

# THE UPPER WENSLEYDALE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NO. 178  
MARCH 2012

**Donation please:  
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**Li'l Ed's Dales cottage in Gayle; Piers Browne**

**Published by**

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## Upper Wensleydale Newsletter

**Issue 178—March 2012**

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### PLEASE NOTE

**This web-copy does not contain the commercial adverts which are in the full Newsletter.**

**As a general rule we only accept adverts from within the circulation area and no more than one-third of each issue is taken up with them.**

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**DEADLINE FOR THE  
APRIL ISSUE,  
THURSDAY MARCH  
22nd**

### Drop-off points and contacts

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

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<b>Aysgarth:</b>	Hamilton's Tearoom	663423
<b>Redmire:</b>	Ann Holubecki	622967
<b>Thoralby:</b>	Sandra Foley, Shop	663205

## Editorial

“What’s going on?” In the villages and town of Upper Wensleydale it is usually very easy to find out! Not that we are nosey, but just interested or concerned! It isn’t very easy to keep secrets with our unofficial built-in ‘neighbourhood watch’. That is generally a good thing. Take as an example the way people are ‘on the ball’ over the proposed down-grading of hospital services which could be serious for our very rural area. Or consider how several ‘locals’ keep an eagle-eye on the deliberations in councils or planning committees, and equally, keep a close watch on anything which might flout planning regulations.

When it comes to national or world-wide affairs, things can be very different. Yes, there are some innovations of the last ten to twenty years which must cause some governments or developers or pressure groups great unease! With millions of individuals able to take photographs on their mobiles, or the all-pervasive Google maps and aerial surveys, developments both large and small, riots and demonstrations can soon be recorded and seen round the world. Official cover-ups get much harder. But don’t be fooled! At this level the media machinery can deflect us. “Burying bad news” goes on all the time. Important or embarrassing issues at home can still be rather nicely ‘hidden’ by a blown-up story of, say, a celebrity’s affair, or a distraction at the other side of the world. Conversely, world issues which should never leave our concern, like the ever-present wide-scale famine in sub-Saharan African, or the desperate destruction of Amazon rain forests and their people’s lifestyles, get overshadowed.

There are going to be two wonderful opportunities this year. There is no doubt that the Queen’s Jubilee and the Olympic Games will be very major events, albeit more so for people in the London area. What opportunities for international mischief to be made while these are taking place! Or what a great time for the Government (they’ve all done it) to hope we won’t notice a smart bit of legislation or an adventure abroad.

We know it is very hard to keep track of all world affairs or the things going on at home but this is just a plea that we might try! Possibly read a different national paper every now and then, search informative web-sites, look at news broadcasts that are wide-ranging and don’t ‘do to death’ just a couple of stories; and very importantly let’s not be fooled by what is news and fact, and what is opinion.

**Coloured cover.** There have been many appreciative comments about last month’s. Thank you, but please note this is not the norm. We can’t afford it! There will be occasional ones. We would like to invite people or businesses to consider sponsoring a month’s cover.

**John de Quincey.** We have heard of the death in Shrewsbury of one of our keenest readers, contributors and Eunice spotters! We have always enjoyed his phone calls, the occasional ‘dropping –in’ on us and latterly his emails. A thanksgiving service was held on February 3rd.

## An Apology

The cover for the February issue of your newsletter was kindly contracted by the newsletter committee to Printfriendly Business services of West Burton for printing. Unfortunately, a faulty batch of ink caused a number of the printed covers to be reproduced to a sub-standard finish which sadly bypassed our quality control system. We would like to apologise to the readers who received one of the lesser quality covers and hope that this did not detract too much from the spectacular images presented on the February cover.

**Simon Greenslade,  
Printfriendly Business Services.**

## Thorlby Village Hall

**Sunday Lunch  
2 Courses £12:00**

**Sunday 11th March 2012 at 12:30pm**

Bring your own drink

Ticket only; please call **663 139**

## Coffee Morning

**For St. Oswald’s Askrigg  
Saturday 3rd March - 10.00 am to noon  
at Bainbridge Methodist Church.**

All welcome.

Proceeds to St. Oswald’s.

## Roof Raised!

The Civic Service for the Hawes area (Sunday February 19th) held in the Methodist Church included readings and prayers from representatives of the churches and several “what the community means to me” from people from business and organisations. A large poster—‘Community; an acrostic’ had been prepared by class 2 at Hawes Community School and this was used as the basis for the address by Rev. Janet Park.

The singing was enthusiastic and joyful and a large number of people stayed for the welcome cup of tea/coffee, biscuits and, of course, much conversation.

The collection, which was for *Shelter Box* providing essential equipment easily despatched to disaster areas, raised £242.

## Wensleydale Railway in March

Trains run on Saturdays and Sundays plus Friday March 30th. There is a special *Residents' week-end* on the **24/25th**. The Railway is inviting local residents to make a return journey at a special price of £6 that weekend and either renew or take out a 2012 Residents' Railcard.. (Residents' Railcard gives 25% off return fares.)

On Sunday **March 18th**: Herriot Hospice Homecare Mother's Day Express (music, flowers, afternoon tea— though starting at 12 noon) Booking essential via HHH website or phone **01609 777413**.

Full timetable details are on the WRA website or by telephone: **08454 50 54 74**

## Lent Lunches and Meditations

This annual series for the churches in the Hawes, Askrigg and Bainbridge areas will be held from **noon on Wednesdays March 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th** in the Hawes Methodist rooms.

## Chapel Gallery, Hawes

Looking out at the view from the top of the gallery, formerly The Pottery, Hawes, it is easy to understand one of the reasons for Anne Smithies, her husband Tim and younger son, Ben, moving here from busy Sheffield. Their older son, Jake, is still studying down in Sheffield so is only here part-time.

‘Are you a glass-blower then?’ I asked Anne, as this has been circulating on the ‘grape-vine.’ ‘Well no,’ she laughed, ‘but I do fuse glass to make jewellery, landscapes, hangings as well as making quilts, silk paintings, batik, patchwork, soft toys, felt, books and cards, lino prints, machine embroidery and something called ‘Trapunto’, (*a new one on me*.) which is a kind of padded, raised embroidered appliqué.’

Anne and Tim have plans. They want to encourage local artists to use the gallery space for exhibitions, to showcase their work, and also want to run workshops in a variety of art and craft skills. You can track their progress, gallery and workshops through their website [www.chapelgalleryhawes.co.uk](http://www.chapelgalleryhawes.co.uk).

She explained that, having grown up in the countryside, she misses it, and their former home in Sheffield didn't provide her with the space she needs to expand her interests. They moved in just before Christmas and hope to open around Easter. As for Tim, as the other half of this multi-talented duo, he does graphic and web design, publicity, film-making and editing. Oh, and he's a magician, .....*and* he plays the ukulele.

We welcome them to the dales and wish them all the very best. **S.H**

## 1st Hawes Brownies

We thoroughly enjoyed our panto trip and have worked on the Agility and Craft badges. We are very pleased to report that we have filled the accounts post and a parent is willing to help at Brownies temporarily but we do need at least one adult helper to attend meetings on a regular basis. Are you able to volunteer for just 1½ hours a week during term time? (6.00 - 7.30pm Tuesdays) Please contact me or the other guiders for more information.

**Linda Reynolds 667201**

## Doctors' Rotas as Supplied by the Health Centre

AYSGARTH SURGERY ROTA    Wb - week beginning									HAWES SURGERY ROTA    Wb - week beginning								
Wb	Mar 5th		12th		19th		26th		Wb	Mar 5th		12th		19th		26th	
Day	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	Day	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
Mon	F	F	WJ	WJ	J	J	W	W	Mon	W	W	F	F	F	F	J	J
Tues	W	W	F	C	F	F	J	J	Tues	FJ	FJ	WJ	C	J	J	W	W
Wed	F	F	W	W	J	J	W	W	Wed	J	J	F	F	F	F	J	J
Thur	W	W	J	J	F	F	J	J	Thur	F	F	W	W	J	J	W	W
Fri	J	J	F	F	J	J	W	W	Fri	W	W	J	J	F	F	J	J
<b>Doctors:</b> F - France, J - Jones, W - West, C - Closed <b>Morning Surgery:</b> 9.00 - 10.30 a.m. (no appointments) <b>Afternoon Surgery:</b> 4.00 - 5.30 p.m. (appointment only)  <i>For appointments and all enquiries ring 663222</i>									<b>Doctors:</b> F - France, J - Jones, W - West, C - Closed <b>Morning S'y:</b> 8.45-10.15 Tues till 10.45 (no appointments) <b>Afternoon S'y:</b> 5.00-6.00 Tues 1.00-4.00 (appointments only)  <i>For appointments and all enquiries ring 667200</i>								

### Letters and emails

Your warning in UWNL 176 (December 2011), page 8 about a telecoms scam from Belize is unfortunately out of date. Please see this website for info <http://www.snopes.com/fraud/telephone/pds.asp>

I am currently on holiday in the USA but I picked up on this because my background is actually in telecoms fraud detection. I believe the most anyone can be charged on a Premium Rate number is £1.50 a minute, so to rack up a bill of £315 you would have to be on the phone for 3½ hours.

The Snopes website is the place to go to check the veracity of fraud or scam alerts by email, most of which are actually out of date or incorrect.

Best wishes, **Adam Williamson**

### Friends Again!

This year's programme of talks for the Dales Countryside Museum Friends began on Friday February 17th with a spirited talk and slides from Mark Littler of Tennants Auction Rooms.

With enthusiasm and humour he spoke on 'What makes an antique, and what makes it valuable'. It was interesting to find out about the things which affect the rise or fall in value of items, and of what 'value' means in terms of 'economic, cultural or symbolic'.

We all now know what to cling on to, and what to get rid of!

### Hawes and High Abbotside Parish Community Fund (The Poor's Close Charity)

The Trustees of The Hawes and High Abbotside Parish Community Fund have limited funds available from which to make grants for the relief of poor persons (this could cover needs arising from sudden distress or sickness, help with travelling expenses to hospitals, or providing fuel and food for the sick).

Also for the general benefit of the inhabitants of the Hawes and High Abbotside parishes, including the advancement of education and of citizenship or community development.

The Trustees will consider applications for grants from residents or organisations in the parish towards the end of March 2012. Anyone wishing to make an application should contact **Rev A Chapman (667553) or Ian Fowler (667044)** not later than **23<sup>rd</sup> March 2012**.

### Upper Wensleydale Newsletter Annual General Meeting

Would you like an exciting night out?

This is open to the public:

**Monday March 19th at 7.30pm,  
Sycamore Hall, Bainbridge**

## March Competition

### Cryptic clues to towns in Yorkshire.

- 1) FARM BUILDINGS AND OLD LINE
- 2) TOWN OF THE WARMEST SEASON AND DRINK
- 3) DESPITE THIS, NO MILK FROM COW!
- 4) LAMP KNOTS HERE
- 5) TOWN CROSSING
- 6) YOU COULD GO A-STRAY HERE
- 7) WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN SINCE I LAST SAW YOU?
- 8) ATHLETICS: "FEVERISH 'EATS - - - - - CONTESTED"
- 9) LBA TOWN
- 10) FRY EGGS ON T'PAVEMENT? AND THERE'S A BEAR
- 11) DON'T BE RESTLESS; - - - - - DOWN
- 12) SQUABBLING; P FOR B
- 13) BOATS RISE BY THREE AND FIVE
- 14) MINSTER AT ONE END, ST MARY'S AT THE OTHER
- 15) IS IT IN THE JET-STREAM?
- 16) CARRIED ON LEAPING (WITH A ROPE?)
- 17) IT'S IN EVERY OTHER ABLE IDEA PLIED

## February Competition Answers

TC	=	27	Three cubed
TS	=	144	Twelve squared
FMIK	=	8	Five miles in kilometres
BRN-BTN	=	73	Bus number—Bedale to Northallerton
DOTH	=	10	Digits on two hands
NDIP	=	20	Newsletter donation in pence
LP'W'	=	5	Letters in 'Wales'
RIY	=	3	Ridings in Yorkshire
RUTMRLT	=	2	Rugby Union Team Minus Rugby League Team
YOOGIB	=	2012	Year of Olympic Games in Britain
TFLAB	=	88	Two Fat Ladies at Bingo
COESC	=	7	Counties on England's South Coast
LORNIM	=	4160	Length of River Nile in Miles
'S'OBWS	=	10	'Storm' on Beaufort Wind Scale
QIAS-B	=	8	Quavers in a Semi-breve
PWA	=	70	Platinum Wedding Anniversary

*\*\* The question "TPM =1415" should have read "TFPM=1415" (Two Fifteen pm; 24 hour clock). This clue is discarded in selecting the winner.*

The winner was **Peter Annison Askrigg**, who writes: "Did most of it ages ago but put it on one side to see if inspiration would magically provide answers for one or probably two 'impossible' questions. Anyone who gets them all right will be a worthy winner!" There wasn't anyone, so Peter wins. The committee asked me "What were you on when you created these?" As far as I remember it was the settee.

The £20 prize goes to the Yorkshire Air Ambulance. **A.S.W.**

## Penhill Benefice Coffee Morning

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> April

Leyburn Methodist Church Hall

Various tables selling cakes, home produce, books and more

## Mothering Sunday

Penhill Benefice

9.30am West Witton

9.30am Castle Bolton

10.30am Preston under Scar

10.45am Aysgarth Methodist Church

## Community Office News

There is free training available for anyone interested in **Community Reporting**. It would mean learning new skills, such as making videos, audio interviewing, writing a blog, creating a website, involving local media groups such as newspapers and radio. The scheme has been in operation since 1995 and examples of what has been done can be seen on [www.peoplesvoicemedia.co.uk](http://www.peoplesvoicemedia.co.uk) and <http://communityreporting.co.uk>

It would be an interesting addition to a CV or a useful skill for any volunteer. If you are interested, contact **Colin Bailey on 07711211169**, email: [colin.bailey@ckmservices.co.uk](mailto:colin.bailey@ckmservices.co.uk) or the Community Office **667400**.

We are now collecting used **postage stamps** for Peter Empsall, who sorts them for sale and the proceeds go to charitable causes. So, don't throw away those stamps, bring them to the Community Office or to Sycamore Hall for Peter Empsall.

**The Little White Bus** now provides a regular service from Hawes to Askrigg on Tuesdays. The fare for a single journey is £1 and no concessions apply. There are three return journeys throughout the day. On request, a detour to Carperby or Aysgarth can be arranged. The Wednesday trips on the first Wednesdays of each month are proving popular, so make sure you book your seat.

**7 th March** - Saltaire

**4th April** - Kendal

**2nd May** - Hayes at Ambleside

**6th June** - Windermere

The usual cost is £7 return or £5 concessions Leaving Hawes at 11.30am, returning by 4.30pm. Pickups at small extra cost from Askrigg and Bainbridge.

Owing to the success of the Little White Bus, we are looking to expand our team of volunteers. (The commitment could be as little as half a day). For anyone interested, there would be full training towards a MIDAS Certificate. Contact Community Office or Tel:667400.

**Friarage Hospital Campaign** Anyone wishing to sign the petition can do so at the Community Office. You can also put your name on a mailing list and we'll keep you informed of developments.

**Trish West**

## Upper Dales Family History Group.

This month's meeting will be on **Wednesday March 28th at 2.00pm** in Fremington Sunday School near Reeth in Swaledale when the speaker is Robin Millerchip on *The Art of Death, the development of Funeral Monuments*. Robin, whose background includes the army and the International Red Cross, as well as working as an undertaker in a rural town, takes his title from an exhibition held at the Victoria and Albert Museum several years ago which brought together funeral monuments, grave goods, medical exhibits, pictures and manuscripts from many sources across Europe and reaching back nearly 3,000 years.

Since that event, Robin has done a series of occasional talks about the Christian art history of burial and the remembrance of the departed in style which has been compared, appropriately, to the late Dave Allen!

Entry is free to members of Cleveland FHS. Non-members welcome - £2. For further details contact **Tracy Little 01748-884759**.



**Mystery picture. This might get you thinking!**  
Last month's was of Redmire Church doorway, soon spotted by Anne Day.

**Wensleydale Decorative and  
Fine Arts Society  
Goldwork: the Story of  
Britain and Gold**

In **Goldwork** we take an extraordinary voyage from gold being laid down in Scotland, Wales, Southern England and parts of Ireland nearly 2.6 billion years ago to the latest craftsmanship emerging from today's goldsmiths. We meet some early mineral collectors like the Countess of Powys, examine magnificent archaeological finds, and explore the role of gold associated with kingship, divinity and dining. Along the way we will discover some unusual facts and events. For example how were the enigmatic 'basket rings', the earliest known examples of worked gold found in this country, worn? Why did the Duke of Portland commission a solid gold font in 1796 and did you know that the gold chalice made for the new Liverpool Cathedral in 1958 was made of melted down wedding rings?

Helen Clifford delivers this lecture on **Tuesday 13th March at 2.00pm** at Middleham Key Centre. Please note that this is a change from our published programme. Non-members are welcome at £5 per lecture, pre-booking is essential; membership and further information is available from the Membership Secretary, tel. **01748 886545**

**The Dales on the T.V.**

By the time you read this, the Dales will have been featured several times and the second ITV series *The Dales* (whatever you thought of the first!) will have begun. The National Park is also showcased in the film '*Lad: A Yorkshire Story*', which is about a National Park Ranger who mentors a teenager whose dad has died.

Producer Dan Hartley said: "I'm expecting to complete post-production by around May and I'm intending to host the premiere in the Yorkshire Dales and then tour the film throughout the 15 British National Parks.

**Letter  
Children's and Maternity Services**

I'd like to thank all the people who attended the public meeting in Northallerton on 2nd February. We understand the concerns amongst local people and this was a really good opportunity to speak to them directly and answer questions. The overwhelming theme of the evening was the current access to maternity services for people in Hambleton and Richmondshire and how this might change in the future.

I want to assure people that we will be taking the issue of access and transport very seriously during the development phase of this project, particularly for those people living in very rural communities. I would, however, like to set the record straight on the issue of access to consultant-led maternity services. Firstly, it is being reported that the outcome of this process would lead to all families in Hambleton and Richmondshire having to travel to the James Cook hospital in Middlesbrough for consultant-led maternity services. This is not the case as there is no predetermined outcome to this process.

Secondly, local families will always have a choice about where to access consultant-led maternity services, and this is not necessarily at the James Cook hospital. For example, families living in the remote village of Hawes can access consultant-led maternity services in Lancaster and Darlington as well as The Friarage and they are all about the same distance away. Similarly, Darlington is a closer option for families living in Reeth than the Friarage.

We have developed a quick guide to show the travelling distances from various locations in Hambleton and Richmondshire. This guide can be found at [www.nyypct.nhs.uk](http://www.nyypct.nhs.uk)

During the next few months we will be holding many more meetings and I look forward to speaking to a wide range of people about the future of children's and maternity services.

Yours faithfully

**Dr Vicky Pleydell  
GP and Shadow Accountable Officer  
Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby  
Clinical Commissioning Group**



## Best Foot Forward



There isn't much weather that keeps the keen walker indoors and off the tops but December to February have done their best. It isn't only ice and snow that are dangerous but very soggy, slimy surfaces, wind and fog are as bad; so wait a while before following me on this!

I venture to suggest that most readers at some time or other will have been up Ingleborough, or at least around about it, but there are plenty of different ways to do it. Here's one done last autumn — from Clapham, not direct!



From the top of the village follow the track under the tunnel out east on to Thwaite Lane, leaving it after about a mile on a path NE towards Nappa Scars and Crummack Lane, crossing by the Norber Erratics. Forgive me if you know what I'm on about, but these large rocks which rest on the surface don't belong here but were carried down in Ice Age times and are quite alien to the limestone geology they rest on; so be amazed and carry on!

We are making for Moughton Scars so after about  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile take the long path NE crossing Austwick Beck to Moughton Whetstone Hole (spring) then across limestone pavement and 'grouse butts' to the long wall running nearly due north. You won't need me to tell you to watch your footing. Turning north, pick up the Sulber Nick route up Ingleborough. It might be as well to make sure there is no Three Peaks event on; this is the way the hordes come down! You'll get tired of passing the time of day!

It is, of course, easy to follow and obviously worse for wear, but just to the left for a long section I spotted a slightly elevated tractor track avoiding much erosion (but don't tell everyone!). From joining the Sulber Nick path to Ingleborough summit it is about three miles. It joins the path from the Hill Inn for the last bit.

The flat top of Ingleborough with its surrounding ramparts (now debated as to whether they were defensive or ceremonial) always fascinates; if the weather is clear the views all round are great; there is always someone to exchange details of their route, even to advise them if you are sure! A straggly-looking ewe will be after your sandwich as you huddle in the calmest sector of the shelter-cross.

In severe frosty weather I've seen ice particles formed horizontally from the triangulation pillar stretching maybe two feet into the direction of the wind. In thick cloud and fog it can be hard to come off the top the correct way, so don't try to be too smart! I know, I've been confused twice.

We are leaving by the due-south route to Gaping Gill via Little Ingleborough, but after that, having a change; not through Trow Gill to join the crowds going to Ingleborough Cave, but soon after the giant pot hole follow a fine dotted line path to a long wiggly wall SW which goes near Little Knott and then becomes a track skirting round Clapdale Scars. This is a delightful stretch. However, the last half mile picking your way near Know Gap to the bridle way above Clapdale Wood takes a bit of working out! In  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile you'll be back in Clapham for light refreshments. **A.S.W.**

## Cards Night

If you like playing cards why not join us at Askrigg Village Hall. Once a month we play two whist based games which are very easy to learn but very difficult to win, making it enjoyable for complete beginners and challenging for our whist and bridge players. Next event: **March 16th at 7.30pm.** For more details contact **Kath Alderson 650599** or **Ian Sunter 650667.**

## It's Good to Volunteer!

There are, so they say, defining moments in our lives. The defining moment for my knowing that I am a 'Volunteer' happened one Tuesday morning about twenty years ago. I worked for Social Services and it was the weekly team meeting. We had come to the point where we allocated new referrals. "Old lady, aged 90 years old, always lived alone, house unkempt, family request residential care". A heart-sinking moment. This will be a thankless task whichever way it goes. Each team member takes a keen interest in the dirt on their shoes. Silence, except me. "I'll do it", I say. "I'll do it." The silence around the room changes to a murmur of relief.

That's what a volunteering person does. We can't help ourselves. Something needs to be done and we say "I'll do it". Just like that. And any volunteer will tell you that once you are a volunteer for one role, then you go on to volunteer for anything else that's going.

Over the years I've done the usual things – and then something a little bit different. I became a volunteer counsellor for Cruse Bereavement Care, a national charity providing support for recently bereaved people. As other volunteers dropped away, I was determined to keep the group going and I volunteered to train and supervise new counsellors, sit on sub-committees, and so on.

Very much more cheerfully, I am now a volunteer tour guide at Gayle Mill. Here visitors are mostly well and happy. There are always thanks at the end of each tour; and my heart lifts to hear someone say "That was really interesting. Thank you so much." Sometimes there is even applause.

You don't have to be a tour guide to volunteer at the Mill. There are a myriad of jobs that need to be done, most of which do not need any special skills, only a willingness to get on with the job. Training is available for some of the roles when required. It doesn't matter what you did in a previous life, it's who you are now that counts. Generally, what we do is what comes naturally.

If my story has inspired you and you would like to know more about Volunteering at Gayle Mill please get in touch. You can call the Mill

on 667320 or email [admin@gaylemill.org.uk](mailto:admin@gaylemill.org.uk) or leave a message if you would to speak to me to learn more.

GAYLE MILL NEEDS YOU!

**Margaret Townsend**

## Dales Museum Trail Project

The Museum is creating an outdoor trail on the museum site that will allow people of all ages to explore and appreciate the area's cultural, wildlife, landscape and built heritage. It will feature the artwork of Yorkshire craftspeople, and a range of points will interpret the history of the area from prehistoric times onwards. It will also highlight contemporary trades, sites and businesses that link with those that have a history within the Dales. The trail will be created over the coming months and will open in time for the summer holidays. Being buggy and wheelchair friendly, it will be a great addition to the Museum and will hopefully attract new visitors, particularly families and groups.

There will be an exciting feature at the entrance to the Museum that will reflect the collections and heritage themes explored within the Museum. As part of the project, the Museum is working with award-winning local writer Char March, who has led creative writing sessions with children from Hawes Primary School and residents and day centre visitors at Sycamore Hall. She introduced a range of themes, from a tropical Dales to the first hunter gatherers and their tools, and has looked at trading routes from Wensleydale to the wider world, including the Roman and Viking invasions and the coming of the railways. Some of the Museum's artefacts were available to handle to help inspire people with their writing.

## Christian Aid Lent Lunches

**12 Noon till 1:30 p.m.**

**Friday 2nd March** Thoralby  
**Friday 9th March** West Burton Village Hall  
**Friday 16th March** Aysgarth Institute  
**Friday 23rd March** Thornton Rust Institute  
**Friday 30th** Carperby Institute

Soups, bread, cheese, coffees and teas

## Askrigg School News

### Forest Schools

We are very fortunate that both our teachers, Mr Armstrong and Mr Chapman, are qualified Forest School leaders and so both classes will be having the opportunity to go to Bluebell Woods (which James and Eleanor Scarr very kindly give us permission to visit) this term to learn in the outdoors. Forest School was developed in Sweden in the 1950s and soon began to be used in other Scandinavian countries. Early years practitioners saw the benefit of the programme and brought it to the south of England where it has continued to be developed and used for both children and adults.

The Forest School aims to educate children holistically, seeing the child in the round as a whole person – physically, emotionally, intellectually, socially, morally, culturally and spiritually. We provide the child with key skills which are meaningful and real.

Through our Forest school programme we will be planning and teaching a wide range of skills including tool work, knots, fire, shelter building and lots more besides! All of this aims to teach ‘the whole child’. We aim to make all our sessions meaningful and relate these to our rich creative curriculum delivered in school. Key skills in these subjects will be taught, or consolidated, through the Forest School

### Miss Dorothy.com

Miss Dorothy.com is a scheme of work endorsed by Hambleton & Richmondshire Community Safety Partnership, the Police and Fire Brigade. The [missdorothy.com](http://www.missdorothy.com) learning programme reaches every child with important safety messages. Children learn how to manage risk and develop an emotional vocabulary in a fun and exciting way. The programme, which is linked to the national curriculum, uses cartoon for primary school children. It is a resource recommended for PSHE and is featured on the DfES Teacher Net website as a child protection and safety resource. After half term the children will start to learn about staying safe in both the real and online world. More information can be found at [www.missdorothy.com](http://www.missdorothy.com)

### Dress Up Day

On the 8<sup>th</sup> February Askrigg School had a Dress Up Day for book week. We are having a Sponsored Read during book week to raise money for the School Library. Depending on how much money we raise Usborne will provide books for the school. Everyone came dressed as their favourite book character and even some of the teachers dressed up! Some people came as Old Ladies, Where’s Wally, Princesses, Giraffes, Tigers and there were even more different outfits!

**Katie Y6**



**Love was in the Air**  
**at Gayle Mill this Valentine's Day, not for**  
**people, but for garden birds.**

In celebration of National Nest Box Week local children made wooden nest boxes for a range of garden birds. Working with Gayle Mill volunteers, children had to decide which type of birds they hoped to attract. They then had to drill a hole of the right size for the entrance. For example a 1inch hole for blue tits which keeps bigger birds out. Next they had to use a hammer and nails to build the box and screws to attach the removable front.

**One child commented 'I liked using the hammer. Putting in the screws was really hard but good fun'**

The event was a great success; 74 people attended on the day, helping to raise just over £300 for the Mill. Families also enjoyed making valentine cards and tours of the Victorian Saw Mill. With more family events planned for May and June the Mill hopes to attract local children and families to get involved in hands-on woodwork, heritage activities and arts and crafts. For more information about the Mill and events visit [www.gaylemill.org.uk](http://www.gaylemill.org.uk) or call 667 320.



**Badminton**

The annual Wensleydale league under 18s singles badminton tournament took place over four days in Askrigg Village Hall. 33 boys and 23 girls played in various age-groups. Eventual winners: Tom Readshaw (Coverdale) and Jodie McGregor (West Burton). Their cups will be presented at the Badminton Dinner on **Friday March 23rd**. (Tickets available from any club.)

Other winners received certificates which were once again kindly donated by Liz Lawson of the Wensleydale Press.

	Winner	Runner-up
Boys: under 8s	Jeremy Civil	
10s	Matthew Readshaw	Owen Pratt
12s	Matthew Readshaw	Michael Horner
14s	Max Landau	Ben Simpson
16s	Tom Readshaw	James Allinson
18s	Tom Readshaw	Robert Moore
Girls: under 10s	Jessica Johnson	Chloe Johnson
12s	Laura Dent	Annabel Simpson
14s	Betty Guy	Laura Dent
16s	Laura Allen	Hayley Moore
18s	Jodie McGregor	Laura Allen

**All Change at the Aysgarth**  
**Edwardian Rock Garden**

After 13 years at the rock face the time has come to hand over ownership of the Rock Garden into the capable hands of Rosemary and Adrian Anderson of West Witton who have had a keen interest in the garden since 2007 and have regularly supported it.

It has been a great privilege to have been the custodians of such a unique piece of the Dales horticultural history. We have been overwhelmed by the generosity of so many people who have supported the garden since its restoration in 2002. We would like to thank everybody who has helped and encouraged us over the years. We hope that the same support will be given to Rosemary and Adrian who, as keen alpine enthusiasts, are sure to improve the garden yet further. The garden will still be open to the public and plant sales will eventually continue from next year as this year will be spent taking stock of the garden and its onward development.

**Angela and Peter Jauneika**

## I Want to Tell You a Story

Vanda Hurn writes: "I expect that you know that Richard Fawcett is currently in Thailand, teaching English as a *Global Vision International (GVI)* volunteer. He gave an illustrated talk to a large audience, in Hawes, earlier last year and a good sum of money was raised to help those in need in Thailand.

"I thought that people would appreciate hearing what *'the sheep dog demo man'* does after the demos have stopped for winter. I have Richard's consent for this to be printed in the Newsletter. We have two Thai residents in the Upper Dales, Nan Metcalfe and Kung Blades; Kung's family have suffered serious flooding in their home in Bangkok."

*Here is Richard's letter:*

Last Friday, at 7.00pm. 10 of us GVI volunteers set off in a minibus to Bangkok, a 14 hour journey. We were in convoy with a large container truck, one third full of provisions (food, water, medical and sanitary items.) In BKK. we met 20 students at their university, where we added a lot more to our load. The police stopped traffic to enable us to cross a very busy street, carrying and loading hundreds of boxes and bottles. We piled into the small remaining space in the back of the container. It was stiflingly hot. No air. As we drove east, north, west, and then south around this huge city, we came face to face with the floods. Starting at ankle, then knee, then waist deep. Dirty, smelly water with green algae growing on every surface it touches. In many areas, the water hasn't subsided at all. There is nowhere for it to go.

Hundreds of cars are parked, especially on bridges, on what bit of higher ground there is, lifted up on to blocks, pallets, old tyres, anything that will protect them. Many families are camping on small areas of dryness. Our reluctant truck driver, travelling at snail pace, many times had to be cajoled into continuing with the journey. Much too deep for anything but "high up" vehicles now. Covering the whole of one side of the truck was a huge banner, reading in English and Thai "Flood victim relief. Global Vision International." As we drove along, people cheered and clapped. Eventually, at a bridge, we could go no further. Small

boats appeared and large tubs and bowls; anything that could be pushed or rowed by scores of people.

We loaded them up and rowed, as prearranged, to a temple, where 100 folks have been living for the past month. They helped us unload the various craft as we ferried back and forth. This was their first aid supply since they became marooned in the temple. There was such a cheery atmosphere. Laughter, joviality, "kapkun krap" (thank you.) It was a scene of great joy even, amongst their misery.

They have no drinking water available. Toileting is all into a plastic bag, and then thrown out, into the water. There is no option. But, how long can it be before some disease sets in, with this heat and humidity?

When we were done, the elder monk invited us into the temple, thanked us individually, blessed us, and presented each one of us with an amulet. Once we were satisfied that we could do no more, back in the truck, travelled the flooded streets. Two men on the roof, with a loud hailer, shouting "food, water." Scores of people, arms outstretched, were hurriedly wading through the water towards us from all sides. Great big smiles, cheers, thank yous.

At 7.30pm. we were done, and "done for." We'd had little sleep the previous night. Some volunteers looked positively jaded. We stopped in BKK. overnight in the famous KhaoSan Road, a real hive of activity. At 9.00pm. on Sunday, we set off back. 13 hours later I was in Ko Klang, having experienced, again, a weekend with these loveable Thai people, in their adversity. Cheers for now.

**Richard**

### **Hawes Area Churches Together Coffee morning and stalls.**

**Hawes Methodist Rooms**

**Tuesday March 20th, 10.00am to noon.**

Proceeds for SHELTER BOX

### **Children's Easter Service**

with W.Burton, Bainbridge and Askrigg school. **Tuesday March 27th, 1.30pm** at St. Andrew's, Aysgarth. All welcome.

## Prunings

“March bring breezes loud and shrill, Stirrs the dancing daffodil”



One of the plants which I love at this time is the Hellebore because it seems to cope with everything thrown at it. For many years I have taken the precaution of keeping a few items under cover, or at least, in the polytunnel. “Just in case,” as my grandfather would have said, although in his day such cheaply covered space was not available. This year it has not made a scrap of difference: the few with that little extra protection are beginning to flower, and the ones which have never been under cover look just as far on. I have to say that the polytunnel has no heat and freezes as readily as the beds outside, the only advantage they enjoy inside is less wind and rain, warm up a little, and therefore look a little less scruffy. I seem to get much more reliable performance from the white specimens and when I had a look at them the other day they were all carefully holding their burgeoning buds down as if they knew how much rain was about to arrive.

A little research shows me that I really know very little about them. As my plants seem to be producing only one flower per stem, I presume they must be Helleborus Niger, or the Christmas Rose, but they have never flowered over Christmas. Most plants available in garden centres are usually named Helleborus Orientalis, but I gather it is more accurate simply to call them Hybrids as Orientalis may only be a small element in their breeding, Harvington Hybrids are the most popular cultivars on the market and they come in a wide range of colours.

In addition “New” varieties are now available often sold as Torquatus or Multifidus, exhibiting strange and beautiful colours and markings and often affected by soil conditions. I have a very interesting one which grows in the garden, and which I thought was Foetidus. Not only does it not smell, but the leaves don't

look right, so I think it must be Argutifolius, and it is quite striking with lime green flowers on 30-40cm stems which can last until April. It is a good one to grow from seed, but it must be sown quickly or it is difficult to break the dormancy. Many of the prettiest hybrids, sadly, are sterile.

Last year, convinced by adverts and recommendations, I bought Acidanthera, and eagerly looked forward to graceful scented flowers in late summer. I bought both expensive and cheap ones for comparison. I put some out and kept some under cover. They were universally rubbish. From the tubs kept under cover I had two blooms in all, and exactly the same number outside. I might pot up a few of the old ones to see what happens, but I shall certainly not be buying any more. I think our growing season is just not long enough, and there are better things to play with!

Good luck! And whatever you grow, take time to enjoy it.

## Rose Rambler

### Aysgarth Singers Concert

"Spring Serenade"

Saturday March 17<sup>th</sup>, 7.30pm

St Andrew's Church, Aysgarth

Admission: £6 (accompanied children free).

Contact: 663576 / 663553

Tickets will also be available at the door on the night.

Proceeds split between the church, the Singers and a local charity to be decided

### St Matthew's, Stalling Busk

Sunday 18th March - 2.30 pm -

Holy Communion, PCC AGM and

Memorial to Barry Saxton

## West Burton School News

West Burton School has nearly come to a close for the holidays after only a five-week half term. In this half term the school has been overrun with lots of fun and special events happening; there probably has been one every week!

Recently, a performance poet, Mike Smith, came to the school to entertain the children and also helped them on their poem work for 'The Wensleydale Tournament of Speech', in which they will participate later on in March. Mike Smith wowed Class 1 with his performance of 'Green Granny,' while sending Class 2 into hysterics with 'The Three Little Pigs and The Big Bad Wolf.' He helped by showing Class 2 how to put expression into their words. "He was crazy!" commented a Year 6 pupil. He certainly made an impression.

At the beginning of February, the Education Officer, Samantha Belcher, from Gayle Mill came to tell Class 2 about the Mill. She taught the children about it by showing them a miniature working model. She showed the stages of the mill - from the Victorian's idea to have a tunnel running down below the mill, to us making the turbine, so the water would go faster and generate more electricity. Samantha taught the children about water pressure, and the children watched amazed as the water stayed in a bottle with a hole in the bottom. She then taught the children another magic trick, she showed the children something called a Thaumatrobe, which had a different image on each side; but when you spun it around it created the illusion that one image was appearing inside another. "She was cool, I would like to go to Gayle Mill," said Luke Greenslade, a Year 4 pupil. She was really magic.

Every Wednesday the whole school now goes swimming at Catterick Swimming Pool. They are split into four groups, according to their ability. They take the bus there and back. "I enjoy swimming, it is refreshing," said Edward Harker, a Year 6 pupil. The children obviously love this sport!

Overall it has been a very productive half term; the children have learnt a lot, and have had a brilliant time.

**Katie Taplin and Ruth Dent Y6**

## New Consultation Begins on National Park Housing Plan

Organisations and the public are being given six weeks to have their say on changes to the plan aimed at increasing the amount of affordable housing in the National Park.

Members of the Authority have voted to accept a number of changes to its Housing Development Plan following an examination in public by planning inspector David Vickery in January. But the Authority members expressed "strong disappointment" at the inspector's proposed rejection of four sites that would have provided 10 new homes for local people in Aysgarth, Low Row, Muker and Thornton Rust. The public will now be given a chance to comment on the changes to the original plan - which has been put together with the aim of delivering sites for affordable housing over the next 15 years.

The changes to the plan can be viewed on the Authority's website at [www.yorkshiredales.org.uk](http://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk), and can also be inspected at the National Park Offices in Grassington and Bainbridge and at local libraries throughout the area.

Comments on the changes should be addressed to **Claire Hodgson**, Programme Officer, Yoredale, Bainbridge DL8 3EL or to emailed to her at:

[claire.hodgson@yorkshiredales.org.uk](mailto:claire.hodgson@yorkshiredales.org.uk)

**by the April 10th deadline.**

## Irish Dance

performed by

The Phoenix Academy of Irish Dancing

led by Eileen Plater ADTCRG and

Richard Feather (of West Burton)

Supper kindly supplied by Karen Chapman

**All proceeds to the AMALA children's home in India which has recently been damaged by flooding.**

Entry £5 on the door Children U12 free

Also raffle

West Burton Village Hall on

**Friday 9th March starting at 7.30pm**

## Gayle Mill Events

**Thursday March 1st-** Traditional Wheel Making Talk **7.30 - 8.30pm**. A talk from professional Wheelwright on traditional methods and contemporary uses for wooden wheels. £3.50 - Booking Required

**Saturday March 3rd** - Simple Book Binding **10.30am - 4.30pm**. Suitable for absolute beginners. During this day course, you will learn traditional methods to fold, cut, staple, and glue small books to create a professional looking finished product. Each participant will finish the day with 4 to 5 finished examples to take home. (Booking essential) £20.00 including light lunch.

**Sunday March 4th-** Demonstration Tour **11.00am and 2;30pm**. Special guided tours with demonstrations of water powered Victorian woodworking machinery. £10 adults £5 children (includes light refreshments). Tours last approx. 2 hours.

**Monday March 12th to Friday March 16th-** National Science and Engineering Week - special events for schools

**Saturday March 10th** (to be confirmed) Traditional Farm-Gate Making Master Class **10.30am - 4.30pm** Working with a combination of traditional and modern tools and techniques under the tuition of the Mill's last apprentice, construct a traditional wooden farm-gate. Learn to mark up, cut and plane rails and palings, construct mortise and tenon joints, and assembly methods. £10.00 - Booking required. Please note the date is provisional. We are currently taking names of people who are interested before confirming the course.

**Friday March 16th-** Community Archaeology Talk **7.30 - 8.30 pm**. Hear from Kevin Cale about a day in the life of a community archaeologist – tall tales of a really unusual career. £3.50 - Booking Required

**Friday March 30th-** Silver and Metals Conservation at the Bowes Museum **7.30- 8.30 pm**. Hear about Karen Barker's project to clean and document the star item of the collection, the Silver Swan. Seek advice on

caring for metal objects in your own home. £3.50 - Booking Required.

*To make bookings or to find out more, call **Samantha Belcher on 667320** or email: [samantha.belcher@gaylemill.org.uk](mailto:samantha.belcher@gaylemill.org.uk)*

## Surgery News The Ides of March

On **March 15<sup>th</sup>** the Rt. Hon Andrew Lansley MP, Secretary of State for Health, is due to visit the practice. Originally this was due to take place on Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> but was postponed owing to 'pressures of parliamentary business'. Mr Lansley was invited by your local patients' consultative group, Upper Dales Healthwatch, to discuss concerns about how increasing financial and legislative pressures are affecting the provision of primary healthcare in deeply rural areas. Since the original invitation was extended to him, other healthcare issues have arisen nationally and locally. Local concerns about proposed changes to the provision of obstetric and paediatric services at the Friarage Hospital, together with opposition to the Health and Social Care Bill, may overwhelm the message we are trying to get across.

You can be sure that we will be making forcefully the argument that if hospital services move further away, rural communities rely more than ever on the services provided by their GPs and other teams of community-based health professionals. Whatever changes are made to the NHS, these services must be sustained. My concern is that if large protests are planned for the day, the Department of Health may once again postpone (or even cancel altogether) the visit. If the visit does go ahead, I will report back in a future Newsletter.

**clive.west@gp-B82045.nhs.uk**



## **Wensleydale Words for March**

The School Performance Tables for the 2011 results were published in January and The Wensleydale School was recognised as the fifth most improved school in the country for 5A\*-C with English and Maths out of approximately 6000 secondary schools - a truly remarkable achievement. In terms of North Yorkshire schools, our results are amongst the best in the county. This success is being recognised by those beyond our traditional catchment area as the number of students applying to join us in both Year 7 and Year 12 continues to grow.

A further example of our improvement across the board has been the recent results of the parental and student surveys conducted by Kirkland Rowell. Nearly 60% of parents and 40% of students responded and the executive summary from both surveys states that, "the school has reason to be happy with most of its activities." Going by OfSTED criteria, the parental survey judges the school to be 'good' overall, whereas the students grade us as 'outstanding'. The survey judged that communications with parents was good and improving.

Shortly, we will be launching our new school website. Part of that website will contain a form where parents will be able to share any comments, concerns or even complaints they have about what we do.

### **A round-up of sporting news now:**

#### **Multi-skills festival**

We hosted a Year 3 and 4 multi skills festival on Friday 20th January. 56 children from Leyburn Primary School attended the session. 12 young leaders from Year 10 helped to set up and lead the various activities which were designed to challenge the children's agility, balance and coordination. The leaders provided support and encouragement to the primary school children creating activities that were both fun and challenging. It was a lively and enjoyable session providing a great opportunity for students from our school to practise their leadership skills. There was very positive feedback from both the children and accompanying staff from the Primary School.

#### **Netball**

Hilary Conway, our School Games Organiser, has set up a very successful Netball Club for juniors, seniors and adults based in Richmond Secondary School. Through the club, she has purchased netball posts and bibs to enable us to start our own coaching which will take place on Thursday lunchtimes on the netball courts.

#### **Pilates**

Post 16 students are to be offered Pilates sessions on Tuesday lunchtimes in the Drama studio. This is a great opportunity to experience an alternative exercise discipline. Pilates exercises improve posture, muscle tone, core strength, flexibility and help to relieve tension.

#### **Sporting Achievements**

Mel Calvert began lifesaving activities through the Rookie Lifeguard programme at Bedale Leisure Centre at the end of 2009. During 2011 she competed in a number of lifesaving competitions, including the National Lifesaving Championships (partnered with Esther Everitt). This year she is part of a group of three who are attending two national competitions - the Welsh National Lifesaving Championships (Swansea) in February, and the British Stillwater Championships (Cardiff) in April. The skill level required to take part in these is considerable and Mel, along with the other two, is attending additional training in Blyth every Sunday evening.

#### **Area X Country**

Well done to Guy Hutchinson, Finn Sheehan and Liam Rabjohn who ran for the Area in county trials earlier this month in very testing conditions – a special pat on the back must go to Liam who came 9th in North Yorkshire which should hopefully ensure he gets to represent his county in the near future.

#### **Swimming**

Our swimmers had their annual outing to the area swimming gala at Catterick Leisure Centre in February. For some, it was their first experience of competitive swimming. However, our students took that in their stride and all performed to the best of their abilities and did themselves and the school proud.

**Matt Bromley**

## Are Tablets the Future?

More of a philosophical discussion this month (and as such, my opinion – feel free to agree or disagree but I hope there is food for thought). It seems practically every week a new ‘tablet’ appears on the market. The most famous is probably the iPad from Apple but the most prolific are the Android pads made by many different manufacturers. Later this year (or possibly early next year) a new breed of tablets will appear running Windows 8 with Microsoft’s new ‘Metro’ interface.

First off we can all wait for the fun as no doubt the legal arguments start over who owns which patent. Before Christmas Apple got a number of Android pads made by Samsung temporarily banned in Europe (which only served to make them more popular) and then Samsung countersued and got the iPad banned in the Far East. With Microsoft entering the fray this sort of nonsense is bound to get worse.

Whichever type of tablet you fancy the question I would ask is whether this is the future of computers, as I am seeing more people who just have a tablet and no laptop or desktop computer.

Tablets have the advantage of size, weight and are generally easy to use (though they can be awkward to set up – esp. iPad email setup is confusing and doesn’t work with some providers). The disadvantages are many if you are using it as your main computer:

They are difficult to use if you want to type any significant amount. The odd sentence to answer an email is fine but touch screen keyboards are frustrating and tiring if you are typing a letter.

On many devices you have no real control over your own files (data, letters and even emails) as they are squirreled away somewhere and you can’t just go and open a file like you can on a computer – you have to use the manufacturer’s approved app. Often your data is stored on a remote computer in the US and you have to agree to pages of impenetrable terms and conditions just to use the service.

On some devices (notably the iPad) it is difficult to access some files sent as attachments

because the tablet doesn’t have the built in facility to access new types of file. Screens are generally quite small (many only 7 inches diagonally) – which makes long use tiring.

So why are they being pushed so hard by the manufacturers? There is a simple answer - money: you have it, they want it. Don’t be fooled, they don’t just want the money when you buy the device; they want the hidden potential of money. In particular Apple set up a system so that when you buy anything from their App store (and you have no choice of store) they collect 30% of every sale, plus if the app contains any advertising they collect 30% of any sales generated by the advertising too. This is where the bulk of Apple’s wealth is now coming from (plus iTunes where many albums are actually more expensive than buying the CD and the artists get much less commission).

Microsoft have seen the rise of Apple’s fortune and saw dollar signs – now they want your money too and will be trying to sell the new Metro interface for all they are worth. They are building a very similar closed -in sales structure for Apps – and when Windows 8 is released Metro will be the new interface on PCs (Windows is being described as the legacy interface). Even though Metro is really designed for 7 inch touch screens you will be lumbered with it on desktops and laptops where its use is not well designed.

For me tablets can make a convenient extra but they don’t really replace laptops or desktop computers – they are expensive and not nearly as flexible. Think of them being like a large smart phone (except mostly without the phone).

If you are contemplating buying a new computer or upgrading from Windows XP or Vista to the latest version of Windows I would strongly recommend buying a computer with Windows 7 on it before it disappears and Windows 8 lands on the shelves.

I would love to have your feedback and comments. Do please drop me an email and tell me what you think via my website [www.dalescomputerservices.com](http://www.dalescomputerservices.com).

**Carol Haynes**

## Sycamore Hall News

Michelle and I attended the Licensed Victuallers presentations evening of generous amounts of money to local organisations raised by the cycle run last year. I accepted a generous cheque on behalf of the residents of Sycamore Hall stating we were all very grateful for this donation which makes a very large input to our amenity fund which I am sure Michelle will put to good use during the following months.

At the end of last year we were once again entertained by the Learning Disability group from Richmond performing the pantomime *Aladdin*. Keeping that fact in hand one cannot fail to notice how much pleasure it gives them performing and putting into service the scenery and costumes they make themselves, but the pleasure it gives to people in the audience is very great indeed and we all look forward to seeing them again shortly.

After months of consultation with the National Park we have at last been given permission to re-site our sun house. It will be re-sited at the front near the greenhouse with ample access for residents with wheelchairs etc.

On Saturday evening, two weeks ago, Chris and Alice and staff transported us to the far east (China) in fact and provided for us a meal from that country which could be the start of a service of monthly evening meals. If Saturday was anything to go by then we are in for some treats.

Well done Chris and Alice and staff. From mince pies to love hearts, such was the change of atmosphere. On Valentine's day at Sycamore Hall, love symbols scattered around welcomed our entertaining guests.

"The ladies who sing for pleasure" from Askrigg, let me say this pleasure was actually ours listening to an arrangement of melodies which were enjoyed by everyone and we hope to see and hear them again soon.

**Derek Ramsden**

## Festival Celebrates Wild Flowers of the Dales

The 2012 'Flowers of the Dales Festival', co-ordinated by The Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust (YDMT), is a programme of more than 130 events taking place across the Yorkshire Dales from March until November. Events include guided walks, photography courses, cookery and craft events, children's activities, bat walks and bumblebee talks, to name just a few.

One of the many highlights of the Festival is a spring flower themed choral concert performed by St Paulinus Choir of Ripon, including pieces by Bach, Schubert, Britten and Handel (arr Gritton). The concert takes place on **Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May** in Clapham Church. Tickets are on sale now in aid of YDMT – please call **015242 51002** for full details.

The full Festival programme is available online now – got to [www.ydmt.org](http://www.ydmt.org) and click on Resources. Or to receive a copy by post please send an A5 stamped self-addressed envelope (36p postage) to Flowers of the Dales Festival, YDMT, Old Post Office, Main Street, Clapham LA2 8DP. Free copies of the programme will also be available from visitor centres in the area in the coming weeks.

YDMT would like to thank the kind and generous donations from the W. W. Spooner Charitable Trust, Natural England, Yorkshire Dales Society, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, Yoredale Natural History Society and the People's Postcode Lottery and a special tribute to Mr Reynolds whose generous gift to us in his Will helped make this year's Flowers of the Dales Festival possible

## Exhibition

at the Yorkshire Dales  
National Park Authority offices  
Yoredale, Bainbridge

**Chosen Realities**  
Recent paintings by  
Wensleydale artists  
Brian Alderman and Moira Metcalfe  
March and April 2012

## **Ranger's Report for March**

A note to dog owners during lambing time and the bird breeding season. The next five months are crucial for wildlife and for farm animals alike and dogs can cause lasting damage if they are allowed to roam free. Recently, a young deer was attacked and killed by a dog that was off the lead at Aysgarth Falls. There are some simple rules under the Countryside Code that pet owners must remember. The most important is that, on most areas of open country and common land – known as 'access land' – you must keep your dog on a short lead between March 1st and July 31st, and all year round near farm animals.

I have been asked by a number of people what has happened to the small stone arched bridge that was constructed at Ballowfields between Woodhall and Carperby a couple of years ago.

The bridge was constructed by the Otley and Yorkshire Dales Branch of the Dry Stone Walling Association for the Wensleydale Food and Drink Festival at Leyburn. After the festival the bridge was dismantled and rebuilt at Ballowfields with funding for the materials provided by the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE). During the recent flooding, western foundations were undercut causing the arch to slip and the bridge partly to collapse. We have dismantled the bridge and stored the stone off site. The Drystone Walling Association has volunteered to rebuild a redesigned stone arched bridge with funding again provided by CPRE. The aim is to rebuild the bridge this summer subject to weather conditions and permissions. In the meantime we have installed a temporary wooden footbridge to continue to allow access across the beck.

National Park Authority staff and volunteers have completed this year's coppicing in the north eastern part of Freeholders' Wood adjacent to the Middle Falls at Aysgarth. The aim of the coppicing is to create a variety of woodland habitats – clearings, thick bushy growth and more mature trees. This attracts a wide range of species of plants and animals. The open glades provide ideal conditions for woodland flowers, while the thick coppice is favoured by nesting birds. A coppiced woodland is therefore a rich habitat, much richer than a uniform stand of mature trees. The coppiced

timber will be moved to the main entrance of the wood for the Freeholders of Carperby, the village residents having an historic right to collect it. Anyone walking through the wood will have noticed the wire mesh Gen Guards that are used to protect the new coppice growth from deer and rabbits. The guards will remain in place till the new shoots have established themselves and then be removed for reuse on future coppicing.

I would like to remind you that if you encounter any problems whilst using public rights of way or open access land you can contact either Access Ranger **Paul Sheehan** or me on **666226 or 662912**.

**Nigel Metcalfe**

## **Church Coffee Club for Bolton-cum-Redmire PCC Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March 10:30am to noon**

Margaret Moore, Overdale, Redmire

## **Lent Course– Life Calling**

**Wednesdays in March (663097 for details)**

10.30am – noon at the Vicarage, Carperby

7.00 – 8.30pm Preston under Scar.

'Life Calling' – the book is written by Robert Warren who was the Church of England's National Officer for Evangelism and Kate Bruce who is a priest in Durham but used to be in this diocese. This Lent course is based on Bible passages and film clips from 'Billy Elliot'

## **Wine Tasting and Tapas Evening**

**Monday 5th March, 7.30pm**

Tickets only (none available on door)

This is part of fund raising for St. Andrew's Church, Aysgarth.

Please see your village notice boards for posters with venue and full details

## Police Report

**Crimes last month.** The first one I want to draw your attention to is theft of a workman's power tools at Lunds. A house is having some work done on it and the storage point is a metal shipping container some distance away but not visible from anywhere really. However, the thieves have obviously done their homework and located this container, cut off the lock and obtained several thousand pounds of power tools.

Heating oil thefts are back with us. We've had one in Hawes and one in Askrigg. The strange thing is both have occurred within a short time of the delivery. Two theories spring to mind:-

- 1) Is someone following the delivery tanker and noting where the tank is that is being filling up, then coming back later and stealing it?
- 2) Is the delivery being made the amount that is actually ordered or being signed for? After a delivery please check your tank to see if the amount you expect to be in there is actually in there? There could be a rogue driver out there selling off what you have bought and paid for. Oil prices are on the rise again so oil crime is lucrative for thieves. Please give us a ring if you see any suspicious activity in connection with oil storage tanks— domestic or commercial.

In late January two units were broken into on Hawes Industrial Estate. Points of entry were at the back of the units and drills were used. It may be a coincidence but neither unit at the time had an alarm fitted. Does anyone remember seeing anything around that time?

Metal thefts are still occurring throughout the area and nationwide. It is the single biggest economic crime in the country with most of the metal being exported. The males in the Transit type pick-ups that tour the area in search of metal are normally fairly unscrupulous and seldom unknown to the court system. Why let them take away your metal for free when you can make some money from it? The world demand for metal has led to high prices on all metals. So if you have a quantity of old metal items that you want rid of we have several "Scrap Metal" merchants

locally.

Finally, there are too many people particularly in the upper dale who do not wear seatbelts. Unless you have a medical exemption certificate you face a fixed penalty of £60.00. Front fog lights are also becoming an epidemic again. They are designed for seriously reduced visibility. They are not spot lights, which are additional lights that come on/go off in conjunction with high beam. Front fog lights reflect off the road surface causing dazzle to oncoming traffic – particularly if the road is wet. It is an offence to have them on when not required (that is except in seriously reduced visibility). £30.00 is the fixed penalty.

Please contact the police if you can help with any of the crimes. Thanks as always.

**Andy Foster PC826**  
**Leyburn Safer Neighbourhood Team**  
**Wards of Addlebrough**  
**and Hawes and High Abbotside**  
**Telephone 101**  
**SNTLey-**  
**burn@northyorkshire.pnn.police.uk**

## Wensleydale Tournament of Song

The 102nd Wensleydale Tournament of Song will take place **from 13th - 16th March (speech) and 18th to 23rd March (music)** in the Methodist Chapel Schoolrooms, Leyburn. The final evening's performances will be at the Wensleydale School from **6:30pm** where there will be performances from various choirs and ensembles / orchestras.

Everyone is most welcome to come and watch the performances – the children's classes take place during the day, generally from **9:30am until 3:00pm** and the senior classes in the evening, usually commencing at 6:30pm. Programmes are available from Towlers newsagents in Leyburn or from the Corner House, West Burton.

## WHAT'S ON LISTING;

### March

- 2 World Day of Prayer. United Service; St Margaret's Church, Hawes. 2.30pm
- 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 Mid-dale Lent Lunches. See p.4
- 2 Wensleydale Society; "Our mining heritage". West Burton; 7.30pm
- 3 Coffee morning for St Oswald's, Askrigg See p.3
- 3 Askrigg Village Hall concert and supper; 7.30pm. **650216** or **650556** for tickets
- 4 St Oswald's, Askrigg; Children's Service 4.00pm.
- 5 Wine tasting. See p.20
- 6 Hawes Drama Group reads 'Habeas Corpus'. Gayle Institute. 7.30pm.
- 6 Aysgarth Drop-in for Coffee. See below
- 7 Coffee Club. See p.20
- 7, 14, 21 & 28 Lent lunches and meditation; Hawes area. See p.4
- 8 'Christians in the Dales' day. Middleham Methodist Church, 10.00am to 2.30pm
- 8 Flower Club AGM, Wensley Village Hall; 7.00pm.
- 9 'King's Club' planning meeting; Bainbridge Chapel, 7.30pm.
- 9 Irish Dance. See p.15
- 10 Local and Family History Day. The Pavilion, Harrogate, from 10.15am.
- 11 St Oswald's Askrigg. Café-style service. 10.30am.
- 11 Return visit of Rev Martin James (Gateshead) to Hawes Methodist Church. 10.30am.
- 11 Thoraby lunch. See p.3
- 11 Marsett chapel 'Singalong'. 2.30pm
- 12 Commonwealth Day
- 13 Decorative and Fine Arts Society; 2.00pm. See p.8
- 13 YDNPA Planning Committee; Yoredale Bainbridge. 1.00pm.
- 15 Hawes W.I.: Visit of Hawes Drama Group. Methodist rooms, 7.00pm.
- 15 Health Secretary in Hawes re: NHS etc.
- 16 'Other Roads' concert; Reeth Memorial Hall. Tickets/details: **01748 884754**
- 17 Aysgarth Singers Concert. See p.14
- 18 Mothering Sunday
- 18 Stalling Busk St. Matthew's Special service. See p.14
- 19 Newsletter AGM. See p.13
- 20 Hawes Churches Together Coffee Morning. See p.13
- 21 Carperby W.I. at the Institute. Get Ahead Hats. 7.30pm.
- 22 Aysgarth Township Annual Parish Meeting in Aysgarth Institute. 7.30pm. Open meeting

- 23 Affordable Warmth Conference. P. 24
- 23 Deadline for applications to Hawes Parish Community Fund
- 23 Singing Farmers Concert; see p. 24
- 25 CLOCKS GO FORWARD ONE HOUR
- 25 Ecumenical family service. Bainbridge Chapel. 4.00pm.
- 27 YDNPA Full Committee, Yoredale, Bainbridge, 10.30am.
- 28 Upper Dales Family History Group. See p.7
- 29 Wensleydale Country Market. Leyburn Methodist Hall. 10.00am to 12.30pm
- 31 Bainbridge Methodist Church Gift Day 2.00–4.00pm.



For more details please contact DCM on **666210**

**4 Feb til 26 March**

**Exhibition – Mongolian Links**

Making connections between the cultures of contemporary Mongolia and the Dales

### March

- 16 Textiles pre-mechanisation and their role in everyday life—a talk by Sonia Wilkinson. 7.30- 9.00pm. Price £2
- 18 Mothers Day—Craft activities for children. 10.00am to 5.00pm. Museum charges apply. (free for mums)
- 20 Drop in and Taste - part of Richmondshire Eco Week. Let's make what's in the garden now. Leek and potato soup and drop scones. Museum charges apply
- 31 Frank Armstrong exhibition begins.
- 31 to April 15 Easter Craft Event, 10.00am to 5.00pm. Museum charges apply.

### Drop in for Coffee

**St. Andrew's Church:**

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 10.00am– 12.30pm**

Pamela Thornton, Aysgarth Tel: **663576**

£1 to include coffee/tea and biscuits.

The proceeds will be divided between the church and a charity of the hosts choice

## Heavens Above



Mars puts on a terrific show in the evening sky this month. It reaches opposition (to the Sun) on March 3<sup>rd</sup> which means it's on view all night long. At magnitude -1.0 the Red Planet is only slightly dimmer than Sirius the brightest star in the sky, and its distinct orange cast makes it very easy to pick out. Look for it high in the south around 9 o'clock in the evening slightly to the east of Regulus, the leading star of the constellation of Leo the Lion.

The first week in March also offers the best chance of the year to see the innermost planet, Mercury, in the evening sky. It's at its greatest distance east of the Sun on March 5<sup>th</sup> so try looking for it for a few nights around then at about 7 o'clock in the evening. It's *very* low in the western sky so you'll need to be somewhere with an unobstructed view of the horizon. Higher in the sky two other naked-eye planets - Jupiter and Venus - are also on view. Venus is a really brilliant object far brighter than any of the stars and can't be missed. It's gradually closing in on Jupiter and the pair will only be just over 3 degrees apart on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March. On March 26<sup>th</sup> they're joined by a slender crescent Moon which passes just over 2 degrees south of Venus - a beautiful sight in binoculars. Venus will continue to brighten right through the March and stays up until almost midnight by the end of the month. It's the opposite story for Jupiter, however, as from now on it begins to sink lower in the sky each evening before it disappears into the western twilight in a few weeks time.

The first half of March is also your last good opportunity to view Orion and the other bright winter constellations before they disappear until the Autumn. Orion is already tilting well over into the southwest as it makes way for the main springtime constellations of Virgo, Leo, and Bootes coming in from the east.

This year the Spring Equinox — when the Sun crosses the celestial equator from north to south - falls on March 20th and we'll have more daylight hours than night-time ones for

the next six months. British Summer Time begins on Sunday, March 25th so don't forget to put your clocks forward on the Saturday night. Have clear skies!

**Al Bireo**

## A Farmer...

goes out to his field one morning only to find all of his cows are frozen solid. As far as the eye can see are cows motionless like statues.

It had been a bitterly cold night, but he'd never thought anything like this would happen. The realisation of the situation then dawned on him. With his entire livestock gone, how would he make ends meet? How would he feed his wife and kids? How would he pay the mortgage? He sat with his head in his hands, trying to come to terms with his impending poverty.

Just then, an elderly woman came by, "What's the matter?" asked the old lady.

The farmer gestured toward the frozen cows and explained his predicament to the woman. Without hesitation the old woman smiled and began to rub one of the cow's noses. After a few seconds the cow began to twitch and was soon back to normal and chewing the cud.

One by one, the old woman defrosted the cows until the whole field was full of healthy animals. The farmer was delighted and asked the woman what she wanted as a repayment for her deed.

She declined his offer and walked off across the field.

A passer-by who had witnessed the whole thing approached the farmer.

"You know who that was don't you?" asked the passer-by.

"No" said the farmer "who?"

...Wait for it...it is worth it...

“That was Thora Hird.”

### Frank Armstrong’s Yorkshire

My father Frank Armstrong was a professional artist and during the 1950s and 1960s had many of his drawings published by the *Dalesman*. We are having an exhibition called “Frank Armstrong’s Yorkshire” of his original pen and ink drawings, many of which are of Dales scenes. The exhibition will be at the Dales Countryside Museum in Hawes from **31<sup>st</sup> March to 29<sup>th</sup> April**. I think the drawings are right good and well worth seeing.



*The Hill, Hawes*

Stuart Armstrong, Gayle



*Hell Gill*

### Affordable Warmth and Renewable Energy Conference

Wensley Village Hall,  
Friday March 23rd, from 9.30am

Tackling fuel poverty  
Air sourced affordable warmth  
Free energy advice.

For further inquiries:  
Kathryn Chapman, 0845 313 0270 ext 247

### Business in the Dales Conference

Readers may have noticed recently a strong drive to increase business growth in the dales. The Forum of Business Associations in Richmondshire, chaired by Colin Bailey, has been fortunate to secure funding for a series of initiatives.

The latest is the launch of a new dynamic approach to business growth in the district at a conference in Middleham Key Centre on Wednesday, 21st March, from 11.00am till 4.00pm, with a keynote speaker and taster workshops on offer. This is an opportunity to find out more about new initiatives, partnership networking and a new online business directory. A free website [www.inthedaes.co.uk/](http://www.inthedaes.co.uk/) provides invaluable help for businesses and gives further details of the conference at Middleham

### The Singing Farmers Concert Tour 2012

Market Hall, Hawes  
Friday 23rd March at 7.20pm

In aid of RABI (Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution)

Tickets £12 from:  
Singing Farmers Tickets  
2 Elmete Croft, Scholes, Leeds  
LS15 4BE



## **Amala Children's Home DEVASTATION**

Many readers will have heard of the terrible cyclones that have caused thousands of pounds of damage and destruction to the school and homes at Amala and a special appeal has been launched.

The Newsletter has been able to respond and we urge readers to do what they can. Here are a couple of pictures from the website.

Donations should be sent to:

Amala Children's Home,  
c/o Louise Porter, 34, Richmond Road,  
Brompton on Swale DL10 7EH



## **Rae Meets the Queen**

Rae Lonsdale, who will be well-known to many, especially National Park volunteers and their families, has been awarded the MBE for his voluntary service in North Yorkshire.

Rae began volunteering for the National Park Authority in 1967, before taking a paid Ranger post with Lancashire County Council in 1973, then moving to the Dales in 1975. A succession of jobs with the National Park Authority followed, concluding with the role of Volunteers Co-ordinator from 1999 until early retirement, last year.

He has been a long-standing volunteer with the Cave Rescue Organisation based at Clapham and has had a number of key roles with it. In addition, he was on the Yorkshire Dales Duke of Edinburgh's Award Panel from 1976 to 1979 and qualified as an Accredited Assessor in 1996.

Rae has also raised the profile of the John Muir Trust and its Award in the Yorkshire Dales and has been instrumental in running the Award with the YDNPA's ranger service in conjunction with local schools and has linked this to a Duke of Edinburgh Conservation Residential that is run for a week every August.

### **Advertising**

**Boxed adverts: £5, £10, £15**

There is a one-third reduction for six issues or more, so for twelve issues the totals are:

**£40, £80 or £120**

**Greetings etc. £2.00**

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

### **Contacts:**

For Hawes area and westward:  
**Barry Cruickshanks, Ashfield,  
Hardraw: 667458**

For elsewhere: **Sue Duffield,  
Fellside,**