
14. Christmas——tense
15. Cherub——— ply
16. Christmas——feet
17. Part——— tiles
18. Shadow———day

Thanks, Aysgarth!

Jean Cockburn would like to express her thanks to all who helped to raise £150 from the NSPCC coffee morning held at her

house.

The total collected for this year's Poppy Appeal was £871. Thank you to all the collectors.

Ancient game rediscovered

The “board” for an ancient game of strategy, dating back to the Roman Empire, has been re-discovered in Gayle. The game is locally called “Merrills” but is also known elsewhere in the UK as “Nine Men’s Morris” and “Mills”.

Etched into the top of the stone wall that runs alongside Gayle Beck is the “board”, which consists of three concentric and connected squares, giving 9 intersections



Two ‘mill workers’ shown playing the game; William Lambert (in the overalls) and Tony Routh (both are directors of Gayle Mill Trust).

for each square. The object of the game is to create a run of three of your own pieces in a row and to box your opponent in so that he can no longer move.

Gayle Mill Manager Paul Bisson said: “The Merrills ‘board’ may well have been carved by the first workers at the mill into the stone wall which was built to channel the beck through the middle of the village. It was probably a welcome pastime, much enjoyed as a break in their long hours at the spinning machines or carding the cotton or wool. But the game is not as easy as you might think!”

The game is thought to date back as far as the Roman Empire and was certainly very

popular in medieval times. Boards have been found carved into the cloister seats at a number of English cathedrals, and there is a mention of ‘nine men’s morris’ in Shakespeare’s ‘Midsummer Night’s Dream’.

Further details: contact **Paul Bisson** (Gayle Mill Manager) on **07971 092569** or or **Sue Stokes** (Administrator) on **667320**

Parents Of Dalesplay (pod)

The parents of Dalesplay would like to thank The Old Sweet Shop (Sam and Pete), Rhodes Pet Supplies, Chaste and the White Hart for allowing the children to visit them on their Halloween walk.

They would also like to thank Mick and Abbie Rhodes for judging the pumpkin competition. The evening was great fun if a little cold. We shall be doing the Halloween Walk again next year on the Friday nearest to Halloween and once again everybody is welcome locals and visitors alike. The Parents of Dalesplay would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas.

Last Table Top sale of 2008.

November 30th at Hawes Market Hall, 10.00am to 4.00pm. All stalls will be charged £6 for the day. A few places left. Everybody welcome.

To book a stall please call 667642.

Craft Club

Are you a crafter? are you interested in meeting other crafters? Do you knit, sew, card-make or any other craft? We are thinking of holding a craft club once a month. If you are interested please call **Sharon on 667642.**

Wensleydale Decorative and Fine Arts Society

The Christmas Story

Rediscover the story of Christmas through the art of the Renaissance. The birth of Jesus has inspired many artists, and in *The Christmas Story – Renaissance Paintings of the Nativity*, Richard Box illustrates how they have represented episodes in the birth and early life of Christ, such as the Annunciation, the Nativity, the Adoration of the Shepherds, the Adoration of the Magi and the Flight into Egypt.

Richard is a freelance artist, lecturer, teacher and author and will speak on this seasonal subject at the Wensleydale Decorative and Fine Arts Society lecture at the Middleham Key Centre on **Tuesday December 9th at 2.00pm.**

Membership information and further details are available from **Elaine Frances tel. 624203.**

Rubbish collection dates over Christmas and New Year

Monday to Wednesday December 22nd to 24th: **no change**
Thursday 25th to **Saturday 27th**
Friday 26th to **Monday 29th**
Monday 29th to **Tuesday 30th**
Tuesday 30th to **Wednesday 31st**
Wednesday 31st to **Friday 2nd**
Thursday 1st to **Saturday 3rd**
Friday 2nd to **Monday 5th**
Monday 5th to Friday 9th. **One day later**

Annual Carols by Candlelight and Supper

Hawes Methodist Church and rooms
Tuesday December 23rd at 6.30pm

Wensleydale Tournament of Song



Tournament certificate from the 1930s

The closing date for entries for the Wensleydale Tournament of Speech and Song in March is January 31st, 2009. The speech classes are from March 16th to 20th, and the music classes from March 23rd to 27th. For full details see www.dalesmusic.co.uk or in

Leyburn syllabuses are available from Towler's Newsagents, Barkers the Jewellers or the Tourist Information centre.

The 100th tournament will be held in 2010. If anyone has any mementos of past tournaments could they please let **Julie Greenslade** know, **663878**.

Swaledale captured on canvas

Oil paintings capturing the beauty of Swaledale are on display in the National Park's Yoredale offices in Bainbridge until the end of December.

The exhibition is by Royal College of Art trained Michael Bilton who lives in Grinton and had work accepted for the summer exhibitions at the Royal Academy in 2005 and 2006. In addition, he won a gold medal and £15,000 in the Worshipful Company of Painters and Stainers awards in 2005.

He worked at the University in Leicestershire, teaching Foundation Art and then running the art department. After 32 years, he decided to retire and concentrate on his painting full time.

He says that, finding himself – without any real artistic intention – living in Yorkshire, the surrounding dales inspired an extra energy for painting and converted him overnight into a landscape artist.

This is the final exhibition of the year at Yoredale and it is certainly one of the biggest hosted in terms of the size of the canvasses.

Hawes Market House

The Hoppers' Sale refreshment rota for 2009 has now been allocated and those concerned notified.

Wensleydale School

Christmas concert

St Andrew's Aysgarth

Monday December 15th, 7.30pm

Tickets from school or **663505**

Annual Toy Service

for the Hawes area takes place at the Hawes Methodist Church on

Sunday December 7th at 10.30am

All the gifts brought are taken for distribution as need arises by the Salvation Army.

Please state on the gift the approximate age of the child for which the gift is suitable.

Message from the Ambulance Service

Store your ICE

We all carry a mobile phone with names and numbers stored in its memory. If we were to be involved in an accident or were taken ill, the people attending us would have our mobile phone but wouldn't know who to call. Yes, there are hundreds of numbers stored but which one is the contact person in case of an emergency? Hence this 'ICE' (In Case of Emergency) Campaign.

The concept of 'ICE' is catching on quickly. It is a method of contact during emergency situations. As mobile phones are carried by the majority of the population, all you need to do is store the number of a contact person or persons who should be contacted during emergency under the name 'ICE' (In Case Of Emergency). The idea was thought up by a paramedic who found that when he went to the scenes of accidents there were always mobile phones with patients but he didn't know which number to call.

He therefore thought that it would be a good idea if there was a nationally recognised name for this purpose. In an emergency situation, Emergency Service personnel and hospital staff would be able to quickly contact the right person by simply dialling the number you have stored as 'ICE'. For more than one contact name simply enter ICE1, ICE2 and ICE3 etc.

PLEASE PASS THIS AROUND TO AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE. THIS CAN HELP IN AN EMERGENCY.

ELLWOOD presents
The Third Sensational Silks 'n' Snowball
to be held at
Simonstone Hall
on *Friday 30th January, 2009*
Welcome Drinks in the orangery 7.30 for 8.00pm
Old time and modern dancing in aid of Hawes Gala & The Injured Jockeys Fund
Strictly Ticket Only £20.00
Tickets telephone: 01969 667192 or 666004

Teenage wisdom

The following are questions set to 16 year olds in an examination in Swindon, Wiltshire. These are genuine answers given. (*Who's kidding whom? Ed.*)

Q. Name the four seasons.

A. Salt, Pepper, Mustard and Vinegar

Q. Explain one of the processes by which water can be made safe to drink.

A. Flirtation makes water safe because it removes large pollutants like grit, sand, dead sheep and canoeists.

Q. How is dew formed?

A. The sun shines down on the leaves and makes them perspire.

Q. What causes the tides in the ocean?

A. The tides are a fight between the earth and the moon. All water tends to flow towards the moon, because there is no water on the moon and nature abhors a vacuum. I forget where the sun joins the fight.

Q. What guarantees may a mortgage company insist on?

A. If you are buying a house they will insist you are well endowed.

Q. In a democratic society how important are elections?

A. Very important, sex can only happen when a male gets an election.

Q. What are steroids?

A. Things for keeping carpets still on the stairs.

Q. What happens to your body as you age?

A. When you get old so do your bowels and you get intercontinental.

Q. What happens to a boy when he reaches puberty?

A. He says goodbye to his boyhood and looks forward to his adultery.

Q. Name a major disease associated with cigarettes.

A. Premature death.

Q. What is artificial insemination?

A. When the farmer does it to the bull instead of the cow.

Q. How can you delay milk turning sour.?

A. keep it in the cow.

Q. What is the fibula?

A. A small tie

Q. What does varicose mean?

A. Nearby

Q. Give the meaning of the term 'caesarean section'

A. The caesarean section is a district in rome.

Q. What is a seizure?

A. A Roman Emperor.

Q. What is a terminal illness?

A. When you are sick in the airport.

Q. What does the word 'benign' mean?

A. Benign is what you will be after you are eight.

Q. What is a turbine?

A. Something an Arab or a Shreik wears on his head.



Mystery picture. Last month's was of the large footbridge over Gayle Beck just before it meets the Ure. First one to respond: Margaret Haygarth.
No surprise there; she can just about see it from home!

Hawes Bonfire and Fireworks

The organisers of the Bonfire and Fireworks would like to thank everyone who supported the display this year, particularly the people who attended on the night and gave so generously helping to raise over £750.

We have had a couple of people who have offered to help with an event next year, so there will be another bonfire! If anyone would still be interested in helping, either by fundraising or on the night, please get in touch with **Harry Balderston 667009**

Police Report

Hello again. The darker evenings have certainly made a difference to crime within the dale. Since the last article thieves have made off with three quad bikes, albeit from Lower Wensleydale. Chains were cut which secured two of them. The point of bringing this to your attention is if you see one travelling along the road late at night or in the early hours – please give us a ring and let us know. If it is legitimate it may inconvenience the farmer for a few minutes whilst checks are made – if not it will inconvenience the farmer a lot longer while he has to get it replaced. It is only a matter of time before the criminals come looking further up the dale and I have seen two unattended in the Hawes area recently with the keys left in them.

A barn was entered at Askrigg in a sneak - in burglary. Two good quality mountain bikes were stolen. They were secured with a good chain and lock to each other and to an immovable part of the building. My feeling is that they were looking for a quad but took the next best thing. If you can't secure a building – such as a barn - consider whether there are safer places on your premises to store your property. Out of sight is not always out of mind.

There have been thefts of tools from builders/council stores in the lower part of Wensleydale so this type of crime has not gone away. Consider marking tools or painting them garish colours as it makes onward disposal difficult.

Metal thefts are also still with us. A large quantity of BT cable was taken from near Aysgarth and wrought iron gates from the Leyburn area.

Please check the lights on your vehicles on a regular basis. I have noticed a lot of vehicles travelling around with just one headlight. On dark country roads when

there is no moon, seeing one light coming towards you is very confusing and can be dangerous – not to mention illegal. Lighting defects are contributory factors to collisions so please spend a couple of minutes to check and keep safe.

By the way FRONT FOG LIGHTS are not an alternative to headlights. Use them inappropriately and a ticket is the likely outcome. If you can help with any of the crimes referred to please contact me as any information however small will be gratefully received. Thanks once again for your support and assistance.

Finally have a merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

Andy Foster PC 826
Leyburn Safer Neighbourhood Team
0845 60 60 247 ext 4570 (new extension)
Andrew.Foster@northyorkshire.pnn.police.uk

Extra coffee mornings

The monthly Hawes coffee mornings for various 'good causes' held in the Methodist rooms haven't usually taken place between October and Easter, but now as part of an attempt to provide a meeting point for friendship and information, a representative group called together by, and with the assistance of, 'Help the Aged' has agreed that these continue through the winter.

November's was a success and raised £140 for the Hawes Amateur Operatic Society. The next is on **December 16th**.

Operation Christmas Child



A big 'Thank You' to the many individuals and church and school groups who have once again been busy decorating and filling shoe boxes. Thank you, also, to those who have knitted scarves, hats and toys for inclusion in the boxes. This year 194 boxes from Upper Wensleydale, Coverdale and Bishopdale will be taken with thousands of others to some of the poorest children in Romania and Serbia.

Romania is now part of the European Union but many of its population of 22.4 million are desperately poor. Families, often living in crowded and unsanitary conditions, face another bitterly cold winter.

It is a similar situation for many families living in Serbia after years of conflict following the break up of Yugoslavia in 1991. They will certainly not be hoping for a white Christmas!

We have also sent over £503 to Operation Christmas Child and they will be able to claim at least £70.70 from Gift Aid. Thank you for your generosity! We are grateful to Stephen and Linda at Hawes Post Office and the Community Office staff for receiving the boxes.

Heather and Nelson Caplin

Who knows?

We are delighted with the response to the query about the earliest tractors in the area. (See letter on page 27) Now this is one somewhat more trivial but (if our committee meeting was anything to go by) could produce some contentious replies: "Who knows the best way to produce the perfect poached egg?"

ASKRIGG SCHOOL NEWS

‘Soup’er Saturday

We raised £266.24, it was a great success for the Gardening Club. There was soup, drinks and cakes. We did it all at church. We all want to say a big thank you to Mrs Hammond and every body who helped.

Georgia and Annabel

Svava the Viking Lady

On Thursday a Viking lady called Svava came into school for two days. We played Viking games like toss the caber and did about weaponry with swords, shields and spears. We spun wool to make thread and even finger knitted. We picked Viking names out of a basket. Junior children pretended to be on a long boat and Svava chucked water at us so it felt like we were on the sea; we used shields and spears as oars, we got dressed up in Viking clothes and even made butter by mashing up cream. After that we made salted cabbage and ground flour to make bread. Thursday night we showed our parents what we had been doing over the last two days. We tried reindeer meat, we did about Viking runes. Svava brought in animal skin carpets, and at the end of the session she gave us all a good luck charm of Thor's hammer.

Simon Chorley Y5

Plea to the public after dormouse death

Visitors to the National Park are being asked to keep away from a dormouse conservation area after one of the young animals was found dead in the nesting box where it had been born in Freeholders' Wood .

Now Dr Tim Thom, Senior Wildlife Conservation Officer, is appealing to people to keep away from the nesting boxes, which are attached to trees.

Dales Volunteers have just completed the final nestbox check on the dormice now living wild in the wood after their successful reintroduction earlier in the summer and 28 were found which shows they are still doing well.

Unfortunately, the baby dormice found dead had a crushed skull; it is thought that someone has probably accidentally dropped the box lid on the head of the animal. There are only two YDNPA staff who are trained and licensed to open these boxes to monitor the dormice and this is done under rigorous scientific conditions to high animal welfare standards.

Although it is tempting to take a peek into these boxes people are urged not to, and so to help the dormouse make a successful comeback to the Dales.

If you see anybody looking into the boxes please ask them not to and report it to staff at the National Park Centre or contact the Authority **(650456)**.

Gang of Four!

Despite an economic downturn, in just over four months four first-timer businesses have started in Askrigg within less than 40 metres of each other.

The first was the change of image at the King's Arms in the heart of the village, when Leyburn born chef Craig Smith and his wife Tilly opened their first business in early May. They changed the name of the bars to *Smithy's*, and changed the contemporary furnishing of Pratt's Restaurant to a traditional image, more in keeping with the architecture. They are open each day for lunches and dinners, with their new bar manager Nick. Craig. Tilly and family have lived in the village for a few years, and their ambition was to start their own business. Tilly works in the daytime in a range of jobs, and so fits in with school hours for the children.

Across the road is The *Rowan Restaurant*, formerly the Rowan Tree Restaurant, which is also under new ownership with Ian and Sarah Strangeway, who with their young children moved up in July from Wetherby. They wanted to live in the Dales, where they had enjoyed walking holidays, and wanted to bring their children up in a beautiful, safe and friendly environment. They are serving an à la carte menu from Wednesdays to Saturdays of modern British and European food, sourcing ingredients locally.

Next door is another first venture into business which appeared in August with a fresh creamy exterior with its stock bursting out of the doors with fresh flowers by trained florist Lesley Blissett, and ably assisted by her husband Gary who acts as deliverer. Their florist's shop *Periwinkle* was featured in the September Newsletter.

Opposite is *Cakewalk*, formerly Humble Pie, then Sticky Ginger, now with a mouth watering rich cream frontage, and is the first venture into business for Judy Kemp from Bedford. With her partner Peter, they

had visited Middleham a number of times then 5 years ago bought a house in Askrigg tucked away behind the new business property, and were living there part time. Judy retired in August as a headmaster's secretary and her new venture is a dream she has nurtured for a while: of feeding her passion cake (a little like carrot cake) to visitors, also providing a wide range of coffees, as well as lunches in the cafe, or sitting outside when the weather is kind. She opens most days of the week from 10.00am - 5.00pm and hopes to cater for walkers whom she expects will turn up at the end of the day with an appetite for a well-earned snack.

These entrepreneurs hope that local people will enjoy their new images and goods for sale, as will the many visitors to the old the market place in this popular village.

Kate Empsall

Fair Trade at The Good Life

As we all try to do our bit to save the planet, The Good Life has moved into the recycling business; taking your cardboard and plastic and sending it to be made into useful items, rather than adding them to the landfill problem—and also selling many recycled lines just to prove that it works!

The full range of Ecover products are available along with a refill service which, again, is recycling your containers and saving you money.

To keep prices lower, The Good Life buys in bulk and sells in bulk, particularly in the wholefoods and frozen food departments.

Cutting down on food miles and ensuring freshness, vegetables are delivered by the farmer directly from the fields to The Good Life cooler. The latest addition to the business is 'Full Circle' at The Good Life. This is an area of natural health and beauty products, free from chemicals, with some organic. Alongside is

a colourful display of globally inspired gifts, jewellery, clothing for home and kids - all fairly traded.

There is ample car parking space for customers. Orders delivered free of charge over a wide area. 'Time to visit and see what you're missing'. (*See advert on page 23*)

Yorebridge Sports and Fitness



You've heard of 'Mad Friday' well we are now having a 'Mad Day After' party on **Saturday 20th December** 10.00pm until late with bar and music in Askrigg Village Hall. The proceeds will go to Hawes Amateur Operatic Society, Askrigg Village Children's Activities and Yorebridge Sports Development Association.

Tickets will be available from the office and via email and cost £5; this includes a free entry into a prize draw to win, amongst other things, a free gym induction, personalised exercise plan and one month's free gym membership!

We have not left out the younger age group, so will be holding a children's Christmas Party from 7.00pm until 9.00pm on the same evening with music and refreshments. All ages are very welcome, but under 6s must be accompanied by an adult. £2 on the door. So come on, get out your santa hats and tinsel and come and support three great local causes!

On a more serious note, the Red Cross are providing two FREE First Aid Sessions at the Wensleydale Centre, Askrigg on **Wednesday 3rd December** 7.00-9.00pm and **Saturday 6th December** 10.00-noon. The first session covers general first aid, including CPR (which has altered in the last couple of years) and the Saturday session is aimed at parents, grandparents and carers. Don't leave something so worthwhile to chance, attend one or both of the sessions and learn the skills to save someone's life.

Finally all fitness classes at Yorebridge Sport and Fitness will be finishing during the week commencing 15th December for the Christmas break. If you would like to know more about what's on offer in the New Year please do get in touch.

For queries or bookings on any of the above, please ring **Lesley** on **650060** or **[email admin@yorebridge-sport.co.uk](mailto:admin@yorebridge-sport.co.uk)**

Belgian Exchange - Part Two

Back in September, when selecting local specialities in the gift shops of the historic city of Bruges we knew Belgian confectionary had the edge; we never thought that two months later our exchange partners would be seen leaving a Hawes sweetshop, arms full of their country's own chocolate. Since our Belgian counterparts' arrival at Newcastle airport, on their very own week-long exchange visit, the twelve students were thrown headfirst into Wensleydale life.

Landing in England during torrential rain is never a great idea, of course we wouldn't want our visitors to get a false impression of the place, but it would be fair to say our guests missed the best of British weather; 'I looked out of the plane window and thought, *I want to go back to Belgium,*' observed one of the new arrivals. While our weather may have fallen at the first hurdle an action packed week of UK life (complete with pizza) ensued. The differences between life here and across the channel were marked at times; though choosing not to cycle to school every morning (as is expected back in Belgium) was hardly surprising; the lie of the land certainly proved a shock. A visit to the notorious 199 steps of Whitby was a little unwelcome; as our exhausted guests concluded that they could never live somewhere so steep, a trip to one of the town's famous fish and chip shops provided a interesting alternative to Belgian fries.

Our visitors enjoyed a fact-finding trail round the many sites of York, and of course no trip to Wensleydale would be complete without a visit to the creamery. Customs regulations forbid the export of cheese for personal use, and may have been all that stood between ourselves and a frantic souvenir rush at the gift shop; to have Wensleydale cheese confiscated in Calais is

usually the least of your travel worries, but it does happen! Finally a whistle stop tour round Wensleydale and an evening's bowling at Teesside Park entertained our Belgian guests and provided a welcome chance to catch up with one another.

English and Belgian students at Semerwater

As well as acting as a foreign exchange, our Comenius project included a local history element. A group of three schools, comprising our own, our partners' school in Belgium, and one in the Czech Republic have recorded interviews with local people about life 50 years ago. To conclude our side of the project we and our Belgians conducted some more interviews at the Dales Countryside Museum, giving the Belgian students a unique insight into the area they had visited.

After spending two weeks with our Belgian students we were incredibly sorry to see them leave. Having an exchange partner is almost like a sibling and best friend rolled into one, so when you have lived, socialised and gone to school with someone for so long it seems odd not to have them with you all the time. Discovering more about local history, even learning some Dutch, and putting Cadbury firmly in its place, drew a close to a fantastic two weeks and an exceptional experience.

Richard Ellison, Bursary Student

Hawes and District Christmas Festival

Saturday December 6th



*Local produce in the Market Place

*At the Dales Countryside Museum (also Sunday) there is a free entry, a craft bazaar, children's activities, mulled wine and mince pies

*"Town Trail": collect clues from the "Christmas Lights Teddies" and claim your prize from the Museum! (See below)

*Herriot's Art Competition "Winter Warmth", call in to vote for your favourite picture!

*Street music

*Roasted chestnuts and mulled wine at The Fountain

1.00pm to 3.00pm

Fresh Radio "Hit Squad" in the Market Place

1.30pm

Hog Roast at The Crown

3.00pm-4.00pm

Entertainment with 40's music group "The Fenner Sisters"

4.00pm

Community carol singing in the Market Place with the Hawes Prize Silver Band, led by Rev. Henry Dubois

4.30pm

Father Christmas arrives, Hawes Christmas lights switch on

5.00pm

The Fenner Sisters

Until 7.00pm

Shops open later for Christmas shopping and refreshments

Christmas lights teddies: these can be found at:

Herriot's

The Sweet Shop

The Dales Countryside

Museum

Hogg's Chemist

Rhodes Pet Supplies

Cockett's Butchers and Bakers

White's of Wensleydale

The Post Office

The Rock and Gem Shop

Collect the letter clues from the teddies, rearrange the letters to spell a "cheery" word and return the completed slip to the Countryside Museum to claim your prize! All correct entries will be entered into a prize draw.

Christmas greetings!

As I write this, Radio 2, due to the credit crunch, are asking their listeners for suggestions on how to 'do Christmas cheaper' or how to go 'back to basics'. Well the Christian church can certainly do 'back to basics' because Christmas is about celebrating the birth of Jesus, born in conditions that certainly had no luxuries or trimmings about them. A small newborn infant, lying in a straw-lined manger amidst the sheep and oxen under a rough shelter in the small city of Bethlehem, surrounded by his parents who had been forced to flee from persecution, a woman who unexpectedly found herself pregnant, and with things about to get a whole lot worse, natives of an occupied country they soon had to leave home and cross the border in fear of their lives.

Yet in circumstances which many people in parts of our world today can relate to, the baby born was to grow into someone who would challenge and transform the people that he met.

If we were to strip away the Christmas lights and tinsel and the expensive gifts, we would come back to the message that God values us so much that he became one of us, and if God became one of us then we are of infinite worth whoever we are and whatever our circumstances are. This means of course that we can never underrate our fellow human being, for each one is as valuable in God's sight – whether we happen to like them or not. What we need is the power and grace to act and become the person that God intends. Perhaps we can only ever do that if we form a relationship with Jesus and understand Him and His ways.

But what a potentially powerful Christmas present that could be, one that could transform our world, if we were to value everyone that we meet as God values us,

each of infinite worth, then the line from a Christmas carol 'peace on earth and goodwill to all' would take on a whole different meaning!

We look forward to welcoming you to one of the Christmas Services, which take place throughout the Dale, over the festive period and in the meantime I wish you all a peaceful and happy Christmas.

Rev. Penny Yeadon
Assistant Curate to The Penhill Benefice

Hawes School News

Swimming at Casterton School

Y6 Went to Casterton on Thursday 6th November. We went swimming, and had a really good time. Nick Gillingham was teaching us how to swim because he is an Olympic swimmer and we learned how to do the butterfly, front and back stroke, also how to do the front crawl. He showed us how he did the butterfly stroke in the Olympics and said 'it was very hard'. Everybody got his autograph. He showed us his medals that he had won, one bronze and two silver.

Paulina Przybyszewska, aged 10

Maths day at Casterton

On the 7th of November we went to Casterton. When we got there we were given a questionnaire; we were also given a biscuit and a drink (which we enjoyed) then in different groups we went away to do different things: G&T, pop up cards and origami. Then we went to see Kjarten Poskit (author of Murderous Maths). He was really funny. We had a lovely lunch and packed up our stuff and went home.

Daniel, aged 10

Hawes school's Christmas fair was on Thursday 13th November. We made over £900 for the school. The whole School sang two wonderful songs called 'Give it all you've got' and 'Living and Learning' also Barbara Rookcroft's choir sang 16 songs off by heart for Pudsey. We had lots of stalls including tombola, cake stall, white elephant, wine or water and many others.

It was a very good night and I'm sure everybody had a good time. Thank you to everyone for giving a donation.

By Emily Metcalfe, aged 9. Year 5

Domino Drive

The Hawes Playgroup is holding a domino drive at the Gayle Institute on **Friday, December 5th at 6.30pm.** £2.00 and £1.00 for children. All are welcome.

Wensleydale Gun Club

The Annual General Meeting was held at the Victoria Arms in Worton where club committee and members reflected on yet another successful year with a strong membership and healthy bank balance.

Long-time servant to the club, Martyn Fawcett, announced his retirement as treasurer and thanks were given. His successor is Darren Moffit, another long-serving member (who is sure to be ably assisted by his wife, Andrea!). Thanks were also expressed to Ralph, Pat and Neil Daykin at the Victoria Arms for their continued hospitality, generosity and support to the club.

In June the club donated £200 to the L.V.A. after a good attendance in the annual Open Down-the-line shoot which saw Keighley Gun, John Toothill, winning the coveted Rose Bowl. Overall high gun for 2008 was Neil Dinsdale.

Shoot fixtures for 2009 will be published in due course. However, an open D.L.T. shoot will take place on Boxing Day at the Victoria Arms at 1.30pm. Everyone is welcome, and don't forget, bring a prize, win a prize. For information call:

Dave Cockett 667251

The Business Association (Wensleydale) Ltd

Joining the Business Association has never been easier, nor have there ever been more benefits to joining. Our members are the first to hear about issues which affect business, grants, legislation, training. There is a free entry on our website (which gets around 6000 "hits" a month average). Free

entry into the colour Accommodation, Attractions and Services Guide 2009, entry into the on-line Business Directory, bi-monthly newsletters and much more. If you are interested in how we can help you promote your business call 667676 for a membership pack. **R Berry (Chairman)**

Best foot forward

We aren't going far this month; it's all along marked paths, but having said that they aren't all easy to see or frequently walked—so watch your footing.

We're starting at Harddraw, but as nearly everyone must have been to the Force (with its replaced concrete cap did you know?) we'll miss that and go to Simonstone, but not straight up. Just as you reach an iron gate in the wall at the path-side turn east to follow a very faint path up to a stile and lambing gate and up to a second. Carry on until you enter the little wood and go on to join the road and take it left to the back of Simonstone Hall.

Just past the phone box (if they haven't removed it!) take the signed path up to Low Shaw and beyond, through and over stiles north east and scramble up to the mine track and turn very sharp left. The view over the dale is great.

Yes, it was all mined, but not for ore, just the hard Sedbusk gritstone which graces many of our substantial houses as well as famous buildings in our cities. Just think if these guys had quarried it out, what a very different, possibly unsightly, scene it would be when looking north from the dale bottom. It's any easy stroll on here; look out for the adits into the rockface, supporting walls for the track, one large beautifully engineered mine entrance just below you towards the end; (there are a few locals who will offer to take you in and along; I've been meaning to go for 20 years but can't say I'm over keen!); and of course some cairns, presumably built to pass the time.

Unfortunately as you cross the only stone step stile along here the track takes a turn for the worse, (it doesn't actually turn!) deserting the hollowed out cart route now overgrown. The path is on the top to the left and you could stumble before reaching the Buttertubs road at the mighty Hawes and

High Abbotside waterworks! Actually most of it is underground.

Turn right, yes right! Very shortly there is a signed path on the left to a barn and a ladder stile (can't they be so slippery and I'm glad I'm not a dog). As you turn down left you are in one of the best sledging fields there is. We must explain to the younger generation what we mean by sledging!

At the bottom another stile takes you to some newish footpath work and steps. The path was closed for months as it seemed those of a nervous disposition might tumble down into Hearne Beck. Now, new tree-planting might break your fall. It is a lovely stretch of river here but you will leave left up a stile and go along to High Shaw with a caravan site down to the right. It is along here where a (probable) Bronze-age sauna or religious cleansing site is to be found with burnt stones in the form of a horseshoe. (Just up the little stream you cross.)

The route joins the lane to the caravan site and we go right to take the path into Shaw Gill Wood. Here is the same beck again and on its way to Harddraw. In some ways it's lovelier here than at the Force. Paths go along either side and they are both slippery. So stand still to look at the beautiful small waterfalls and the shelving rock. You need to like the smell of garlic if it's spring time. If you are 'into' mosses and liverworts and flowers liking shade and damp, then you'll be as happy as a pig in muck.

The path on the left of the beck was done up in the 1980s by D of E volunteers working with the National Park. It is surprising how few people seem to know Shaw Gill; you'll enjoy it. As you reach the road soon turn on to the main footpath back down to Harddraw. After the stile at the top of the hill beyond the farmhouse the steps and path need care.

You could have stopped at Simonstone Hall for refreshment, but never mind, here's the Green Dragon in Hardraw or Clara's Cart House Tea Room. **A.S.W.**

Anyone for (table) tennis?

The Market Hall, Hawes has the facility to offer table tennis in the evenings. If anyone is interested, please contact **Les on 667040**

Raydale Project

The project has set aside a little money for enhancing the visitor experience of the natural and cultural heritage without diminishing the unspoilt nature of Raydale. A small sub group has been set up to brainstorm some ideas which will be shared at the open meeting in December. With the National Park just having received Europark recognition for sustainable tourism the group felt the principles of that recognition were very relevant to Raydale. Developing and managing tourism to take account of the needs of the environment, local residents, local business and the visitors will be the group's guiding principle.

Raydale has such a wide range of heritage and wildlife features, as well as opportunities for sport, yet it remains a hidden gem. How to sympathetically encourage more or longer staying visitors without destroying that feeling of having discovered a secret place is difficult. Finance is restricted so the bigger ideas for improving visitor facilities such as providing toilets, an emergency telephone, a Little Red Bus or a bird-watching facility are for other organisations to take forward. However improving the visitor understanding of what there is to see and do in Raydale is well within our means.

Interpretation boards, footpath guides and village trails are tried and tested means of getting the message over and, once our track repairs are complete, a circular cycle route could be added to that list. Involving local businesses so that recreational facilities, water-sport opportunities and up to date news of events is made available to visitors could be achieved by linking to business websites.

If local Raydale people have more innovative ideas please bring them to our next open meeting on **Wednesday December 10th at 7.30pm in Sycamore**

Hall. Also at this meeting, following a welcoming glass of wine with a mince pie, will be a guest speaker from Tilhill explaining how the new forestry at the head of Raydale will be very different. There will be opportunity to catch up on progress so far and have a say on the future of the project.

Deborah Millward, Project Leader

Letter

Dear Sir/Madam

Whilst on holiday in Wensleydale recently I stayed at Thornton Lodge and was shown, by the manager, thinking I may be able to help, a copy of your October issue 141 and the insert headed "Who knows": *When did tractors first appear in the area?*

I started working for R. McCombie Metcalfe in Leyburn at the end of 1940 having just left school at Bellerby. I was only just 14 years old. The garage or engineer's workshops (or whatever it was called) was in the market place where the mini super-store now is. *Metcalfe's of Leyburn* as the business was known was the only place in the area catering for the maintenance and repair of farm equipment and machinery. They also catered for the Ministry of Supply (later to be called The Forestry Commission) operations extracting timber from the local area.

The only tractor I remember at that time was with someone who had a Marshall; the horizontal cylinder started by hand turning the external flywheel after putting a hot ember in the cylinder head. Probably about 1942 or 43 Fordsons started arriving.

On what I learned later, this was probably after the U-boat activity in the Atlantic had eased up. They were then followed by *tractractors* or tracklaying vehicles for use by the foresters. If I remember these were Caterpillar D6s and D8s and the largest of all the International TD18. Shortly afterwards followed the Allis Chambers, David Brown, Fergusson, Bristol etc. The first John Deere in the area was used (if I remember rightly) by a farmer called Reed who operated, I think, in the Thornton Stewart/ Watlass area.

These first Fordsons had steel wheels and worked on Spade Lugs which bolted on to the flat wheel surfaces. These could not be used on the road so they were supplied

with wooden road tyres of which I think 5 sections matched the circumference of the wheel, again bolted on as required. There are two of these old Fordsons with the lugs attached parked outside a farm gate between Uxbridge and Iver on the A4007.

I was still working at Metcalfe's when the big snow came in 1947. My parents had moved then from Bellerby Moor to Catterick Camp. When it became apparent that the snow was going to be thick my boss told me to leave on a David Brown tractor waiting to be delivered to a farm near my home enabling me to get home. I was unable to get up Runs Bank out of Bellerby and had to return to Leyburn, getting back after dark. I was unable to get home for nine weeks and lived, and worked as well, with my employer's brother, a local farmer.

At that time food and clothing were still rationed and as I had none of the necessary coupons or money, by the time I was able to get home I had quite a lot of debt with the local shops. Due to the restriction of wartime conditions we did a wide range of repair jobs for the local population. Mr. Metcalfe had notices about the place saying "We do the impossible immediately, miracles take a little longer."

Yours sincerely,

J. Edred Wood, Hillingdon, Middlesex

Hawes and District Gala

Hawes and District Gala Committee would like to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.

A special thank you also to all the people who helped to make this year's gala a success, despite the cold and damp weather. The gala could not take place without the generosity of local businesses, patrons and local organisations such as Tolls trustees, LVA etc, who provide a great deal of the funding. It is also the help that we get from local people who volunteer their time to help both on the day and before and after gala day with jobs like setting up the field and trimming the town with bunting that we simply could not do without. Biggest thanks of all go to the kids of the area for continually supporting us and coming up with new and original ideas for fancy dress every year.

Next year's gala is on June 27th and will have a circus theme. As ever, the fancy dress will be an open theme so you can come as anything you want; the main theme is to give us ideas for entertainment, games and music.

If anyone is interested in becoming a committee member, there is always room for new eyes and ideas. All you need to be able to commit is a couple of hours on the 3rd Wednesday of every month to attend a meeting and be able to set aside gala day itself to help in the running of the day. It's a long and tiring day, but well worth it!

If you don't wish to become a full committee member but feel that you could help in any other capacity, we are always looking for volunteers to help out on stalls or gates for a little while.

If you wish to put your name down to help out in any way or would simply like to put forward any ideas for things you would like to see at the gala or improvements to make, then you can submit them to Sue Wood at

Streetwise launderette, Mandy McCarthy at the Fountain Hotel or Mick Rhodes at the Pet and Garden shop and we will gladly discuss all new ideas at the next meeting in January.

Mick Rhodes

Keeping warm and well as temperatures drop

As the weather gets colder, North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust (PCT) is urging people to keep warm and well during the winter months.

Public Health staff at the PCT are highlighting the importance of having a warm home which can improve physical and mental health, and pointing out ways in which people can access support for heating their homes and making them more energy efficient.

Recent figures have shown that circulatory diseases are responsible for around 40% of excess winter deaths, and respiratory illnesses are responsible for a third of winter deaths. The cold increases blood pressure, which in turn increases the risk of heart attacks and strokes.

Grants and payment schemes are available such as the 'Warm Front Grant' of up to £2,700 which can be spent on loft and cavity wall insulation, boiler repairs and replacements and new central heating systems. Other schemes available include 'able to pay' which offer households who are not eligible to receive the Government Warm Front Grant the opportunity to get subsidies.

If your home is damp you are more at risk to get colds, respiratory infections and heart disease, often made worse by exposure to the cold or by living in cold, damp homes. Symptoms of arthritis can become worse and people can be at a higher risk from falls. One of the most effective ways to stay in good health during winter is to en-

Doctors' rotas as supplied by the surgery

AYS GARTH SURGERY ROTA Wb - week beginning												
Wb	Dec		1		8		15		22		29	
Day	a.m.	p.m.										
Mon	JA	A	FA	A	WF	F	J	F	JA	J		
Tues	WF	WF	WJ	WJ	JA	JA	FA	A	WF	WF		
Wed	JA	J	FA	A	WF	F	J	J	JA	J		
Thur	WF	F	WJ	W	JA	J	C	C	C	C		
Fri	J	J	A	A	F	F	C	C	J	J		

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)
For appointments and all enquiries ring 663222

HAWES SURGERY ROTA Wb - week beginning												
Wb	Dec		1		8		15		22		29	
Day	a.m.	p.m.										
Mon	WF	WF	WJ	WJ	JA	JA	FA	A	WF	WF		
Tues	JA	JA	FA	A	WF	WF	J	J	JA	JA		
Wed	W	W	J	J	A	A	F	F	W	W		
Thur	A	A	F	F	F	F	C	C	C	C		
Fri	WF	WF	WJ	WJ	WJ	WJ	C	C	WF	WF		

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)
For appointments and all enquiries ring 667200

AYS GARTH SURGERY ROTA Wb - week beginning												
Wb	Jan5th		12		19		26					
Day	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
Mon	FA	A	FW	F	WJ	W	JA	J				
WJ	WJ	WJ	JA	JA	FA	FA	WF	W				
Wed	FA	A	WF	F	WJ	W	JA	J				
Thur	WJ	W	JA	J	FA	A	WF	F				
Fri	A	A	A	A	W	W	J	J				

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)
For appointments and all enquiries ring 663222

HAWES SURGERY ROTA Wb - week beginning												
Wb	Jan5th		12		19		26					
Day	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
Mon	WJ	WJ	JA	JA	FA	FA	WF	WF				
Tues	FA	FA	WF	W	WJ	WJ	JA	JA				
Wed	J	J	A	A	F	F	W	W				
Thur	F	F	W	W	J	J	A	A				
Fri	WJ	WJ	J	J	FA	FA	WF	WF				

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)
For appointments and all enquiries ring 667200

sure your home is kept warm

For people struggling to pay their fuel bills, some gas and electricity suppliers provide social tariffs to assist their customers. People should contact their energy supplier or call the Home Heat Helpline free on 0800 33 66 99.

Hawes Chemists information

J&E Hogg Chemist in Hawes will be open as follows:-

Christmas Week - hours as usual from 9.00am - 5.30pm Monday 22nd to Wednesday 24th December. **Closed Thursday 25th and Friday 26th.** Open 9.00am - 5.30pm on Saturday 27th, and closed on Sunday 28th.

New Year Week - hours as usual from 9.00am - 5.30pm Monday 29th to Wednesday 31st December. **Closed Thursday 1st Jan.** Open 9.00am - 5.30pm

Friday 2nd and Saturday 3rd.

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

Angus - the pharmacist

Heavens above

**December and January are going to be great for Astronomy.
Read on!**

Venus puts on a grand show in the evening sky in the run up to Christmas and beyond - a spectacular curtain-raiser for the International Year of Astronomy in 2009. You'll find the planet shining brilliantly low in the SSW as darkness falls. During the first week of the month Venus lies near to giant **Jupiter**. They're at their closest - a planetary conjunction - on December 1st when they'll only be a couple of moon-widths apart. *Earlier in the day, just after 3.45pm GMT a slim crescent moon passes in front of Venus hiding it from view for about an hour and a half. Even though it takes place in mid-afternoon this occupation should be easily visible with binoculars - a fascinating sight if you've never seen one before.* On New Year's Eve shortly after sunset the crescent Moon again teams up with Venus but this time along with four other planets - Jupiter, Mercury, Neptune and Uranus - though you'll need to use binoculars to catch a glimpse of the last two.

As the New Year itself opens the brilliant winter star-groups really start coming into their own. A whole crowd of bright constellations - Auriga, Gemini, Taurus, Canis Major and Minor, and Orion - the grandest of them all - fills the southern sky with Sirius, the brightest of all the stars, flashing diamond-like in the cold winter air. High in the SW lie two beautiful star clusters, the Hyades and Pleiades, and completing the scene is the winter Milky Way running down east of Orion towards the southern horizon. For sheer spectacle nothing beats the view of a winter starry sky from a really dark location so if you've the opportunity catch it if you can.

The International Year of Astronomy

which runs throughout 2009 is a world-wide celebration marking the 400th anniversary of Galileo's historic first telescopic observations of the night sky. Thousands of astronomical events are due to be held all around the globe (**including a local MoonWatch at the Dales Countryside Museum**) so if you'd like to find out more visit www.astronomy2009.org for all the latest news and information. It looks as if 2009 is going to be a really exciting year for star-gazing so here's hoping for lots of clear skies!

Al Bireo

More Letters and emails

Many thanks for putting my request (about Stan Laurel) into your newsletter. As you are probably aware Mrs D. Minnitt responded with the information that Sarah Bushby and George Metcalfe were married in Hawes on 8th December 1859. Their daughter Margaret, Stan's mother, was born in Hawes in 1862. Some time during the 1860s they moved to Ulverston where Stan was born on June 16th 1890. The rest is history as they say, however any other local information regarding the family's links with Stan would be interesting.

Thanks again, **David Sorrell**

Tina Spence and Lindsey Lightowler would like to say a big thank you to everyone who sponsored them in the Great North Run. We raised £2,057.50 (excluding Gift Aid) for The Prostate Cancer Charity. Special thanks to our families who supported us during our training and on the day. Also thanks to everyone who helped and supported the domino drives.

Tina Spence

A very big thank you to all in Hawes and surrounding area who helped in any way in the search for MIDNIGHT - my cat. He returned to Bainbridge Ings caravan site 3 weeks after getting lost; hungry, dehydrated and with signs of injury. A week later he is well on the road to recovery and very pleased to be home. We are extremely grateful for all the help and kindness shown by everyone, especially Janet and her husband.

Thank you. **Chris Steele**

Upper Dales Family History Group

October's speaker was Ann Fell from Darlington with the story of her husband's distant relative, John Fell, who had not only been transported from Yorkshire to Australia in the early part of the 19th century but had then reoffended while a convict and been transported again to the notorious penal colony of Norfolk Island.

Several members of the Fell family had emigrated and one of them, in Canada, came across another Fell with Yorkshire connections, actually a cousin although neither man was aware of this at the time. This set off a train of correspondence over the possibility of a 'lost' inheritance, a vain hope as it turned out, but amongst the letters Ann discovered a passing reference to a family member who had supposedly been transported some years previously.

After much research Ann tracked these particular Fells to Bridge Hewick near Ripon and found that John Fell had been born there in 1797. Along with other family members, in 1823 he was tried for robbery at a tailor's shop in Scalby, found guilty and sentenced to death. The death sentence was later commuted to transportation for life and Ann found the record of his voyage on the *Guildford* in August of the same year. By chance a diary was kept by the wife of an official travelling at the same time so it was possible to get a very good idea of the hardships involved in that particular voyage – the ship sprang a leak and spent two months undergoing repairs in Rio de Janeiro while the prisoners were housed in a hulk for example and the ship arrived in Australia so late that it had been given up for lost.

Using a wide range of resources Ann was able to follow the trail through various convict records and to confirm that the same John Fell who had been convicted in York was assigned to the district of Minto

on arrival in Australia and convicted for stealing (again!) in 1824. The very harsh regime on Norfolk Island led eventually to a convict mutiny in 1834 and many prisoners died there. However there was no record of John Fell's burial on the island and his name was eventually found on a list of those given a full pardon in 1848. Not only was it a fascinating story, with a local twist but also an excellent example of how to follow the trail of one man from the court and press reports in this country all the way through to the records of his final pardon on the other side of the world.

The next meeting is at **2.00pm on Wednesday, December 17th**, in Fremington Sunday School when the speaker will be Dulcie Lewis on "*Not just Yorkshire Pudding*". Non-members always very welcome – entry £1.

For further details please contact **John Harland (01748) 823263**; e-mail John@harland2.fsnet.co.uk or see www.upperdalesfhg.org.uk

MARKET PLACE AND GREETINGS

IVESON

Edith would like to thank everyone for the cards and good wishes received following her operation. She is now recovering well at home.

**Free to a good home:
about 86 copies of New Scientist
Magazine from 2006-7
Could deliver within reasonable
distance.
Tel: 650704**

CIVIL

**Kirsten and Andrew would like to thank
all family and friends for the lovely
cards and gifts received on the birth of
Rosalyn and Kate.**

JOHNSON

Chloe and Jessica
Happy 7th Birthday to you both on
26th December
Lots of love from
Nana, Grandad and Uncle Kev

Ann Wood

Many thanks to all who helped
celebrate my birthday.
Family and friends certainly know
how to party.

Mrs Eunice Leyland

Extends her very grateful thanks to:
Mrs Watkinson,
Mr Geoff Phillips and others for their kind
assistance when she was unfortunately
blown over in Hawes on Tuesday,
November 11th.

FOR SALE

Useful wood-effect bookcase, three
shelves, 45 inches high and 37 inches wide.
Small metal-legged table 29x18 inches
would suit office or workshop.

Can deliver.
£10 for both or £5 each
Ring Carol Tyler: 667227

For Sale

Childrens/Teen **Hi-Sleeper Bed**. Chrome
with shelf underneath. Mattress basic, only
2 yrs use. Offers around £60.

Also

2 **African Stargazing Chairs**; sturdy and
solid, pack away when not needed.
Unusual feature or Christmas Gift. £60
each ono. Buyer collects. Tel: **650980**

STEPHEN AND SUE

would like to thank everyone for
the cards and gifts they have
received following the birth of
Matt and Ted

Bainbridge School News

I can't quite believe that we will soon be into December. So much happening at school; 'hectic but fun' I think best describes it! Our Christmas Shopping Night has come and gone, raising a very respectable £265 for the PFA funds, £50 up on last year! A big thank you to all who supported it, to our stall holders who gave up their Friday evening, and to the PFA committee for organising it.

If you were in school on Children in Need Day you would have been right in thinking spots were dancing before your eyes! The children were invited to dress up in spotty clothing in exchange for a donation to the Charity and a total of £62 was raised for this worthy cause. Well done everyone!

We have supported the Samaritan's Purse Shoebox Appeal for many years and this year we sent off 24 boxes filled with goodies to be distributed amongst children less fortunate than our own. I think it really brings home to Bainbridge children the true meaning of Christmas, the importance of giving, not just of receiving.

We are very fortunate that Rev. Ian Robinson will be leading our Collective Worship over the next few weeks, explaining the meaning of Advent to the children. On the 3rd December our Christmas activities "kick off" in earnest with a Christmas Craft Day. This is an annual event when parents; Governors and friends come into school to join in the festive fun, making decorations for school and for the children to take home. Fast on its heels comes our very popular PFA Domino Drive on **5th December** which is always a lively event!

The children are busy practising for their Festival of Lessons and Carols in Bainbridge Methodist Chapel being held at 2.00pm and 6.00pm on **Thursday 11th December**. All are very welcome to join us for what I know will be an enjoyable and moving service. Other Christmas events include Carol

Singing at Sycamore Hall, and of course a Christmas lunch and Party – we hope a special visitor will be able to take time out of his busy schedule to join us!

Finally, a quick reminder about **Bags2school Collection on Tuesday 9th December, 9.00am** collection from school. Rid yourself of unnecessary clothing, bedding, shoes, belts, handbags and soft toys! Black bin bags accepted! Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year from everyone at Bainbridge School!

Emma Arblaster, Parent Governor

Comenius Visit to South Bohemia in the Czech Republic.

During the half term holiday six members of staff from West Burton School travelled to Prague and then on to Tabor in South Bohemia for the latest trip of our European Project.

As we had to wait for people from the schools in Germany, Slovakia, Norway and Pudsey to arrive on different flights, we had time to use the very efficient transport system to see something of the city of Prague at both ends of the visit.

Eventually by 4.00pm on the Wednesday evening 25 teachers were aboard the bus and ready to travel south. As usual the welcome and hospitality were warm and generous. Sight seeing activities fitted in around visiting the children at Zelec School and kindergarten.

The school has just 63 children aged from 6 to 11, they are taught in 5 classes and we were able to see some classroom activities as well as being entertained by music and dance items from the children in the village hall. The populations of the village of Zelec is around 800

Many beautiful buildings surround the town square of Tabor and we were given a tour of the museum to find out the history of the region before we had a tour of the town with a guide. Our very comfortable hotel is a converted brewery and we also had a chance to see the real thing at a brewery in Budvar.

Our visit concluded with a traditional Czech folk group, (one of the members teaches in the kindergarten) entertaining us before the final dinner. We had an early start on the Saturday morning to be back in Prague for the first of the several flights needed to get us all home to our respective parts of Europe.

Throughout the year we will be learning

playground games from instructions provided by each of the partner schools.

The project is now in its final year and the final meeting is in West Burton next May.
Sally Stone

The Winter Garden

I put the winter garden on ice today as I had a more pressing job to attend to. Walking up the River Bain this summer I noticed a tall, single stemmed plant growing near the water's edge. Closer inspection revealed it as...(roll of drums) the dreaded Japanese Knotweed. Imported by those sensible Victorians, along with giant hogweed, as a back of the border specimen (don't do it!), this beauty soon revealed its true colours by rampaging through the entire garden, before jail-breaking and making off into the wild. The starkest example I've seen is at Oxenholme station, where the car park is becoming surrounded by hostile ranks of the stuff. At a whopping 6 to 8 feet high, and able to punch through concrete, unobtrusive it ain't, and if your garden suffers an outbreak, then tip-toe out and move house.

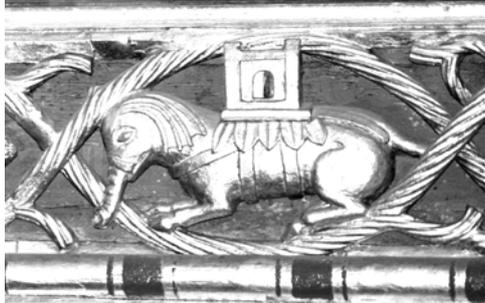
There's talk of bringing in a Japanese bug which feeds on and controls the stuff, but I suppose that brings its own risk; will this be a well-behaved bug which will concern itself with the knotweed alone, or will it devour our own native flora? Into the unknown. Anyway, about that bit up the Bain. They say that from little acorns giant oaks grow (or words to that effect), and the principle's the same here; leave one stem over winter, and by next spring they're marching on Hawes Auction Mart. I popped up last Thursday with a smidgin of systemic weedkiller and treated the pest to a good swig of it. Right down the throat it went, as a real desperate measure. Sure was thirsty. I'll check in spring for new growth, and won't be surprised to see signs of life;

it's hungry for existence - thousands have been spent in London during Olympic preparations to try and eradicate the stuff with only middling success. My pathetic little bit doesn't compare but it's still best nipped in the bud.

Away with all that gloom. I love having stuff in the post, whether it be a box of 12 cheeky reds from Laithwaites, or a dodgy watch 'won' on ebay. Better still is to have plants in transit. Will they be the right ones and in good nick, will they be alive, will the firm have gone out of business? The tension's unbearable, yet I've never been disappointed and am not worrying about the present order of 5 potentilla fruticosa 'Red Robin'. The flowers on this stunner are truly crimson, unlike the frankly washed out orange hues of 'Red Ace', and with those contrasting yellow stamens, it's one of the best and easiest of shrubs. A bit of restraint with pruning please. The potentilla should best be tackled in spring, when the shrub is thinned, with any dead wood taken from inside, and all damaged limbs removed. That way flowers will appear on the inside, as well as the outside of the plant, giving it a far more natural look. 'Red Robin' will grow in any well-drained soil and seems to colour best in dappled shade.

Christmas is on its way again and time to access my inner Scrooge. A couple of articles ago I was raving about yew, but forgot to mention that the one I raised from seed many moons ago, has now reached 4ft. A boss tree as they say in Liverpool, and a grand container specimen which has been brought inside for the past three Christmas holidays. Don't let baby or Rover chew it as it's rather toxic, otherwise there's 45 quid saved for a nice day out at Ripon races next year. Tight-wads unite. Have a fun Christmas and a great new year.

Ed Gardener



If you want to find out ...

what that knee-less elephant is carrying on its back (and why) you will have to see *Now Then*....

It is worth visiting St Andrew's church at Aysgarth with a copy of the latest *Now Then* magazine to learn more about that famous Jervaulx Screen.

The November issue of the magazine produced by the Friends of the Dales Countryside Museum contains a fascinating article by Barry Thornton. This is accompanied by photographs by Dr David Bostwich of the frieze so that visitors can identify such fascinating details as the knee-less elephant and how in medieval times people were warned not to take part in backbiting.

This is probably one of the best magazines that the Friends have produced. There is a detailed description of the water corn mills of Wensleydale by Bob Ellis and Edward Mason's well-researched story about the nineteenth century centenarian Betty Webster. According to a traditional poem she was the boast and toast of Wensleydale and kept the safer side of the Styx until she was 106.

Other articles include the story of Tommy Dent of Thornton Rust; and adventures at Gayle Mill and at the museum in Hawes. The magazine is now available at the museum and costs £1.

Hawes Brownies

Brownies and parents enjoyed the open evening in October and the Brownies also enjoyed entertaining Gayle Ladies with campfire songs at their fundraising evening. We made 4 guys for bonfire night and took part in the Remembrance Day Parade. We are ending this busy term with a Christmas Party at the Fountain and are looking forward to going to the panto in York in the New Year. We resume Brownies after Christmas on the 6th January. All the Brownies and leaders send festive greetings to all our supporters.

Linda Reynolds

New telephone number

Sheila Walker
Foot health professional

Please note the change to
640019

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