
Upper Wensleydale Newsletter

Issue 165 December 2010— January 2011

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A Sort of Editorial

As the Newsletter enters its sixteenth year the guy who writes the original draft of editorials before they are carefully picked over, not to say demolished occasionally, found himself off to Australia. He thought it was a good way to have a month off! Your Newsletter Committee thought otherwise and a personal view from Down Under was agreed. At least if it's personal it can't be massacred!

As we have been ten times over seventeen years I suppose we have something to say by way of comparing and contrasting that very big country with ours.

Yes, there is the huge 'beach and surf' culture, the suburbs of 'Home and Away' or 'Neighbours' but to get the real feel for the place time's needed in the big cities but also in the real 'country' Australia.

They aren't as stressed as us! Sport and food are high on the agenda. Their economy is healthy just now with much new development, but space being in such abundance can also be a problem. You should see the roadworks and the huge sprawling housing, the impressive new skyscraper buildings and the redevelopment of huge disused docklands. That's in the cities.

Maybe you would like to go to the rural areas now. If you have the time the wildlife is there for all to see (not just in the tourist spots with the odd tame kangaroo). National Parks are everywhere and huge. The smell of the all-pervading gum trees is intoxicating as you drive miles along unsealed roads as they wind and wind up the wooded mountains of the south east or are dead straight as far as the eye can see in the drier and flatter areas on the other side of the 'Great Dividing Range'.

Call in at a village or small town now. It's likely to spread over an area the size of

Burtersett to Appersett. Its wide, grid-pattern streets allowing an easy U-turn (a 'ewey'). There's always a store/bakery/café and don't be put off by the outward appearance (keeping the heat or the 'mozzies' out). This is not an "Australia is wonderful" article, but we have to say that almost inevitably the welcome you get in any place or shop is just great. They smile! You don't just ask for what you want; there is the preamble: "How ya going?"; "good thanks"; "how are you?"; "I'm good".

There is only two hundred years of settlers' history so museums abound and we've seen some amazingly scruffy collections in outback places (contrasting with the spick and span of the cities). Some villages go overboard with plaques! Every house might have one: who built it, when and why! The country, now aware of its early treatment of the Aboriginals, usually includes something of their history, but few artefacts remain as they were itinerants.

Still out in the villages only a few buildings will be more than one storey typically 'colonial': the impressive post office (so important for communication in the early days); and the churches, looking implanted from your typical English Victorian Gothic and always public toilets! There is very often a local newsletter, not so different from ours.

What wouldn't you like? Travel by train and see the backs of property. There is some superb 'street art', but also more low grade graffiti than we've seen anywhere.

What are the things being generally discussed? The environment (wind farms), planning decisions!, Catholic priests, homophobia, state elections with compulsory voting, but in the very many street cafes you can bet that sport, the weather, the water supply and the smell of food will prevail.

A.S.W

Market Place and Greetings

Eunice **Where am I this month?**

Please note that all local phone numbers are preceded by the area code 01969 which might be needed if ringing from a mobile phone.

Family Domino Drive

Bainbridge School Family Domino Drive will take place on Friday 3rd December, 6pm for 6.30 start at Sycamore Hall. All ages are very welcome to join in this annual evening of fun! Donations of raffle prizes or cakes, mince pies etc will be gratefully received! Please contact the Committee – Angela (650212), Melanie (650037) or Amanda (650539) for further information.

November issue will produced on October 27th and 28th. Deadline for copy: Thursday October 21st

Railway News

REMEMBER, REMEMBER... the 5th of *December*.

2.30pm St Margaret's Church, Hawes; memorial service to mark the centenary of the Wreck of the Scotch Express, Dec 24th 1910. (All welcome - see p.29 November newsletter).

WENSLEYDALE RAILWAY'S SANTA SPECIALS

Wrapped gifts for children; mulled wine and mince pies for adults.

FROM LEYBURN: Sun 19th, Tue 21st and Wed 22nd Dec. FROM LEEMING BAR:

Sat and Sun Dec. 4/5th; Sat and Sun Dec 11/12th; Sat-Fri 18-24th.

£10 (adult or child; special fares apply on Christmas Eve)

Booking essential : phone 08454 50 54 74.

WALK AFTER CHRISTMAS! Mon Dec 27th to New Year's Day.

Join a 5 mile guided walk each day from either Redmire station OR Leyburn station. Free if arriving by train; otherwise £3 per person. Enquiries about walks to **Ruth Annison 650349.**

See www.wensleydalerailway.com for timetables etc.

MEMORIES OF THE WENSLEY-DALE RAILWAY

 by Tony Easton.

Limited number of copies of this out-of-print book are currently available from the Ropeworks shop, Hawes (inspection copy available). There are personal recollections and anecdotes by many of those who worked on the line. with photos of people, places and events throughout the nineteenth century. Most of the detail is local to the Dale and Northallerton but it will resonate with anyone who has worked or travelled on the wider network. Paperback, 134 pages (£8).

Sing along at Christmas at Settle Carlisle Stations.

Both Settle and Ribbleshead stations will be hosting Christmas events this year, where visitors are encouraged to join in the carol singing

Ribbleshead station will host a carol service on **Thursday 9th December**, starting at **5.00pm** There is always a very special atmosphere at this bleak but dramatic location, so wrap up warm and join in the singing as the trains pass through.

There will be plenty of festive cheer for visitors to the annual 'Open Day' at **Settle** railway station from 10.00am to 3.30pm on **Saturday 11th December.**

Santa Specials

Booking essential for Santa Specials on the Wensleydale Railway. Go from Leyburn on **Dec 19, 21, 22** or from Leeming Bar on **11 dates including Christmas Eve.** See www.wensleydalerailway.com, pick up a leaflet at Hawes PO or Community Office or phone Wensleydale Railway on **08454 50 54 74.**

New Arrangements at Hawes Library / Community Office

You may have read that the Upper Wensleydale Community Partnership (UWCP) has taken over the operation of the North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) Library at Hawes alongside the Community Office the UWCP operate for Richmondshire District Council, the Police and the Little Red Bus Company. Do not worry – the change is very positive for the long term future of the Library in Hawes, and seamless as the UWCP staff have mostly been responsible for staffing the Library since Summer last year.

The Library will continue under the umbrella of NYCC with all the services provided in the past continuing in the future, including ordering / regular changing of books, DVDs and so on, and the bank of public access computers remaining available. The initiative is designed to maintain the maximum opening hours at the Library whilst reducing the cost of staffing to NYCC in this age of austerity in public funding. It is a win-win as we can continue to boast opening hours for the Library and the Community Office the envy of many market towns in the County 10 times the size of Hawes !

Abbie Rhodes and Trish West will continue to be the mainstay on the staffing rota, and they are being joined by Clare Thwaites from High Abbotside who will be working on 2 days a week in the winter, and 4 days a week in summer. We welcome Clare to the team, and know her approachable manner and local knowledge will reinforce the customer friendly service already on offer.

Opening hours as a total remain the same as before, but with some slight adjustments which hopefully our customers will find more convenient. They are **Monday-Friday, to open at 10.00 am (Tuesday**

accommodated in the once a month personal visit by a CAB adviser. However if you wish to personally meet the CAB adviser in Hawes this can still be arranged.

John Blackie

Music at Christmas

Music at Christmas is especially delightful and a joy to share. This season the East Witton Male Voice Choir are to give a concert of music as part of the Askrigg Church Christmas Tree Festival. There will be readings and solos as well as choral favourites and a welcome contribution from the ladies of the Askrigg Ladies Sing for Pleasure group. This group now has an average attendance of 30 ladies and welcomes any ladies who just love to sing.

The concert is in Askrigg Church on **Wednesday 15th December at 7.30pm** and will be followed by mulled wine and mince pies. There will be a very warm welcome to all. The EWMVC also gives a seasonal concert in Middleham Chapel on **Wednesday 8th December at 7.30pm**, and joins with the Hawes Silver Prize Band in the Market Hall, Hawes on **Friday 17th December at 7.30pm**.

9.30 am), and to close at 4.30 pm (Tuesday and Thursday 6.00 pm).

We intend to add additional services of benefit to the local communities as we go along, and would welcome any suggestions or ideas. There is a community room available above the Library, suitable for meetings of up to 12 people.

Please Note – For the next 3 months the Citizens Advice Bureau will be offering private one to one consultations at the Community Office via the TellyTalk Video Link. The intention is to offer a greater range of immediate appointments for people in the Upper Dales than can be

Wensleydale Words

The last few weeks at The Wensleydale School have been very busy ones. A delegation from Thailand's department of education visited us to discover the secret of the school's success. Lord Philip Royle accompanied the 29-strong group of school leaders, teachers and students who had travelled to England to visit two schools: one a city academy, the other our rural school in the heart of Wensleydale. The visitors were given a guided tour of the school and its surroundings, including the school farm, and were provided with lunch which consisted of a range of local produce including several varieties of Wensleydale cheese from the creamery in Hawes. They watched lessons from across the curriculum, spoke with various members of staff and surveyed the school's facilities. The guests commented on what they thought had made the school so successful: high standards of appearance and behaviour, a strong work ethic and a band of committed staff. Wensleydale staff were invited to make a return visit to a school in Thailand and were presented with a range of gifts including a wooden carving which brings good luck.

Also this month: We ran a joint appeal with the Rotary Club of Wensleydale to buy water filters for those affected by the floods in Pakistan and raised enough to help more than ten families gain access to clean drinking water... Year 10 students took part in a Duke of Edinburgh taster weekend at Marsett Bunkbarn - much fun was had canoeing, cooking on Trangias and navigating Wether Fell... The school's senior choir, Cantabile, provided the musical entertainment at the autumn meeting of The High Dales Group of the Women's Institute... The History department took the school's newly formed debating society to compete in the Oxford

Union School Debating Competition... Four Year 10 students attended a Young Gifted and Talented School at Durham University... A Year 9 student received the Gold Ambassador award from Olympic athlete Shirley Webb for her role promoting the 2012 Olympics... The Year 7 football team recorded a string of wins including against local rivals, Richmond and Bedale... Two Year 8 students were selected for the Under 13 Area Football squad and seven students were selected for the U14 and U15 Area Rugby squads... Post 16 students visited Sheffield to see John Simm play the title role in Hamlet... The Comenius trip returned from Hungary following an exceptional visit... The school farm continued to grow and grow [pun intended] - a new poly-tunnel was installed for planting winter salads, a third pond was dug out in the top field for geese and ducks, and the number and variety of livestock expanded even further with the addition of two pigs, four sheep and a goat on lease... and there was much more besides!

The school facilities continued to be used by a number of community groups such as LADS who performed the farce, Dry Rot, to good local reviews; and the Leyburn football teams. We hope the school continues to forge links with the dales community and we welcome your involvement in the coming year.

I'd like to end this month's update by wishing everyone a very happy Christmas and all the very best for 2011 on behalf of all the staff and students here at the Wensleydale School.

Matt Bromley, Deputy Headteacher

Wensleydale Society Programme for Winter and Spring

The Headteacher of West Burton C E Primary School, Mrs C A Brotherton, speaks about *'The Collective Community which inspires pupils of West Burton School'*, on **Friday 3rd December**.

Lectures start again in the New Year on **Friday 7th January** when Sally Reckert, Co-ordinator of Food Growing Together at *Transition Wensleydale*, speaks on “**Land Sharing in the Early 20th Century(1900-1960)**”.

“**The Hubble Telescope and its Discoveries**” is Fred Stevenson's Topic on **Friday 4th February**.

On **Friday 4th March** Nick McCave, Emeritus Woodwardian Professor of Geology, Cambridge, speaks on “**The Geology of Wensleydale**”.

The Annual general Meeting on **Friday 1st April** is followed by a short talk “**Walks With the Wensleydale Society**” by Ron Venus, a regular walks leader.

All talks start at **7.30 pm**, entry fee is £1 and annual membership of the Wensleydale Society is only £5. We also make it easier to get to lectures by our return coach between Middleham and West Burton, which picks up in Harmby, Leyburn and West Witton.

(Details from **Hazel Townesend 622110**)

For more information please contact

Prof David Milner (Secretary) 624361.

Hawes Bonfire and Fireworks

We would like to thank everyone who supported the event this year. To Angus and Mandy at the Fountain for donating the bread buns and to Jeff and Ann at the Bull's Head for donating the hot dogs and burgers, to the people who came along on a wet afternoon to help us set up, and the people who helped on the night and especially to everyone who came on the evening and gave so generously. We would also like to thank the children for making the "guys".

Some people have come forward who are interested in an event next year, so watch this space!

Harry Balderston and Angela Lee

Hawes Memorial Service

On **Sunday December 5th**, a Service of Commemoration will be held in St Margaret's Church, Hawes at which the victims of the 1910 Hawes Junction railway accident will be remembered.

The accident occurred on Christmas Eve and thus the date which has been chosen, will be the nearest practicable one to the exact 100th Anniversary of the tragedy.

The service will be conducted by the Rev. Canon Bill Greetham and the Rev. Ann Chapman, and will commence at 2.30pm.

All are invited to attend. Tea and biscuits will be served after the service.

This event is being organized by The Friends of the Settle-Carlisle Line. Further information **01729 825454**

Ruth Evans



The children are looking forward to a visit from Santa on Tuesday 14th December along with a delicious home cooked Christmas dinner. Dalesplay have been very fortunate in winning 30 trees from Sainsbury's active kids scheme. Sarah Kirkbride kindly let our Green kite club plant the trees on 'Kirkbrides way'. The children really enjoyed doing this and with the perfect location the children can watch them grow over the years they are at the school. Our cookery club have been baking Christmas cakes and mince pies ready for the festive season whilst the knitting club have been making festive cushions to take home and creative craft club have made tree decorations. We are hoping to have a real Christmas tree outside this year to help brighten the place up.

Dalesplay is holding the Christmas fair on **Sunday 28th November** in the market hall between **10.00am-4.00pm**. *Jamie Oliver at home, phoenix cards* and much more will be available to purchase. The money raised from the event will be put towards repainting the interior of Dalesplay as it hasn't been done since it opened and is ready for it. We have lots of activities planned for the week leading up to Christmas to help keep all those excited children occupied. Everyone is welcome to join in the fun including visitors to the area. They are as follows;

Monday 20th Christmas baking 2-3.30pm @£3

Tuesday 21st Christmas party 12-3.30pm @17.75 (This includes a lunch and prizes for games)

Wednesday 22nd Cinema Christmas Carol 2.00-3.30pm @£3

Thursday 23rd Making Xmas decorations 2.00-3.30pm @£3

Dalesplay will shut on Christmas eve at 3.30pm and re-open on **Wednesday 5th January**. We are closed on Tuesday 4th January to clean all the toys and ensure all equipment is replenished etc.

DALESPLAY WOULD LIKE TO WISH EVERYONE A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Joanne Middleton

We're off to see to the Wizard

This year's pantomime is about to take to the stage in Hawes Market House. Don't miss your chance to see the magical, wonderful Wizard of Oz from **Wednesday 8th to Saturday 11th December**. Performances start at **7.30pm** with a **matinee performance at 2.30pm** on **Saturday**. Performances on Wednesday and Saturday evening will also be professionally signed. Tickets are available from The Old Sweet Shop, Hawes; Sykes Store, Askrigg or online from www.wensleydale.org.

**Wensleydale School
Comenius Week
September 25th - 3rd October**

Josh's account of his visit continues from last week's article.

Wednesday: the morning saw us learning traditional Hungarian dance with our partners - believe me you have to be in a good physical condition to complete the dance!! After a long rest we were treated to a stage coach journey through Barcs to the River Drava. This river marks the border between Hungary and Croatia so gives you an idea where we were visiting. All the countries then gathered on the riverside to witness a Hungarian man pull stunts with his loyal horse and crack his whip very loud. Once our ears had recovered we returned to school for an art workshop. However Mate (the boy I was partnered with) and I were going hunting with his father on that day so I was unable to attend this. In the evening Máté and I went out in the freezing cold in search of animals. We sat patiently for three hours but it paid off. I was lucky enough to have wild boar and buck deer walk towards us. I had never seen any of these before so will remember that night forever.

Thursday: Another long bus journey took us to Pécs, a large city near Barcs situated on the side of a hill. Here we experienced more of Hungary's magnificent architecture and Roman history. After our cultural encounters, we were let loose to spend our money in the vast shopping malls - which everybody did!!

Thursday evening saw us let our hair down at a very popular student bar just down from the school. This gave us a chance to socialise with local Hungarians and also let it out on the dance floor!

Friday: Following the amazing night

before we were all quite tired, so imagine our faces when we had to participate in sports activities at the school!! Here six people from each exchange (e.g. English & Hungarians partners etc) took part in hard fought activities. In the end we prevailed easily doing our country proud, winning by a large margin. In the afternoon another six took to the pool for water based activities, however we didn't do as well but it was still a fantastic experience and great fun. In the evening we had a Retro Disco at the school where everybody had to wear Sixties outfits. Beforehand (while the girls were still getting ready!!) we had performances by local singers and the school's very successful Majorette group. For the rest of the evening we partied away with all the other countries and what a superb night it was. Everybody was sad when the end came.

Saturday: Saturday was the day where we had the liberty of doing whatever the family wanted. For my day I spent the morning at an outdoor adventure park, with archery and a bobsled on rails, which was brilliant fun and left us out of breath. From there we spent the afternoon in the cinema filling our faces with popcorn! In the evening Máté's mother cooked us a traditional Hungarian meal with typical Hungarian goulash and other local products. To my surprise it was wonderful and just another experience to add to the collection from a week which was filled with them.

Sunday: Sunday morning was a sad affair because we were all saying goodbye to our partners and new best friends. Once all the tears had dried and the expected photos were taken we were off to Budapest and back to Blighty. Everybody was so sad to leave, it had been our home for a week and now everybody wanted to stay. However we all agreed it would not be the last time

we went and we are now planning a visit
back next year so watch this space.

Josh Prudden, Bursary Student

Christmas Comes but Once a Year (thankfully)

I am not a Christmas person (and love humbugs) but here are a few ideas for presents for the geek in your life:

USB Mug warmer – if like me you are always distracted and end up drinking cold coffee this is the ideal way to keep your coffee warm. It may not taste very nice after stewing for a couple of hours but at least it will be warm! Get one with a metal mug (they work better than using normal mugs as they conduct heat better and the mug is designed to fit). Price - £5-£10 from Amazon.

USB Hand warmer mouse mat – on a similar theme many people hide their computer away in a spare room, under the stairs or up in the attic and need thermal undies to keep warm. Keep at least one hand warm using a heated mouse mat! Price £5 from Amazon.

Binary watch or clock – a special gift for the geek in your life. Tell the time via binary code ... at least you'll get good at sums and it will be a real talking point. A variety of his or hers watches (£50+ so not cheap) from Amazon – clocks are cheaper but a bit harder to find - try a google search.

USB mini vacuum cleaner – does your geek drop crumbs and fluff on the keyboard, now this mini vacuum cleaner will clean up the mess. £10 from www.firebox.com.

Mouse phone – deal for using with Skype. £12 from Amazon.

How about a good read? “Delete this at you peril” by Bob Servant (aka Neil Forsyth) is a hilarious account of taking on spammers at their own game. Highly recommended and the paperback is only £7 or

less from any bookshop.

A great geeky toy is a set of Zen Magnets from zenmagnets.co.uk. These are super strong spherical magnets that come in various size sets and give hours of fun. Note they are NOT suitable for children as they are small and can be swallowed (the magnets are so strong that if two were swallowed they could cause internal bleeding!). Check out the website for a video of just how cool these little magnets can be. Prices start at £18.99 for the standard set.

Another word of warning on Fake Security Software.

I have written a number of articles about fake security software that wants you to give the scammers your credit card details and people are still getting infected on a regular basis.

I have come across a couple of cases of another scam where people get a call from ‘Microsoft’ telling them that Microsoft has detected an infection on their computer. Needless to say these calls are not from Microsoft at all (it is hard enough to speak to someone from Microsoft when you want to let alone getting calls from them). This is purely a scam to steal your card details. So far I have come across two customers who have been contacted in this way and they found the calls really very plausible. If someone calls you about internet security be very suspicious. The BBC and newspapers also recently ran stories on a similar scam (see <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-11754487>) where scammers are using a similar idea to steal identities. This is obviously a growing problem so best be aware.

Carol Haynes

NSPCC

Jean Cockburn would like to thank all who helped and gave at the recent coffee morning, enabling £170 to be raised.

Busy Christmas for Victorian Singers

A busy season beckons for the Wensleydale-based HARP Singers who are preparing to bring the spirit of Christmas to the Dales area and beyond.

The choir, in Victorian dress, will present its annual "Carols by Candlelight", on Monday, December 13th (8pm) at the Bolton Arms, Leyburn - a varied programme of Christmas music and readings, as well as carols for the audience to join in.

Their guest conductor is Colin Hicks, director of music at St. Mary's church, Richmond, and former conductor of the Queen's Normandy band at Catterick Garrison. This year, the concert is in aid of the Yorkshire Air Ambulance. Tickets, £6 including wine and mince pies, are available from Towler's newsagents, or by ringing **663738 or 01677 422879**.

Saved!

The tremendous efforts and support from the public and other bodies means that the Little Red Hawes Town Bus has been saved. Details resulting from the re-tendering are not yet known but full details should be in the next issue. There will be no need to book in future. Great news!

Police Report

Well it's that time of the year again. It doesn't seem 5 minutes to me since I was writing about Christmas last year! Time for us parents to dig deep into our wallets before we face the dreaded rise in VAT.

A timely warning for partygoers – and many of us will go to more than one- if you are going out for a drink and need transport nominate a DES (designated driver) or take public transport of some type and do not fall foul of the breathalyser. The seasonal drink drive campaigns are being waged so do not get caught out as there is no excuse.

On the subject of public transport, there has been a recent spate of people getting into taxi cabs and on arrival at their destination getting out and running off without paying the fare. If you have mistakenly spent more money than you expected during your night out, a trip via the ATM will normally be facilitated by the taxi driver to obtain the fare. However “making off” is not just unacceptable – it is a crime- so pay your fare or expect a visit from us and a day in court.

There is traditionally a “blip” in the crime figures over this next month as “Billy Burglar” and “Tommy Thief” do their pre-Christmas shopping. Unlike you and me they help themselves to other people's belongings. A few simple steps will stop you becoming a victim. Do not leave valuables in your car, or in full view of your house windows, particularly items wrapped in festive paper. Do not leave your car unlocked and certainly do not leave the keys in it when you leave it unattended, even if it is on your drive. Some opportunist may be watching you, and in the time it takes to pop the kettle on after a hard days shopping, jump in and drive off with it.

When you are enjoying a night out do not leave your mobile telephone unattended on the table. These shiny items are just too

tempting for some light fingered individuals – more seem to “disappear” around the Christmas and New Year festivities than at other times of the year.

Remember a lot of crime during these long dark nights is committed during the evening, either when we are tucked up by the fire watching the TV or not at home. The old adage of leaving a light or the radio on when you are out still is quite effective. The weather often hides sounds at this time of the year – windy and wet evenings are often favoured. Locals tend to know the vehicles of your friends and neighbours and recognise when something is not right. If you suspect something give us a call. **0845 60 60 247**. It greatly assists us in targeting our resources as at times it can be like trying to find the needle in the haystack.

Have a Merry Christmas and a great 2011.

Andy Foster PC826

**Leyburn Safer Neighbourhood Team
Safer Neighbourhood Police Officer for
Upper Wensleydale**

0845 60 60 247 ext 4570

SNTLeyburn@northyorkshire.pnn.police.uk

**The body's amazing back-up
plans!**

Let's look at how the body ensures we keep moving even when it's injured. Take the muscles – skeletal muscles and joints are moved and stabilised by groups of muscles working together to produce coordinated efficient movement. This design means that the body expends the least amount of energy to produce the movement we ask of it, and if one muscle becomes injured or weak, we don't lose the use of that part as there are other muscles which can take over. If we consider the nerves which control movement – we find that again the body has a back-up plan: many nerves stimulate and monitor movement of each

muscle and joint, therefore if one nerve becomes damaged we don't lose the control of that part. Not only that, the nerves don't originate from one isolated part of the spinal cord – they originate from a number of neighbouring parts of the spinal cord. This mechanism in many cases allows us to keep some control and function of body parts even when there is traumatic injury to a specific area of the spinal cord. The back-up plan is slightly different with the bones though – we don't have substitute bones floating about in the body but what we do have is many soft-tissue structures surrounding the joints which are designed to fail long before the bones themselves give way, therefore giving some protection to the skeleton when there is traumatic injury. What an amazing design!

Josephine Lade

Poppies

Aysgarth and District raised £900 for the annual Poppy Appeal and Jean Cockburn wishes to thank all those who helped and contributed.

My Favourite Place in the Dales

When I was asked to write about my favourite place in the Dales, I dithered for a long time because there were so many candidates. I knew it would be somewhere that spoke of the character of the area and of its beauty and that showed how that character and beauty were a result of the interplay of physical geography with the influence of man through the ages.

But where to choose? Greenber Edge behind Addlebrough, where one can wander through the atmospheric remains of an early Medieval settlement, was one candidate. Another was High Dyke, the remote ruined inn high above the junction between Mallerstang and the head of Wensleydale, where for more than two centuries drovers and packhorse men found refreshment and accommodation on their journeys between Kirkby Stephen and Wensleydale. Gunnerside Gill also came under consideration. Whenever I walk up that valley, I am struck by the contrast between the thriving lead-mining community of the mid-nineteenth century and the feeling of loneliness and desolation that permeates the area today.

However, one dreary morning in September, I realised that my favourite place in the Dales was much closer to home – in fact it *was* home. As I drew back the curtains at the front of my house in the East End of Gayle and peered through the mist that clung to the valley like a damp duvet, I picked out the field barns and dry stone walls between Gayle and Hawes that have given a distinctive character to our landscape since the land was enclosed two hundred years ago. Across the fields, I could see Hawes Church, an elegant building that has served the spiritual needs of the area since 1851, and in the further distance the screes on the side of Stags Fell bore witness to a quarrying industry that had

once provided stone for many Dales houses and barns. To the east lay the pretty hamlet of Sedbusk with the old road leading from it diagonally up the fellside towards the Sargill lead mine and smelt mill, the remains of which were concealed from view behind the ridge.

To the west I could see the Wensleydale Creamery, a modern industrial success story that has brought employment to the upper Dale to replace that lost with the demise of old crafts and industries. Behind it loomed the ridge of Great Shunner Fell. The mist prevented me from seeing the Pennine Way climbing up from Hardraw or the old Hearne Coal Road branching off it, which used to access mines that provided coal to local communities before the arrival of the railway brought cheap coal and put the local mines out of business. Cotter End was also obscured by the mist, where, on a clearer morning, I would have seen the High Way (sometimes called Lady Anne Clifford's Way) climbing confidently onto the plateau of Thwaite Bridge Common. It has always been a source of wonder to me that, before the turnpike road was built in 1825, everyone from pedlars with their strings of packhorses to Lady Anne Clifford, travelling by coach in the seventeenth century from Nappa Hall to Pendragon Castle, would have struggled up the gradient of Cotter End on their way north into Mallerstang.

As I drew back the curtains at the back of my house, I could see the fields leading up to the blurred outline of one of the disused Gayle stone quarries, which, along with the quarries at Burtersett and Stags Fell, sent thousands of tons of stone slates away from Hawes railway station in the late nineteenth century to be used in roofing buildings throughout the north of England. Behind lay Wether Fell and Yorburch, invisible on

Shop Closure in Askrigg

Unfortunately, Periwinkle Florist in Askrigg will be closing its doors on 3rd December and re-locating its business on-line.

The business has been operating from the shop in Askrigg for just over two years and in that time as provided some lovely window displays for the village, and a wonderful aroma of fresh flowers for anyone who ventured in. Owners, Gary and Lesley Blissett have found their first foray into retail floristry an interesting experience and have valued the support of their customers. It has, however, become clear over the two year period that most of the business is wedding based and Lesley can do this quite easily from her own home. She has just set up a new website through which to operate (www.lesleyblissett.co.uk).

There will be many local groups who have enjoyed a talk and demonstration from Lesley which are not only entertaining but also clearly illustrate her talent in floristry. She can produce a wide range of both traditional and contemporary arrangements and bouquets for all occasions.

Gary intends to branch out into his own venture too and is setting up an 'antiques & curios' business in Settle called Decorative Artworx. There has been some sign of this developing in the Askrigg shop recently, so no doubt he already has a nice stock built up to launch the new business.

Gary and Lesley have been tenants of The Askrigg Foundation during their time in Askrigg and now that they are departing there will be a shop unit available to lease. This is being advertised and any enquiries can be made to the Parish Office on 650800.

The Trustees said how pleased they were

to have had such good tenants for the past two years, and how disappointed they are to see them leave. However, they wish Gary and Lesley every success in their new ventures and hope that they will retain some of their local clientele.

The Askrigg Foundation

Hawes United Football Club

There was a very good turn out for the Club's Annual Sponsored Walk, which took place last August with 44 competitors starting the walk from Buckden to Hawes.

£1,304.45 was raised for the Club by the event and all sponsors and those who made donations are to be thanked and congratulated for their generosity. (A special thanks to "Waltons of Hawes" for their kind donation). Thank you also to all who helped on the day with transport etc.

Sheila Alderson

Hawes PTFA

Hawes PTFA are very happy to report that **£4400** was raised at the Auction of Promises and would like to thank parents and many members of the community that supported us by pledging a promise, making a bid or buying a ticket. Thank you to businesses both local and afar for supporting us once more. A very special thanks must go to The Wensleydale Pantry for such wonderful support and also to Charlotte & Dick Sowerby for donating a further £1000, in memory of their son, Harry. Thank you all.

Kathy Lewin

St Oswald's, Askrigg

The Christmas Tree Festival will launch with the East Witton Male Voice Choir performing at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 15th December. The Church will then be open from Thursday 16th to Sunday 2nd for people to view the trees. The church is normally open through daylight hours but during the Festival the tree lights will be lit from approximately 4.00 pm until approximately 5.30 pm.

An Advent Window Trail will run around the village with a new decorated window appearing each day from 1st to 31st December. On the evening of 27th December 'We're Going on a Lamb Hunt' for children to follow the trail around the village searching out handmade lambs in each of the decorated windows. This will start from the church at 4.00 pm and finish there later with refreshments.

We've Had a Suggestion!

Stuck for a gift or Christmas present for someone? If they have moved away or can't easily get about, why not arrange for the Newsletter by post?

Send the name and address with £8, payable to the Upper Wensleydale Newsletter, to Janet W. Thomson, Stone House, Thornton Rust, DL8 3AW and your friends will receive the Newsletter for a year. (P.S., it's £15 for overseas!)

Fairy Dust and Fascinators

Simonstone Hall

Friday, February 4th.

Disco and live band 'Nothing like it'

Tickets (going well) are on sale now from Streetwise, Hawes, **667192**

Annual Christmas Charity Concert

Friday December 17th ,7.30pm

Hawes Market House

£6.00; children £3.00

With Hawes Silver Prize Band and the East Witton Male Voice Choir.

All proceeds the Yorkshire Dales Branch of the Motor Neurone Disease Association.

Traditional carols and festive music

Pie and Pea Supper

At the Crown, Askrigg, November 12th

Supporting the British Legion

Thank you to everyone who supported this event in so many ways. We made £905 profit including the proceeds from the Askrigg Village Kitchen raffle of £67.

It was a really super night.

A History of the Wensleydale Tournament of Song

It's a big title, and it's a big book! The Newsletter is delighted to commend this hard-backed coffee table type book which has just been published—a limited number of just 500 at a hugely subsidised price of just £5.00

The quality of production is superb; packed with photographs of personalities and school groups, special events and programmes, it will not only appeal to those involved down the years but also to the general reader. It will make a great Christmas present; 180 glossy pages of pure delight and evidence of tremendous hard work in its compilation.

A.S.W

St Oswald's, Askrigg	Wednesday	Dec 15	6.30pm	Christmas Tree Preview. See Page 23	
	Dec 16 to	Jan 2		Christmas Tree Festival in Church	
	Sunday	Dec 19	8.00am	HC	
			10.30am	HC	
			4.00pm	Carol service	
	Christmas Eve		4.00pm	Christingle	
			11.30pm	Midnight Eucharist	
	Christmas Day		10.30am	HC	
	Sunday	Dec 26	8.00am	HC	
			10.30am	HC	
Monday	Dec 27	4.00pm	"Lamb Hunt". See page 23		
Sunday	Jan 2	10.30am	Café style service		
St Matthew's, Stalling Busk	Christmas Eve		7.00pm	HC	
			8.00pm	Lessons and Carols by Candlelight	
Marsett Methodist Chapel	Sunday	Dec 5	8.00pm	"Singalong"	
	Sunday	Jan 9	2.00pm	Annual Covenant service	
Sycamore Hall	Sunday	Dec 19	10.30am	Bainbridge & Aysgarth Meth. Carols	
Gayle Methodist Church	Sunday	Dec 19	2.00pm	Carol Service	
	Christmas Eve		5.00pm	Carol Singing around Gayle	
	Sunday	Dec 26	2.00pm	Joint Methodist Service	
	Saturday	Jan 1	6.30pm	Gayle Fellowship Supper	
	Sunday	Jan 9	2.00pm	Annual Covenant service	
	Hawes Methodist Church	Sunday	Dec 5	10.30am	United Toy service for Salvation Army
		Monday	Dec 6	6.30pm	Taizé Service for Advent
Wednesday		Dec 15	6.00pm	Meet for joint churches' Carol Singing round Hawes for Water Aid	
Tuesday		Dec 22	6.30pm	Carols by Candlelight and supper	
Christmas Day			10.30am	Joint Methodist Celebration	
Sunday		Jan 2	10.30am	Annual Covenant service	
Sunday		Jan 23	10.30am	Churches together united service for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity	
St Margaret's, Hawes		Sunday	Dec 5	2.00pm	Service of Remembrance for train crash
		Sunday	Dec 19	4.00pm	Carol Service
		Christmas Eve		11.30pm	Midnight Mass (HC)
	Christmas Day		10.30am	Christmas Day Service (HC)	
St Mary & St John, Hardraw	Saturday	Dec 26	10.30am	HC	
	Christmas Eve		4.00pm	Christingle service	
	Christmas Eve		6.45pm	Carol singing round Hardraw and Simonstone	
	Christmas Eve		11.30pm	Midnight Mass (HC)	
	Saturday	Dec 4	4.00pm	Community Carol Singing	
Hawes Market Place	Saturday	Dec 11	7.30pm	Carols, Young Voices and supper	
Hawes Junction Chapel	Sunday	Dec 5	11.00am	Christingle Service	
St Andrew's, Aysgarth	Sunday	Dec 19	11.00am	HC	
	Christmas Eve		11.30pm	Midnight communion (HC)	
	Christmas Day		11.00am	Family Service	

	Sunday	Dec 26	11.00am
	HC		
Aysgarth Methodist Church	Sunday	Dec 12	6.30pm
	Nativity Service		
Thoralby Village Hall	Sunday	Dec 19	2.30pm
	Carol service		
Thornton Rust	Sunday	Dec 19	4.00pm
	Carol Service		
West Burton Chapel	Sunday	Dec 19	6.00pm
	Methodist Nativity service		
	Mon, Tues	Dec20,21	6.00pm
	Meet at Chapel for Carol Singing		
	Christmas Eve		8.00pm
	Christmas Eve communion (HC)		
	Sunday	Dec 26	10.45am
	Family Service		
	Sunday	Jan 9	10.45am
	Annual Methodist Covenant service		
St Bartholomew's, West Witton	Sunday	Dec 5	4.00pm
	Christingle service		
	Sunday	Dec 12	2.00pm
	Carols and Readings - WI Service		
	Sunday	Dec 19	6.00pm
	Carol Service		
	Christmas Eve		4.00pm
	Crib Service		
	Christmas Eve		11.30pm
	Midnight Communion (HC)		
Carperby Institute	Sunday	Dec 19	7.30pm
	Carol Service		
Castle Bolton Church	Monday	Dec 20	
	Carols around the village		
	Christmas Eve		10.00pm
	HC		
Preston-under-Scar	Sunday	Dec 19	6.00pm
	Carol service		
	Christmas Day		9.30am
	HC		
	Sunday	Dec 26	9.30am
	Christingle		
Redmire	Thursday	Dec 16	7.00pm
	Carols in the Inn - at the Bolton Arms		
Redmire Church	Sunday	Dec 19	4.00pm
	Carol Service		
	Christmas Eve		3.30pm
	Crib service		
Wensley Church	Sunday	Dec 5	3.00pm
	Carol Concert		
	Friday	Dec 17	7.00pm
	Carol service with Christingles		
	Christmas Day		10.30am
	HC BCP		

(For

De-

ember 2010 and January 2011

GENERAL WHAT'S ON LISTING

Wensleydale Railway events see p.5)

(Gayle Mill events: see page 24)

- 1 North Country Theatre at Dales Countryside Museum.
- 2 Hawes School Fayre. See p.31
- 3 Wensleydale Society: West Burton Village Hall 7.30pm, Mrs C.A. Brotherton "The collective community which inspires pupils of West Burton School"
- 3 Bainbridge School Family Domino Drive. See p.4
- 3 Deadline for Christmas Art Competition. See p.24
- 4 Upper Dales Christmas Lights Festival: See p.33
- 4 Organothon at St Andrew's Church,

- 7.30pm. See p.31
- 4 Yorkshire Dales Society lecture: "Ingleborough-Insights into an iconic Mountain" Methodist Church Hall, Settle 2.15pm.
- 4,5 Dales Countryside Museum: Christmas Fun. See opposite
- 5 December Carol Concert at Wensley Church. See p.5
- 5 Service to commemorate 1910 Rail Accident. See p.11
- 6,13 Askrigg Ladies Sing for Pleasure Group, 7.30pm.
- 8 Christmas Concert in Middleham. See p.7
- 8-11 The Wizard of Oz Panto in Hawes See p. 13
- 9 Red Squirrel Conservation Meeting. See p.28
- 9,16 Wensleydale Country Markets: Leyburn Methodist Hall, 10.00 to 11.30am, when Christmas orders can be collected
- 12 Trafford Centre shopping trip from Hawes; £12. Book at Streetwise 667192

- Harp Singers in Leyburn.
 13 Cantabile & Friends Christmas Concert
 At Aysgarth Church. See p.25
 14 Wensleydale Decorative and Fine Arts
 Society; 2.00pm. Middleham Key
 Centre See p.29
 14 Coffee morning for HAOS: Hawes
 Methodist rooms. 10.00 to noon.
 14 YDNPA Planning Committee, Yoredale,
 10.30am
 14 Hawes Drama Group meal and
 entertainment
 14 Whist Drive: Carperby Institute, 7.30pm.
 15 Pre-school Christmas Party. West
 Witton Village Hall at noon
 15 Christmas Concert at Askrigg. See p.7
 15 Upper Dales Family History Group
 Fremington Sunday School, 2.00pm
 16 Bainbridge WI Christmas event with the
 Young Voices at Wensley Village
 Hall
 17 Christmas Whist Drive: Thoraby Village
 Hall, 7.30pm.
 17 Christmas entertainment with Mulled
 Wine and Carols. West Witton
 Village Hall, 7.00pm. Phone 624109
 17 Annual Christmas Charity Concert; Hawes Market
 House. See p.23
 19 Theatre trip to Leeds. See p.42
 19 Gayle Institute Christmas Domino Drive
 6.30pm. Adults £2 Children £1
 20 Christmas Domino Drive: Thoraby
 Village Hall, 7.30pm.
 21 Christmas Domino Drive, Carperby
 Institute, 7.30pm.
 31 Fireworks at the Fox & Hounds, West
 Witton at midnight

January 2011

- 1 Fireworks at the Fox & Hounds, at
 midnight
 4 Coffee morning for HAOS: St
 Margaret's. 10.00 to noon.
 7 Wensleydale Society: "Land Sharing
 In the Early 20th Century". West
 Burton Village Hall, 7.30pm.
 11 Wensleydale Decorative and Fine Arts
 Society; 2.00pm. Middleham Key
 Centre See p.29
 11 Young Voices will sing at Gayle
 Fellowship, 7.30pm.
 19 Carperby WI at the Institute: Keep fit with Sue God-
 den, 7.30pm.
 27 Gayle Ladies AGM, 7.30pm.
 28 Geoffrey Moorhouse Memorial Lecture
 at the DCM. See p.25
 29 Burns Night & Meal with the Ceilidh
 Rooster Band. Thoraby Village Hall,
 7.00pm. Entrance by ticket only £15
 Phone 663076

Hawes Pub Events

December

- | | |
|-------------------|----------|
| 4 Live Music | Crown |
| 18 Domino Drive | Crown |
| 21 Domino Drive | Club |
| 28 Christmas Quiz | Crown |
| 31 Live Music | Fountain |

January 2011

- | | |
|--------------------|----------|
| 8 Pairs Darts | Fountain |
| 14 Mixed Darts | Crown |
| 21 Domino Knockout | Crown |

- | | |
|------------------|----------|
| 22 Singles Darts | Fountain |
| 28 Domino Drive | Fountain |

February

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------|
| 4 Charity Music Event | Fountain |
| 5 Ladies Darts | Board |
| 11 Ladies Darts | Crown |
| 12 Domino Drive | Board |
| 18 Mixed Darts | Club |
| 25 Singles Darts | Board |

Please see in pub for details & extra events

What's On at the Dales Countryside Museum, Hawes in December

December

4,5 Christmas weekend: Stalls, quizzes with prizes,
 mulled wine and mince pies Craft activities and traditional
 games.

Photographic display. Free entry to the
 museum. All welcome 10.00am to 4.00pm.

Come and see Mother Christmas!

7 "Spinning a Yarn" Join Friends of the
 Museum to see tradition spinning in action.

*Museum closed in January

To contact the Museum phone 666210

Annual Carols by Candlelight and Supper

This popular event is on **Wednesday December 22nd at
 6.30pm**. Always includes something just a bit different
 but with plenty of p

Surgery News

Flu Vaccination Programme

Can I ask all those over 65 & in at risk groups to come forward for their flu vaccine without delay. Reminder letters are being sent out to those who have not yet been vaccinated. It is unlikely that any vaccine will be available for those patients not in an at risk group.

Festive Season Arrangements

The practice will be **closed** for the festive season bank holidays as follows;

Monday 27th December
Tuesday 28th December
Monday 3rd January

To be sure of obtaining your repeat medication before Christmas, the 'order by' dates for the various collection points are as follows;

Hawes or Aysgarth surgeries:-
Tuesday 21st December
Wensleydale drop-off points:-
Tuesday 21st December
Swaledale drop-off points:-
Monday 20th December
Dentdale drop-off points:-
Thursday 16th December
Clive West

Hawes Youth Club

We held a domino drive on Wednesday 3rd November to raise funds for youth club and raised a total of £33.40. Thank you for all who came and supported us. The event was organised by Chloe Richardson with help from her friends so a big thank you to all involved.

Jaz Iveson

Thank you again to everyone who attended The Body Shop Party held on Wednesday 24th November the money

raised will be split between Children in Need and the Youth Club.

We are hoping to do some decorating in the New Year with CYC so if anyone has any undercoat paint that we could use to prepare the walls please let Di or I know. Any volunteer painters would be most welcome.

Finally we would like to wish all our Youth Club members a very merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Rachael and Di

Gayle Mill

January events
Phone: 667320

2nd: Demonstration day; tours at **11.00am and 2.30pm** Adults £10, children £5.

15/16th: Hands on experience days: £250 includes tuition on the machinery, two days' lunches and refreshments.

Geoffrey Moorhouse Memorial Lecture

"Around the World in Petticoats and Stays" is the title of a lecture about extraordinary women travellers which will take place in the Dales Countryside Museum on Friday, Jan. 28th at 7.30 pm.

This special lecture is given in memory of the late Geoffrey Moorhouse one of the world's leading travel writers of his generation and well known local resident of Gayle. It will be delivered by Geoffrey's partner, Susan Bassnett, writer and Professor of Comparative Literature at Warwick University.

Many thanks to all of you who packed boxes whether individually or as a group. We know that they will bring real pleasure to children who have so little and will help them to know they are not forgotten at Christmas.

We have also sent over £400 towards the cost of transport and Operation Christmas Child will be able to claim at least £55 from Gift Aid. Thank you also to those who donated online. We are grateful to the Community Office Staff and Stephen and Linda at the Hawes Post Office for receiving the boxes.

Heather and Nelson Caplin

Cantabile & Friends Christmas Concert

Monday 13th December

7.30pm at Aysgarth Church

tickets available on the door or via Leyburn
school office

**Money raised from refreshments will go
towards their Amala trip**

Operation Christmas Child

We were pleased to take 171 brightly covered shoe boxes to Richmond to be packed and transported to Belarus and Romania in time for Christmas.

Belarus in east-central Europe has a population of 11 million. Life expectancy for men is only 62 years and inflation and debt have crippled the country's economy.

Romania with a population of 22 million suffered under the dictator Ceausescu for 20 years up to 1989 as he led the country almost to ruin. The effects of this are still felt and thousands of children are in orphanages and many are living below the poverty line.

Panto signs

The Wizard of Oz will come to life for people with hearing difficulties when Mary Jane Barker signs for them in December. Mrs Barker moved to Askrigg in August with her husband Robert. She was keen to get to know people and read the article in September in the Upper Wensleydale Newsletter that the panto group was looking for cast members and helpers back stage, so she went along to the rehearsal base at Yorebridge Sport and Fitness Centre in Askrigg and got involved.

Her life as a signer for the deaf started after the Falklands war when she met a friend's son who was not physically injured, but mentally scarred. She helped him to communicate, when they sat together with a sign language book and he started to communicate with the world again. She became fascinated with the process and went on to qualify professionally with the Council for Advanced Deaf People, working on a voluntary and paid basis with deaf clubs making many friends along the way. She helped people who had legal and benefit problems, as well as working with students including a person who obtained a degree in English, plumbers and caterers.

With friends she set up a charity to help deaf people obtain work called the Deaf Employment Service, which supported the employee and the company. They succeeded in placing 80 people in non-sheltered work, before the charity folded due to lack of financial support. She ran awareness courses for banks, and the passport office in Croydon.

She would have loved to have acted and been like Dawn French, but her health prevented that. Her hobby is to translate music into sign, and get involved in shows. She has been involved with theatre as a signer for Gilbert and Sullivan's works, expressing the pathos and laughter of the moment.

At Bradford Alhambra Bobby Davro loved her facial expressions as she signed, and so drew her to become involved in the performance. She has worked with the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre in Guildford on the Wizard of Oz. As there are three versions of the musical, she has to learn all the songs for the Hawes performance and become part of the scene with the cast, so she's even being dressed as a munchkin.

She loves working with children as well as adults, and already has a young admirer who uses her signs at rehearsals. Life in Askrigg is very different from Croydon, then Harrogate, and until recently on a hill farm of 130 acres near Shap, in Cumbria.

She is still keen to help deaf people, as well as getting to know the local people in the dale. You may see her around with her two border collies, one of which worked on their farm, or up with the family horses at Piers Browne's at Heugh. She is signing the first night and last performance of the panto and really looking forward to it. She can be contacted on **650846**.

This production is real team work with Colin Bailey and Jennifer Fawcett as co-producers with a good back-up team working busily 'behind the scenes'

This is a traditional fun family panto on **Wednesday 8th December, Thursday 9th, Friday 10th at 7.30pm in the Market Hall Hawes, then Saturday 11th at 2.30 and 7.30pm** Tickets are £7-50 for adults, U12s £6 **from the Old Sweet Shop, in Hawes, Sykes Country Store in Askrigg, or at www.wensleydale.org**

Prunings

A personal take on Plants, Propagating and other related rural ramblings.

One day last week I was fascinated to watch a flock of Waxwings in my neighbour's garden. The berries on the red Rowan tree are long gone but these beautiful little birds were feasting on the berries

of a yellow fruited specimen which has been absolutely laden this year. Convinced by the old adage: They'll eat the red ones before the yellow ones; I went to investigate what was left on the *Leycesteria Formosa* (Pheasant Berry). This tree is in a sheltered corner and flowers profusely, but despite being festooned with seemingly luscious fruits, our feathered friends don't appear to have found it yet. The berries look perfectly ripe. I shall just have to assume that the customer, or in this case, the consumer, is always right, and perhaps they are not yet ready. They will be another valuable source of sustenance when the time comes. We seem to have had everything thrown at us in just a week. Last Monday there was a thin covering of the white stuff on the tops; the sun was glorious on Tuesday; on Wednesday night the ice was bad enough to make the road over from West Witton to Melmerby undrivable, and by Thursday we were in a monsoon. It was quite a relief to open the curtains and see the poly tunnel still intact, and better than I deserved as I had left the doors open. They are now firmly closed. Surprisingly enough those *Aeoniums* that were still in there had suffered no frost damage. As space in the greenhouse is limited I shall cut them down and start off some new ones. There is so much to do between now and when the bulbs come through, and I am sure we will all do our fair share of cutting, pruning, sweeping and generally tidying up. Its tempting to be really ruthless with wayward shrubs and the like, but don't forget that some of the deciduous shrubs flower early and its too easy to cut off the stems where the blooms are already forming. It's also a good time to plant any new trees and shrubs now before the ground gets frozen. Hedges too are best planted now as the plants will be dormant. They should be cut back to around 6 inches. This prevents wind rock and the plants will bush out in the spring. When the weather is truly awful I always console myself with seed catalogues. When the seeds arrive they have to be organised, and one useful method is to put them in packets according to the month when they need to be sown. I find this helps avoid some of them being left until it's too late. I shall spend far too long musing over the new plants I would like to try, and my selections usually end up being a triumph of imagination over common sense. If I really need cheering up in the depths of December I like nothing better than to browse through some of the many books I have acquired over the years. Its wonderful how well taken glossy photographs of someone else's efforts can give such a warm glow and galvanise good intentions. Some years ago I bought Tony Lord's book "Gardening at Sissinghurst" and drooled over the ethereal quality of some of the photographs. Later when I finally got to visit the garden, it was just as I had imagined it would be. Happy Christmas Good luck! And whatever you grow, take time to enjoy it.

Rose Rambler

Red Squirrel Conservation Meeting

Some of you will know that in 2009 there was a review of all the red squirrel conservation activity that has been carried out in northern England in recent years by a range of organisations. This has led to the development of a new project, Red Squirrels Northern England (RSNE), which will look to build on existing work and improve the coordination and promotion of red squirrel conservation across the region.

RSNE is a partnership between Natural England, the Forestry Commission, Red Squirrel Survival Trust and the Wildlife Trusts. Along with other organisations and volunteer groups RSNE will look to bring together the work being carried out in red squirrels reserves and buffer zones, or strongholds as they are now called, and grey squirrel control work in other areas across northern England.

Under this new structure there is an opportunity for local groups to feed into, and receive information from RSNE so that all conservation work can be coordinated more effectively. In this way 'volunteers' would be able to understand and be a part of the bigger picture across the North of England.

There will be an opportunity for everyone to learn more about the work of the RSNE partnership at a forthcoming meeting in December and to look at how we can more effectively coordinate red squirrel conservation in the Yorkshire Dales. This will include an opportunity to look at forming a local group covering the Snaizholme, Widdale and Appersett areas around Hawes that will link in with the work that is going on in Greenfield.

Anyone interested in red squirrel conservation is invited to attend a meeting hosted by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Au-

thority at the Dales Countryside Museum at **Hawes on Thursday, 9 December** from 1030am until 1230pm. Jackie Foott from Northern Red Squirrels will be present to give a full update on the RSNE partnership and to highlight all the work that is being done to promote red squirrel conservation in the region.

If you are unable to attend and would like more information or be included in any further correspondence please contact me on **666220** or Jackie Foott on **01539 625453** jfoott@btinternet.com

Matt Neale

EXHIBITION

at the National Park Authority offices
Yoredale, Bainbridge

*Scenes from a White Winter
a photographic recollection of
snow in the Dales*

November and December 2010
open 8.30am to 5pm Monday to Friday
(sorry, closed over Christmas/New Year)

Wensleydale Decorative and Fine Arts Society

Helen Clifford will visit the world of the man who has been called the greatest goldsmith who ever lived, in the next Wensleydale Decorative and Fine Arts Society lecture on **Tuesday December 14 at 2.00pm** in Middleham Key Centre.

In "**Benvenuto Cellini (1500-1571); a Window into the World of the Renaissance Goldsmith**" Helen will reconstruct his rumbustious life and work from his autobiography and treatises, the comments of his contemporaries, and his bronze sculptures.

Helen is the curator of the Swaledale Museum at Reeth – known more for lead than gold - and is currently curating the 2012

Goldsmiths' Company exhibition 'GOLDWORK – the story of Britain and Gold'.

On **Tuesday 11 January** James Robert Lomax will talk on “**Heiresses, Pious Widows and Royal Confidantes: 400 years of Formidable Women at Temple Newsam**”. Temple Newsam, near Leeds, is one of the great country houses of England and in many ways a microcosm of our national history.

Non-members are welcome at £5 per lecture, ring the Membership Secretary, tel. **624203** to book a place and for membership information.

Elaine Francis

Carol Concert at Wensley Church

The Churches Conservation Trust will hold a Carol Concert at Wensley Holy Trinity Church on 5th December at 3pm, featuring Tom Oakshott (organist). Mulled wine will be provided. This is a free event. For further details please contact Tim Charlson on **01904 709090**

Post Offices News

Since last December I have been liaising with the Post Office change advisor on behalf of Bainbridge and Askrigg and Low Abbotside Parish Councils to try to re-open both branches. It has been a hard slog - two paces forward and one back. We have had the support of County Cllr John Blackie, County Hall, and our MP William Hague.

The Post Office has kept changing the goal posts for all concerned locally. I am pleased to say that at Bainbridge we expect to open at Sycamore Hall on Monday, December 13th 9.00-11.00am, and Wednesdays 9.11am. The branch will be operated by Steve Reynolds of Hawes PO. His computer has arrived, the phone line is installed at Sycamore Hall, and it is ready to go. Let's hope there are no technical hitches! Please go along and support it. It will have all the services of the PO, except vehicle licences. I am still working on that one.

At Askrigg we started in January with a possible base of 9 hours a week, then in May it was all called off by the PO, so we started again at another location for the same hours as the shop. Several lengthy meetings were held with the shop owners and each time more obstacles were put in their way, until in October they decided they would not go ahead. We are still looking for suitable premises. I don't give up easily, so will take it to the bitter end.!

Kate Empsall

Working With Dales Countryside Museum

Class 3 are currently collaborating in a very exciting history project with The Dales Museum. This project involves the use of 'Playstation Portables' and extensive use of audio and video technology. The project is still in its very early stages but

looks as if it's going to be a great experience for the children. We'll keep you up to date with our future progress.

The Great Debate

It was with great anticipation and just a few butterflies in our tummies, that we set off to participate in a debate about road safety at Richmond Town Hall. What a grand affair it was inside the council chambers! Kayleigh Barnes and Doyle Johnson represented our school. They both made a convincing argument for their respective

Hawes School News

viewpoints. We were very proud of them.

As usual our children were impeccably behaved and were a credit to themselves and our school.

Auction of Promises

Hawes PTFA held a magnificent 'auction of promises' at The Pantry on November 14. They raised over £4000 for the development of the school's outside play area. We would again like to say a huge thank you to everyone that helped this event to be such a success.

Christmas Fayre

Our Christmas Fayre is on Friday December 3rd from 6.30pm in school. There will be a variety of stalls, games and a raffle. Entry fee is £1.00 per adult, which includes tea/coffee or juice, and homemade goodies. The very popular Christmas cake competition decorated by the children, will also be happening. There are still spaces for anyone who would still like a stall. Please contact Mrs Ward or Miss Caygill at school on 667308

Mrs Dooley

The Coppice Coffee Shop

As many of you will be aware Karen has ceased to trade at Aysgarth Falls. After 13 years it seems like the end of an era. It was not a decision taken lightly but I felt it was time to move on. I hope to take on more outside catering in 2011 and will be trading under Karen Chapman catering.

I would like to take this opportunity to give my heartfelt thanks to all my locals and regulars over the years who have kept me going through thick and thin, we have had a lot of ups and downs and a lot of laughs!

I would particularly like to thank all the people who have worked for me (and there have been a few) It has been a great pleasure and a privilege to work with the nervous "newbies" and watch them develop into confident, disciplined young adults with a good work ethic.

I would also like to thank the national park authority for giving me the opportunity to take on the lease as through the reputation of The Coppice it has enabled me to carry on my career in outside catering.

In the meantime I will be working at Hendersons Bistro and Bar at Westholme Estate and will hopefully see my locals down there.

Thank you once again

Karen Chapman

Organothon

Two young organists are presenting an Organothon at St Andrew's church, Aysgarth, at 7.30pm on Saturday, December 4. Matthew Atherton and George Warren from Barnard Castle are presenting recitals "coast to coast" and dividing the proceeds between the YMCA and the church in

which they perform. Tickets cost £5 and are available from the Tourist Information Office in Leyburn or on the door on the night or contact 07950 475359/ 07914 510456. The church will provide refreshments. Parking is available at The Falls at a concessionary rate of £1 for the concert. There are toilets at the church as well as disabled parking (free) and disabled access .

Heavens Above

If you can brave the cold, the starry sky is at its best on a clear winter's night. Soon after dark there's a whole host of bright constellations on display sparkling like diamonds in the frosty air. The view south is particularly striking with the imposing figure of Orion, the legendary Mighty Hunter of ancient Greece, dominating the scene. His oblong outline is easy to pick out with orange-red Betelgeuse marking his eastern shoulder and a distinctive sloping line of 3 bright stars forming his 'belt'. Hanging just below the belt is Orion's 'sword' - a vast cloud of interstellar gas and dust easily visible to the naked eye on a moonless night.

Orion's Belt is a useful guide for finding a number of other impressive winter sky objects - following it downwards brings you to the Hunter's faithful dog, Sirius, the brightest star in the sky; upwards it points the way to the Hyades star cluster and Aldebaran, marking the baleful eye of Taurus the Bull. Above and to the west of orange Aldebaran is the beautiful Pleiades star cluster - a lovely sight in even modest binoculars.

Below Orion's feet lies the little constellation of Lepus the Hare - his favourite quarry according to the old myths. Above his head is Capella, the bright yellow leader of Auriga the Charioteer. Back towards the east high over his shoulder you'll find Castor and Pollux, the Heavenly Twins and below them, Procyon, the smaller of Orion's two hounds. Not far away is another famous star cluster, Praesepe, the Beehive.

From a really dark location you should be able to make out the winter Milky Way running down past Procyon from the distinctive 'W' of Cassiopeia high in the NW.

Our old friend the Plough stands on its handle in the NE at this time of the year - by the spring it will be almost overhead.

Late night revellers should be able to glimpse the planet Venus shining brilliantly low in the east just before sun-rise. It makes a lovely 'Christmas Star' right through the festive season - a fitting finale to the star-gazing year. Have clear skies!

Al Bireo!

Milestone for 'Green Lane' Project

The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority has reached a major milestone in a project to manage the use by recreational motor vehicles of unsurfaced 'green lanes' in the National Park.

After looking at all the routes in the National Park, 30 were identified as being highly sensitive to recreational motor vehicle use. Detailed field work has taken place along with local consultation on their management and the results of this work, together with advice from the Green Lanes Advisory Group - a group set up to represent the various interests - have contributed to the development of a management plan for each route.

The project began five years ago and has been about much more than simply restricting recreational motor vehicles on 11 sensitive routes. On the remaining 19, other management measures have been used.

Requests for voluntary restraint have been worked out with motor vehicle user groups, and physical measures to prevent vehicles leaving tracks have been put in place. The Authority has also spent more than £100,000 on repairs to some of the routes over the past three years.

Letter

This is a copy of a letter sent from the Upper Dales Health Watch, which the Central Dales Practice asked to be printed for readers.

Dear Mr Hague,

I am writing on behalf of the Upper Dales Health Watch Joint Committee in support of the Central Dales GP Practice representatives whom I understand you are meeting this Friday, 12th November. The UDHW patient representatives were extremely concerned to learn that the North Yorkshire & York PCT is threatening to have a moratorium on a range of procedures and services during quarter 4 of this financial year in order to try and save money. Whilst we fully understand the need for cuts, we were under the impression that front line primary healthcare services were going to be protected by the present coalition government. As Clive West will no doubt explain, the Central Dales Practice is extremely efficient as to how it manages its budget, but the cost of running a deeply rural practice was never taken into consideration by the previous government. The Upper Dales has a high elderly population resulting in high levels of ill health. Public transport is minimal.

We are very concerned that the problem of the historic PCT debt – which did not come from Hambleton & Richmondshire – is not only going to put some patients at a severe disadvantage from January to March 2011, but risks jeopardising the success of our GP Commissioning Consortium. Efficient practices should not be penalised because of less efficient ones. The Practice is having to reduce from 4 doctors to 3 because of the general reduction in funding and is maintaining both surgeries (Hawes & Aysgarth) because that is an absolute priority for their patients.

We wanted you to be aware that our highly valued Central Dales GP Practice has the support of its patient representatives,

Yours sincerely,

Jane O.Ritchie
Hon. Secretary,
Upper Dales Health Watch

Young Archaeologists Club

Places have become available at the Yorkshire Dales branch of the Club. We are based at the Dales Countryside Museum in Hawes and meet once a month on a Saturday morning. This year our activities have been based on the Vikings. We have made Viking pots, a model longhouse, jewellery and stone carvings. We have visited York Viking Festival and had a day out in Bursall with coracle racing, Viking crafts and boat burning !!

We are currently planning activities and trips out with a medieval theme for 2011.

If you are aged between 8 and 16 and would like to know more or want to join us, talk to Fiona or Debbie on **666210** or email dcm@yorkshiredales.org.uk

Doctors' Rotas as supplied by the Practice

Christmas Flowers and Flavours

On behalf of Lower Wensleydale Young Farmers I would like to invite you and your friends to a Christmas Flowers and Flavours demonstration we are holding.

The demonstration will be held on Saturday 11th December at Harmby Village Hall at 7.30 pm. Kathy Iveson is demonstrating some Christmas flower arrangements, and Margaret Iveson is giving some quick tasty Christmas food ideas.

Tickets for the evening are £5 each that includes a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie. Tickets can be bought from Margaret Iveson (650379), any YFC member or myself, Val Robinson (622891).

We have been asked by the Practice to say that occasionally there will be changes to these rotas as both Drs. France and Jones have commitments elsewhere.

Hawes Grammar School Trust

If you are currently in full time higher or further education and live in the parish of Hawes, then you are eligible for an award of £25 towards the cost of books/materials related to your course. If you feel that you are eligible for the award then please contact me for further details on **667760**

Rebecca Alderson

Bainbridge School News

PFA Christmas Coffee Morning

Many thanks to everyone who supported our recent Coffee Morning. It was lovely to see so many faces from both within Bainbridge and beyond and I'm delighted to say we raised over £250! Thank you to all who baked and helped out on the day. Whilst we were keeping warm indoors, Mr Moore, Dads' and children were busy planting 70+ trees and preparing the school grounds for winter. Us parents are particularly pleased to see the resurrection of the parents rain shelter! Once again, thank you to all who gave up their Saturday morning to help.

After School Clubs this term have included Revd Ian Robinson's **Xplore Club** and Netta Davison's **Craft Club**. We are extremely grateful to them both for running these and judging by the number of children who regularly take part in them, their enthusiasm and careful planning has clearly paid off. Thank you to all the mums who have helped in the smooth running of the groups and particularly to Margaret Ferguson for regularly assisting with Xplore. More budding mountaineers have joined Mr Moore's **Climbing Club** and it's great to see the children's growing confidence as they scale the climbing wall with increased skill, ease and speed!

Christmas activities are fast approaching, and practices are underway for our **Nine Lessons & Carols at St Oswald Church, Askrigg, on Wednesday 8th December at 6pm**. Do come and join us.

The **PFA's Annual Family Domino Drive at Sycamore Hall on Friday 3rd December, 6pm for 6.30pm start**, is always a popular event and everyone is welcome to join in the fun! Donations of raffle prizes or mince pies, cakes etc will be gratefully received!

For further details, please contact Angela

(tel:- 650212), Melanie (tel:- 650037) or Amanda (tel:-650539) for further details.

A Bags2School Collection is planned for Wednesday 8th December and a great excuse for having a good old clearout before Christmas! If you have any items of clothing, belts, handbags, bedding, soft furnishings or soft toys that you do not want we would love them! Please contact School for further details.

From us all at Bainbridge School we wish you a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful

New Year.
Emma Arblaster
Parent Governor

Askrigg School News

Christmas fair

On 10th November Askrigg School had a Christmas Fair. There were a lot of stalls. On our eco stall we wanted to be eco so everything was recycled - we made draught excluders out of old tights, we made baubles out of old Christmas cards, teasel stars out of teasels from our school wild garden, and Millie's mum got some off-cuts of wood and she brought them into school, we stuck pictures out of wrapping paper on the wood. We covered them with glue you can use them for paper weights and book ends. **On our eco stall we raised £60.30!**

We are sending some of our money to a little village in Uganda so they can hopefully get an oven to put in their hut so they don't have to cook outside!

Eliza Y5, Adele Y6 and Millie Y3
Eco warriors

Cluster Cross Country Event

On the 15th November Askrigg School had a cluster-cross-country in the afternoon that was organised by Leyburn School.

The schools involved were Askrigg, Bainbridge, West Burton, Leyburn, Spennithorne, Hawes and Middleham. The first race of the day was yr 3 and 4 boys then it was yr 3 and 4 girls. In the Yr3/4 race Leyburn came first then Middleham in second place then in third was Spennithorne tied with Hawes. Leyburn was first in the Yr3/4 girls race then Middleham came second, in third place was Bainbridge and fourth place was Hawes.

When the Yr 5 and 6 ran their race James Ashcroft was Askrigg first boy to finish. Also he came 15th out of every one who ran and then 14th out of all the boys running. Sophie Ashcroft came 3rd out of all the girls racing and then the 1st Askrigg girl to finish. The next two girls to finish from Askrigg were Grace Bell then Sophie Oliver.

Out of all the kids running there would be just over 100 kids running! When they had all finished the race they were extremely tired. All the schools that came to the afternoon were very grateful. In total we think we did really well when we ran.

Sophie O Y6 and Sophie A Y5

Gayle Mill Grant

230 year-old Gayle Mill in Wensleydale has been awarded £80,000 to provide education and training to schools about its rich industrial past.

Gayle Mill is a fully restored Victorian woodworking mill and a popular attraction for visitors to the Dales. It is also a unique educational resource for children and adults to learn about science and engineering and to find out about the social and industrial heritage of the area. Now thanks to a

substantial grant of £80,000 from the Yorkshire Dales LEADER programme, Gayle Mill will be passing on more of its fascinating secrets to children from local schools.

The £80,000 LEADER grant from the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Fund will enable Gayle Mill to employ a dedicated Heritage Education and Training Co-ordinator for at least three years. They will create educational materials, provide presentations in schools and deliver a practical learning experience at Gayle Mill. They will also coordinate heritage skills training and accreditation that will be provided at Gayle Mill for individuals aged 16 years or more, in partnership with a heritage training provider.

Christmas Survival Top Tips

'tis the season to be jolly.....or are you more of a "bah humbug" kind of person when that festive time draws near?

Christmas seems to come round quicker and quicker doesn't it, and despite knowing that it is approaching – and it never changes its date – many of us are still taken by surprise, caught off guard so to speak. Christmas can be magical.....but equally, it can be tough, synonymous with stress and unhappiness.

Here are my **Top 10 Tips** to getting through all that Christmas cheer. Feel free to add to them, it's not an exhaustive list and in no particular order or rank!

1. Spend a bit of time **thinking about what Christmas means to you**. What do you want from Christmas? What are your priorities? It may or may not be about religion for you. Special family time, relaxing in front of the box, eating and drinking, partying..... Write down what you want and/or need (I'm not necessarily talking about that diamond ring or Aston Martin on your wish list although both would be nice!) and then brainstorm your options of how to get them whilst bearing in mind the needs and wishes of others, which leads me on to.....
2. **Compromise** – think about what you are and are not willing to compromise on. Remember that Golden Rule "give and take".
3. **Communicate** clearly, calmly, and in a timely manner with your nearest and dearest. Telling your wife on Christmas Eve that you don't really want to go to her family, yet again, for Christmas Dinner really isn't a good idea.....
4. **Prepare and delegate**. I have many friends who are ace at preparation, presents all wrapped by the middle of

November, but what about delegating? Sit down with the relevant people (husbands included!) and list who can do or provide what. If you're a bit of a control freak, especially delegate – it'll move you out of your Comfort Zone and will be good for you!

5. **Keep a sense of perspective**. It's just one day after all, although the media like us to think otherwise. Be thankful for what you do have as opposed to don't. Take whatever steps necessary to reduce the hype!
6. **Remember your own health and sanity**. Building in a little "me" time each day is essential, not a luxury – and you'll be a much nicer person for it!
7. **Get out into the great outdoors**, health permitting. We're spoilt for choice with all our glorious scenery in the Dales so make the most of it, whether on your own or with the family. Great for the mind, body and soul.
8. **Plan something nice for the New Year** for you to look forward to after the fairy lights have come down.
9. **End the Old Year the way you want to start the New Year** - so keep an eye on all those excesses – food, booze and finances. Great at the time but will you be thanking yourself come January?
10. And if all else fails, **remember your Sense of Humour!** If the turkey's still frozen, if the kids hate their presents, if you haven't got that diamond ring you wanted, just put it down to experience and move on. At a future date you WILL be able to see the funny side.....

I know the above isn't rocket science and it's not new to you, but a little reminder doesn't do any harm. **Will I be following my own advice? This year – you bet!**

**Emma Arblaster
Zest4Life Coaching**

My Dad– a Tribute

My Dad was such a lovely man.
If I were still a child I would say that he was the best Dad ever.
He loved all children and animals and they in turn were instantly drawn to him.
He was a fantastic granddad enjoying taking my children out on many adventures.
He loved my terrier Jazz and she in turn adored him and knew his step.
He had a quiet way with the most difficult of horses.
He was an exemplary soldier and para-trooper.
He was a very clever man and could invent, make or mend anything.
He was a very gifted engineer and highly thought of by Rolls Royce.
He was a bit of an entrepreneur.
My Dad was a wise counsel and could be relied upon to give good advice.
He loved to explore and see different countries, enjoying being in his camper van
He loved Ashbourne where he was born and the village of Wetton where he was brought up
He enjoyed all seasons but particularly the summer months and warm sun.
He used to joke that in the Dales it was nine months winter and three months bad weather.
He had a wicked sense of humour.
He was a very popular man.
He loved listening to Muker Band, especially playing 'Swaledale'.
My Dad loved Askrigg Church and often read the lesson there.
He enjoyed the local agricultural shows and loved a day out the Great Yorkshire.
He enjoyed dressing up as Santa and putting up the Bainbridge Christmas tree.
He adored the Marsett Singalongs.
He liked to listen to the East Witton Male Voice Choir.

He had great courage and integrity.
He took such pride in carrying the British Legion flag at various ceremonies.
He loved Dales folk and would always help others less fortunate than himself.
He loved wild flowers; the primrose and bluebell were top of the list.
He was fascinated by classic cars; needless to say Rolls Royce were his favourite.
My Dad was a good public speaker and loved to tell a tale or two.
He had true loyalty and grit determination.
He taught me to respect others and to value my friends.
He thought that everyone should work hard for a fair day's pay.
He always said that the word 'cannot' did not exist and that all problems could be solved.
He encouraged me to achieve and succeed in life.
He had great common sense, was a great companion on an outing; he possessed enormous tenacity.
He didn't suffer fools gladly and could be stubborn sometimes.
He loved my Mum and all his family.
I think about him a lot. If more people were like my Dad then the world would be a much better place.

Anne Fawcett

Anne and her brother and sister are giving a wooden seat to the village of Bainbridge in memory of their father.

Young Farmers

On behalf of Lower Wensleydale Young Farmers I would like to invite you and your friends to a Christmas Flowers and Flavours demonstration we are holding.

The demonstration will be held on **Saturday 11th December** at Harmby Village Hall at **7.30 pm**. Kathy Iveson is demonstrating some Christmas flower arrangements, and Margaret Iveson is giving some quick tasty Christmas food ideas.

Tickets for the evening are £5 each that includes a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie. Tickets can be bought from Margaret Iveson (**650379**), any YFC member or myself, Val Robinson (**622891**).

There will also be a raffle on the evening in which the Christmas flower arrangements and a Yorkshire hamper will be the prizes. Hope to see you there.

Val Robinson

This Bell Rings True!

In the autumn of the year 1995, at the very birth-pangs of the Upper Wensleydale Newsletter, when things were hard-going; no money, a second-hand printing machine and not much staff, someone from West Burton came forward and volunteered.

Nadine Bell was among the founder-members and served on the committee for eight years. But it didn't stop there; this was followed by a further seven years with Nadine sending out the many Newsletters by post. Sadly for us, it is the end of an era as Nadine has decided to bow out!

We want to express our sincere thanks for her commitment, precision and friendship, wishing both her and husband Geoff all the very best for the future.

A.S.W

Thoralby Village Hall

Events

Friday 17th December 7:30pm

Christmas Whist Drive.

Monday 20th December 7:30pm

Christmas Domino Drive

Saturday 29th Jan 2011 7.00pm for 7:30pm

BURNS NIGHT MEAL AND CEILIDH

with the Ceilidh Rooster Band

Entrance by ticket only £15 per head from

663076

Oranges & Lemons

Naked, the orange and lemon stare back at me from inside the fridge- stripped of their zest, they await their fate wrapped in cling film, chilling in the fridge. This is the first sign of Christmas in our house: the cake has been mixed, baked and wrapped up to mature on a shelf ready for 25th December, and another item can be crossed from my lengthy Christmas list.

Preparation eventually gives way to anticipation as school terms end and University students return home for the Christmas period; family and friends gather, exchanging news and gifts, houses and trees are decorated, yet the lemon remains resolutely in the fridge, unused and unloved. The orange will have been squeezed of all juice to quench a thirst, remnants thrown on the compost to provide food for future growth; perhaps not loved, but used and useful.

Expectations of Christmas meals result in the list growing longer, as catering plans are enacted: the fridge is overflowing with meat, cheese, cream, and a lemon lurks in a far corner, still chilling, waiting to be found. Christmas Eve finds a turkey in the midst of preparation, with stuffing stuffed and bacon wrapped, but crevasses need filling with something giving juice and flavour- I know just the thing! Where did that lemon go?

Christmas celebrations can easily overlook the Christ of Christmas, becoming a birthday party for Jesus without leaving space for the main guest. The flavour of love, joy and peace Christ brought to the world over 2000 years ago, still has the ability to add the zest of hope to all our Christmas celebrations in 2010 and into the years beyond.

Wishing everyone joy at Christmas and peaceful New Year.

Rev Janet Park
Methodist Minister

Hawes Chemist Christmas and New Year opening hours

Christmas Week - as usual from 9.00am - 5.30pm Monday 20th to Friday 24th December.

Closed on Christmas Day, Sun 26th, Mon 27th, Tues 28th.

Open 9.00am - 5.30pm Weds 29th, Thurs 30th, Fri 31st.

Closed New Years Day, Sun 2nd, Mon 3rd. Open again 9.00am - 5.30pm from Tues 4th January 2011 onwards.

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

Angus - the pharmacist

Theatre Trip

A coach trip from Leyburn to see Lehar's romantic opera "The Merry Widow" performed by Opera North at the Grand Theatre in Leeds is planned for December 19th.

This is for a matinee performance and will cost £46.00 for seats in the dress circle including the coach fare. Please ring 663259 to book.

Shirley Wilson

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