

THE UPPER WENSLEYDALE NEWSLETTER

Issue 270

November 2020

Donation please:
50p suggested



Stacey Moore

Covering Upper Wensleydale from Wensley to Garsdale Head plus Walden
and Bishopdale,
Swaledale from Keld to Gunnerside plus Cowgill in Upper Dentdale.

Guest Editorial

Many of us and our children and grandchildren will have been brought up with Beatrix Potter's 'Peter Rabbit' and his escapades. What an exciting life. However, we all know the horrors that have come largely to our wild rabbits these days. Wild rabbits were first introduced into the U.K. in the 12th century and their meat was regarded as a popular delicacy and their fur was much in demand. This has been the case over the centuries.

In 1788 and onwards European rabbits were taken to Australia by English settlers and the rabbits quickly bred. By 1937 the Australians realized that they needed a virus that would kill the rabbits. They joined with the French and Chileans and the Myxoma virus was created in the early 1950s. The disease host was the Tapeti also known as the Brazilian or Forest cottontail in South and Central Americas. In North America they are called 'Brush Rabbits'. The rabbits' fur is usually yellowish brown with a pale coloured underside. These animals only had a mild disease from the virus. The virus is part of the poxvirus and is now known as Myxomatosis. The rabbits get the virus by close contact with other rabbits and fleas and mosquitoes. Nowadays, some of the rabbits have a resistance to the virus but for many there is no cure. The fatal disease attacks the rabbits and it takes about ten to twelve days before the rabbit dies. During that time, they suffer from the virus by losing their sight, the loss of movement and other cruel side effects.

In 1956 a breakout of the disease entered the U.K. and throughout the country millions of rabbits died. Many of us may remember in those days when the huge lime pits were dug so that thousands of rabbits could be buried. It was a horrid sight. Many farmers and foresters welcomed the disease because large parts of the country were being overridden with the rabbits and their warrens which created large amounts of damage to the fields.

Unfortunately, the disease continues to rage. A warren is a prize place for the virus to attack the rabbits and when that is decimated another nearby warren is attacked. The virus is still with us and often we can see the diseased rabbits in the fields and along the tracks. If we see a creature in this state, it seems only kind to take a stone and quickly kill the rabbit behind his neck.

We do have a more positive tale about rabbits

in Wensleydale. On the road between Askrigg and Carperby at Ballowfield existed a managed rabbit warren that was set up by the Metcalfe's of Woodhall in about 1700. It is probable that the rabbits originally came from a warren in Ireland and then some were sent to Lincolnshire and finally to Ballowfield. The rabbits were beautifully black when born but when matured they had black underneath with some white hairs and this turned the fur into silver-grey, particularly in the sunshine. King Edward VII sent the Tsar of Russia a coat which was Ballowfield rabbit fur lined. Later, in 1900 the Tsarina ordered a cloak for herself when she was staying in Harrogate.

When World War Two broke out, local men were called up and over time the warren degraded, and the rabbits spread away. In the 1970s there were many wild black rabbits around the area and over the last few years you can sometimes see a black rabbit in the fields north of Askrigg.

Christine Hallas

Bainbridge Vets News

Tupping time is here again. This is an important time for flocks. Tup MOTs to check that all is in order with them are essential. As well as offering full MOTs we also offer high quality fertility testing by experienced vets to get you the best advice as to how to manage your flock at this important time. For more information please call **01969 650263**.

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Churches Together Toy Service

In this most difficult of years, Churches Together are still committed to the annual Toy Service. It will be led by Rev. David Clark at **10.30am on Sunday, December 6th** at St Margaret's Church, Hawes. Donations of new toys will be gratefully received and distributed by The Salvation Army to help to make the Christmas of children who might not otherwise receive a present. Please leave the toys unwrapped so the distributors can choose the appropriate age and sex of the children to receive them, but you may wish to donate wrapping paper with the toys. If you feel able to donate but unable to attend the service, the church will be open **from 10.00am** on that day to accept donations.



Eunice the Ewe

Last month I was hiding under the hammer in the M Fothergill Building Services advert (on page 33) and the lucky winner of the £10 prize is Tommy Scarr of Askrigg.

Where am I this month? To enter for the £10 prize, please include your postal address if replying by email.

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**DEADLINE FOR COPY FOR THE
NEXT ISSUE IS**

**TUESDAY NOVEMBER 17th
(Unless we are full earlier)**

PUBLISHED ON NOVEMBER 27th

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November Competition

Thinking of a staycation break. Here are a few places around the coast of England and Wales.

1. In Cornwall (or Cambridgeshire) "As I was going..."
2. A Royal was less than polite to it.
3. Was it popular in the tram age?
4. ..Is so bracing (Railway poster)
5. It has England's highest dunes and red squirrels nearby
6. I'm in lovely Thames-side villas
7. It's between a Little and a Great
8. Ban gob!
9. One of several not-so-old landings
10. Brim of lace
11. Sounds like it's played on a table
12. How old's the pen?
13. Occidentally garden tool?
14. Marine dwellings.

Send your answers to arrive no later than **Tuesday, November 17th** for a chance to win the £20 prize which will be sent to your nominated charity.

Gayle Mill Trust Christmas Fayre

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the Trustees of Gayle Mill Trust have had to take the decision to CANCEL their Christmas Fayre planned for **Saturday, 21st November**. The safety of all our customers and volunteers is paramount to us and with the rule of six we cannot now hold this event. We appreciate that we have a loyal following of customers who may wish to purchase Christmas gifts from us and we will make arrangements to open our Craft Studio by appointment. Social distancing must be observed, along with the wearing of face masks (unless you can show that you are exempt) and no more than two customers in our shop at any one time. We feel that this is probably the safest way we can operate now. We look forward to welcoming you for your Christmas shopping, as we aim to keep everyone as safe as possible. Thank you for your understanding and continued support. Please call **01969 667320** to book your shopping time with us.

October Competition Answers

- 1) Dogleg
- 2) Pleasant
- 3) Scowl or Scowl
- 4) Horseradish
- 5) Goosestep
- 6) Sheepish
- 7) Dovetail
- 8) Commandeer
- 9) Delicatessen
- 10) Beefeater
- 11) Amulet
- 12) Scarecrow
- 13) Foxtrot
- 14) Harem
- 15) Sphagnum
- 16) Emulsion
- 17) Guacamole
- 18) Blackbeard
- 19) Battalion or Battalion
- 20) Kayak

Several correct answers this month and the lucky name drawn out of the hat was Laura Gavin of Carperby who nominated the British Legion Poppy Appeal as her charity. They will receive the £20 prize.

Drop-off points and contacts

For news, articles, reports, letters, What's On dates, competition entries, suggestions and comments:- All 01969 numbers.

Hawes:	Community Office	667400
Gayle:	Sarah Champion 23, Little Ings	667006
Bainbridge:	Sylvia Crookes, 3, Bainside	650525
Askrigg:	Rima Berry, 8 Mill Lane	650980
Carperby:	New contact needed	
West Burton:	Nadine Bell, Margarets Cottage	663559
Aysgarth:	Hamilton's Tearoom	663423
Redmire:	Kevin Davis Westholme	624165
Thoralby:	Sandra Foley, Shop	663205
West Witton	Christine Barker, Chestnut Garth	624934



THE WENSLEYDALE SCHOOL
& SIXTH FORM
LEYBURN

Supporting the needs of our community in Post 16 - being different!

Those of you with children who have been through secondary school will be aware of some of the choices that students have when they finish their GCSEs. Depending on their grades and career aspirations, students will mostly go to sixth form college to study academic A levels or vocational BTEC's. Some will then go onto university, others will start in work often in an apprenticeship scheme. Up until now, most of these sixth form options are very similar. You pick a combination of courses that appeal to you and then do them for two years, but here at The Wensleydale School and Sixth Form we are doing something new and exciting - something different.

Funding for sixth form students has changed considerably over the years and for small, rural community schools like ours it is not economically viable to offer a wide range of A levels and BTEC courses as we have done in the past. This is why after GCSE exams most of our students go to Darlington College for vocational courses, QE Sixth Form for A levels or Askham Bryan in York for agricultural courses. These centres have the economies of scale to offer a wide variety of courses, although even they have had to reduce the number of courses on offer over the past few years.

So what are we doing differently? We have noticed over the last few years that after going all the way to Darlington for a couple of years students return back home and work for local businesses or help set up new businesses that help our local economy. Well now, the sixth form at The Wensleydale School is designed for those students who want to work after sixth form, who want to know how to run their own business and don't want to waste two years studying subjects that are not relevant to what they actually want to do.

Our core offering is for sixth form students to take a BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Business and at the same time be paired up with a local business mentor. Working closely with the Lower Wensleydale Business Partnership,

the mentors work with their students to develop their skills in the real world, not just in business theory, but in real life. Students are based in our sixth form centre using the latest Apple MacBook computers but are also going out with businesses and working with them to develop their business knowledge. To supplement that knowledge, students take optional A level and Cambridge Technical subjects in Information Technology, Psychology, Sociology and Mathematical Studies. These subjects complement their business knowledge and help them understand personal finance, be able to estimate and inform business planning, to understand what makes people tick, to know how to use IT to help them be more effective personally and commercially. These are complementary subjects to the core learning and will help our students become successful in business or empower them to start their own business. Which in turn is great for our local economy. And of course, if students want to they can also continue their learning at university or beyond.

And from next September, we are going to be offering courses in football coaching and in agriculture. Students will be teamed up with business mentors from football and from farming to make the learning experience relevant. We will make our young people business ready!

With the current pandemic, we are learning a new normal. The Wensleydale School is offering a different and relevant route to post 16 education that will support our young people. If you want to find out more we are holding a Virtual Post 16 Open Evening on **Thursday, November 12th at 6.00pm**. Details of which will be published on our website, facebook and twitter pages.

Times have changed, time to be different!

Julia Polley, Headteacher

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Aysgarth Cemetery (Lower)

The new lower Cemetery at Aysgarth, accessed through the churchyard of St Andrew's Church, is owned and maintained by a Management Committee, made up of volunteers from the three parishes served by the Cemetery (Aysgarth and District, Carperby-cum-Thoresby and Burton-cum-Walden).

Since its creation, the Management Committee have been responsible for maintaining the Cemetery and the Garden of Rest and ensuring that it is safe and in good order. Recently, it has come to light that no levelling of graves has been undertaken since the Cemetery came into use and this is now resulting in some very uneven ground to cross, and of course, it also makes cutting the grass extremely difficult and time-consuming.

As a consequence, members of the Management Committee have been attempting to find a local contractor who is able to undertake the task of levelling all the existing graves, in an appropriate and sensitive manner, to ensure that those who visit can walk safely around without risk of injury. Unfortunately, to date, it has proved extremely difficult to find anyone prepared to take on such a task and therefore the Committee would like to appeal to the local communities for assistance.

It is obviously a significant task to level all of the current graves, but once it has been done, the work to ensure that future graves are levelled will be a much easier one and can be done on an ongoing basis without so much effort. It would not be necessary to level all the existing graves at once, but over a period of time, to fit around other obligations, weather etc.

If there is anyone in the local community who would be willing to take on this task, preferably on a contracted basis with all necessary insurances in place, then please contact the Clerk to the JMC, **Karen Prudden, on 01969 650706.**

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DEFRA's Farm Productivity Grant Scheme Now Open

The Farmer Network is warning farmers they have until noon on **November 4th** to apply to the third round of Defra's Countryside Productivity Small Grant scheme.

The Scheme re-opened on October 7th with grants for farm equipment related to technical efficiency, animal health and welfare, resource efficiency and nutrient management. The grant is 40% of standard costs, with a minimum grant of £3,000 and maximum of £12,000.

Farmer Network grant specialist, Veronica Waller, said: "Many farmers have been enquiring about when this grant scheme might open again. Although we were expecting it to re-open this autumn, the announcement on October 7th was a surprise and there is only a four-week application period. It is a relatively easy on-line application process without the need to obtain quotes, but farmers should make sure the equipment purchased meets the specification and must carefully check the evidence they need before claiming the grant.

Farmers who received grants from the previous two rounds of the scheme will be limited to an overall maximum grant of £12,000."

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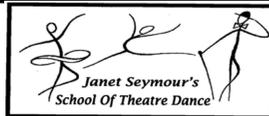


Bainbridge Help Requested

In the mid 1850s, an ancestor of mine called Eliza Blades ran a dame school in Bainbridge. It is now Old Dame School holiday cottage and is straight ahead just before the bend going over the river. It has a lovely mail box on the front with Old Dame School and Eliza's name and this was put up by a Miss Westby Nunn a former occupant who traced the history of the cottage in the 1990s. I am wondering if Miss Westby Nunn is still alive, or if anyone knows what happened to the history she traced. Perhaps the current owners have information from their deeds? I do hope someone can help.

Frances Wilson

richard.wilson123@btinternet.com



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Youth Club Update

At the beginning of lockdown we tried to do some virtual youth clubs but had little success. With an easing of restrictions Stella

and Matt are out and about on a **Wednesday evening 6.00pm** onwards weather permitting, they will set off from the market hall and make their way to the community field where they will do some activities. If you just need a chat they can do that observing social distancing and not meeting more than 15 young people, (youth provision is recognised as an essential service and does not need to adhere to the rule of six).

As the weather is colder and the nights are dark, Stella will host virtual youth clubs via zoom with lots of ideas and activities, bingo, play your cards right, countdown, doodle art, quizzes she might even include some prizes. North Yorkshire Youth will also be running competitions and sending out activity packs to Stella for young people to do. Look out on the Hawes youth club Facebook page and Instagram for updates on what is happening.

If you need further information of virtual youth clubs, competitions and activities contact edwina@nyy.org.uk.

Edwina Anderson

Hawes School News

Lots of things have been happening in school, as you would expect.

Class 1 have been very busy writing their sentences and practising their handwriting and number formation. They have also been creating a variety of autumn pictures.

Class 2 have been learning about the digestive system in science as well as doing yoga with Miss Thistlethwaite.

Class 3 have been reading their class novel which is set in Victorian Times. They have also started to do the DAILY MILE – (Although we are only doing it 2-3 times a week). We are running around the playground for 10mins in addition to our PE time. Children can bring in their trainers on Mondays and Thursdays and change into them if they wish. <https://thedailymile.co.uk/steps-to-success/>

Swimming Lessons for Years 5 and 6

After looking into the possibility of taking Years 5 and 6 for their swimming lessons, we are pleased to say that we have booked Catterick Pool for seven weeks starting Wednesday, November 4th to Wednesday, December 16th and will then be reviewed to see if there is a possibility of having three more weeks in the spring term.

Thank You

We are very grateful to Alan McDonald, from Askrigg, who very kindly donated his Dell pc and large monitor to school.

Achievements

Craig Iveson Awards were awarded to the following pupils for the most progress across their learning during the last school year

Class 1 – Patrick Keiley

Class 2 – Bailey Huntbach

Class 3 – Bailey Fawcett

Headteacher Award

This was awarded to Lewis Alderson for his overall progress throughout the last school year.

Due to Covid -19 the trophies and shield were not given to the children at the end of the summer term, so the trophies and shield were presented to the children this week.

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Police Report

Only a few incidences of note this past month. Overnight on September 29th and again on October 12th, Leyburn Recycling Centre was broken into and a number of car batteries were taken.

On The Springs in Middleham, at around midnight on September 30th, a car was deliberately set alight as the target of a confirmed arson attack. Anyone with any information regarding this, please call '101' quoting ref 12200171625.

Around 8.00pm on October 6th in Park Lane, Middleham, a group of children/young teenagers threw substantial amounts of sodden paper at the windows of properties and vehicles. We have also heard similar reports of anti-social behaviour in Hawes in recent weeks. Incidences like this will not be tolerated - it may be seen as 'low level' and a 'bit of a laugh' to

some but sustained anti-social behaviour can have serious effects on those targeted, especially the vulnerable and elderly. This is particularly worth bearing in mind as Halloween and Mischief Night approaches! With regard to the above, please call '101' as incidents are happening or as soon as you are able.

As we go into autumn, we will be resuming Operation Byway patrols, in conjunction with the Yorkshire Dales National Park Rangers, where we will be stop-checking off-road vehicles to ensure they are roadworthy and being used in a considerate manner.

Not surprisingly, all public firework displays and community bonfires have now been cancelled. This may mean that this year you are considering having your own event at home, so it is worth reminding yourself of safety guidelines and the Firework Code beforehand. With regards to Trick or Treating this year, Covid restrictions would suggest that going to multiple houses door to door really is not a good idea. Whilst there is no official guidance on Halloween from the Government as yet (this may change!), it would surely be sensible to not partake in any activity which encourages additional interaction and increases the risk of infection within our community. There is also the issue of going onto properties where many vulnerable people are still shielding.

We have seen a significant increase in poaching incidences being reported to us over the past few weeks including severe damage to crops, fences and gates. Please remain vigilant and continue to report in any suspect vehicles or behaviour on '101'.

**PCSO 3744 Lucy Osborn,
Leyburn and the Dales
Safer Neighbourhood Team,
North Yorkshire Police**



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Notes from Thorney Mire

Autumn

On Bank Holiday Monday, five baby hedgehogs found their way around to our house. I have since read that if the mother has been killed then the babies will leave the nest to look for her. Was this what was happening? We found the first one outside the back gate. At first we thought it was dead, but it was still breathing. Within half an hour, two more baby hedgehogs had appeared in our front garden, they too were curled up as though they were going to sleep. Were they sick, were they sleeping, or had the exceptionally cold weather we had just experienced a few days earlier, confused them into thinking winter was coming?

I decided to do some research on the internet. It said that hedgehogs do not go to sleep unless they are in a nest and if you see one curled up on your lawn in the day time, then it was sick. I then tried to find out if I could help them. The information suggested that the hedgehogs should be kept warm, put in a box with newspaper or straw, given clean water and meaty cat or dog food, but on no account should you attempt to feed them yourself. A box was found, lined with straw, water and food was provided and it was put under the staging in the greenhouse where it was warm but out of direct sunlight. One hedgehog did eat a small amount of food, otherwise there was little movement from the other two.

In the afternoon, a fourth baby hedgehog appeared outside our back gate. Fortunately the car coming down the lane saw it in time and was able to slow down and give the hedgehog time to reach the verge. The driver was fascinated by it, pointing it out to his children in the back seat. He said to me, "You don't see them very often these days." I was thinking, "No, they're like Corporation buses, you don't see one for a while, then four come at once!" This hedgehog didn't look too well so that one also went in the box. Shortly afterwards a fifth hedgehog came walking round the corner towards the back gate. This one seemed quite lively so we took it off the road and put it in the field for its own safety as our lane was busier than usual. A few minutes later it was back on the road.

You can't reason with a hedgehog so we took it further into the field, hoping it would take the hint, but no, back it came again, along the garden path, watched us weeding until it got

bored with that and fell asleep. Was that one sick as well? That night five hedgehogs curled up together, doesn't sound very comfortable, in a box in the greenhouse. I went to bed with fingers crossed.

The following morning, the food and water had not been touched. One hedgehog was barely breathing. The second one, every time it tried to walk it fell over, the third couldn't walk very well and dragged its back legs. More research on the internet. There is something called "hedgehog wobble" which is a neurological condition something akin to ME in humans which affects hedgehogs causing them to fall over and drag their legs. There is no cure and it can be painful for them. The fourth hedgehog was lively and was trying to escape, so that one was put into the field inside a netted enclosure where it couldn't escape onto the road and would be released into the field in the evening. The fifth was showing some signs of life so that too went into the enclosure.

During the day, sadly all three hedgehogs in the box died. The two showing more signs of life were released into the field for the night, but in the morning they had not moved from where we had left them and later in the day they too had died. If you think this can't get any worse, a walk along our lane revealed three adult hedgehogs which had met with fatal accidents, so it seems possible that one of these was the mother of the babies. Since people have got Sat. Nav. they come along our single track lane instead of using the main road, so, to whom it may concern, if you must take a short cut, then please spare a thought for the wildlife, especially hedgehogs and red squirrels, both of which are endangered species.

Mike and Hilary Reeves

at the Old Grammar School are moving north on **October 29th.**

If we've missed seeing you to say farewell we are really sorry. We've enjoyed Hawes, and more especially we've enjoyed you our friends.

Our best wishes to you all.

**Mike 07525 121850 & Hilary
07855 735082**

On a happier note, four weeks later in the front garden I heard a rustling where the house meets the garden wall. Mouse or bird? Then a paw appeared, it was trying to grab some leaves and pull them into the corner as if nest building. Then the front half of an adult hedgehog appeared, so there is hope, maybe this one will hibernate by the house and survive the winter.

In previous years I have counted twenty to thirty swallows sitting on the wires ready to migrate, but this year there were only three. There are flocks of goldfinches, but the numbers are a lot smaller than last year. A grey wagtail and a treecreeper have put in an appearance. Two magpies hung around for a day and then disappeared. I saw two herons flying together locally, usually I've only seen a solitary bird.

I remember being surprised when I found out that herons nested in trees, they seem to be the wrong shape, whereas their cousins, the storks look at home nesting on tall buildings. In Tunisia, on top of every other electricity pole, there is a purpose built platform for storks to build their nests. As you are travelling along, there is a straight line of nesting storks and you find yourself checking these poles to see which has a nest on top and which nest has little heads pointing upwards waiting to be fed. As fascinating as this is to observe, you don't want to hang around too long, as we all know what storks deliver.

Sylvia Turner

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Silent Art Auction in Askrigg

The art auction organised by Piers Browne, in aid of St Oswald's Tower appeal, was postponed back in April due to the virus but we are pleased to announce that the auction will now go ahead in December in a new 'covid safe' format.

The 'Silent Auction' will take place as an exhibition in Askrigg Village Hall over 3 days from **December 10th to 12th** where people can view the 50+ paintings that have been donated from a wide range of artists including Norman Ackroyd RA, Diana Armfield RA, Andrea Hunter and Piers Browne. People will be able to leave sealed (silent) bids at the exhibition and the highest bidder will be contacted by **7.00pm** on the evening of **December 12th**.

The paintings can be viewed in advance of the exhibition on the church website <http://upperwensleydalechurch.org/silent-art-auction> (reserve prices are listed where applicable). From the website you can also download a full catalogue and read more about the artists.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions entrance to the exhibition will be by appointment only as we will be restricted to limited numbers in the hall at any one time. You can book a time slot by contacting Piers Browne piersbrowne@gmail.com or ring on **01969 650434 or 07876 233310**.

Exhibition opening times are:

Thursday, Dec 10th 10.00am-2.00pm and 3.00pm-7.00pm
Friday, Dec 11th 10.00am-2.00pm and 3.00pm-7.00pm
Saturday, Dec 12th 10.00am-2.00pm and 3.00pm-6.00pm

Those unable to attend the exhibition we hope will view the online catalogue and email/telephone us with bids. We hope you will be able to support the auction and help us raise much needed funds for the Tower Appeal.

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Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

As you may already have heard, the Covid-19 pandemic has had an impact on this year's Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal which is going to mean that it will look very different this year.

In order to protect volunteers, who usually undertake door-to-door and street collections, the decision has been taken by the RBL to cancel this year's door-to-door collections. As a consequence, poppies will only be available from the major corporate supporters of the Appeal (eg, Sainsbury's, Tesco, Aldi, Lidl etc) but it is possible to site boxes of poppies and collecting tins in local businesses.

We therefore hope that those local businesses who usually allow us to place poppies on their premises will allow us to do so again this year and we very much hope that you will go along to get your poppy and make your donation as you normally would.

I would like to thank all the willing volunteers who come forward every year to go out in all weathers on their door-to-door collection. You can all have a rest this year, but I very much hope you will still come out again next year to support us. Thank you for all your efforts.

Clearly, this decision is going to hugely impact the level of donations made to the Royal British Legion, who do such a fantastic job for our veterans and their families. Please buy a poppy this year to support this worthy cause and give as much as you can afford to allow the vital work of the RBL to continue.

Thank you.

Karen Prudden

Poppy Appeal Organiser

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Pharmacy News

I have tried to put in this article the importance of having a flu jab and some frequently asked questions. Hope you will find it useful.

Why is getting a flu jab more important this year?

Flu can be serious, and each year causes thousands of people to go to hospital and hundreds of deaths. If you have a heart or circulatory condition, or if you're older, you're more at risk of becoming seriously ill from flu, even if you currently feel well. If you have already had a heart attack, getting flu puts you at greater risk of having another heart attack.

With coronavirus still circulating, it's vital to get the flu jab to reduce your risk of getting both illnesses at once, which could make you even more unwell. Getting the flu jab is also one of the best things you can do to help the NHS – because more people getting the jab means fewer people who will need treatment for flu at a time when hospitals could struggle if coronavirus cases rise again. In every UK nation the flu programme has been expanded this year, to offer free flu jabs for more people.

Who should have a flu jab?

Although there are some differences around the UK, wherever you are in the UK you'll be eligible if you are any of the following:

- * over 65
- * have a long-term condition (such as heart disease, respiratory disease, liver or kidney disease), or a weakened immune system
- * pregnant
- * on the shielded patient list (you don't have to still be shielding), and members of their household
- * children aged over two and up to the end of primary school
- * a frontline health or social care worker, or an unpaid carer

If I get the flu jab, does that mean I won't get flu?

No vaccine is 100 per cent effective, but people who have had the flu jab are less likely to get flu. If you do get flu despite having the jab, it will probably be milder than if you haven't been vaccinated. The vaccine doesn't protect against coronavirus, but it's still important to get it.

When's the best time to get the flu jab?

It's best to get vaccinated as soon as you are offered the vaccine, so that you are protected as early as possible.

Will the flu vaccine interact with a future coronavirus vaccine - should I be worried about getting the flu jab?

Currently, we don't know when any future Covid-19 vaccine will be available. Several different vaccines are being developed, which work in different ways, so we can't say for sure whether there will be any interaction. What we do know is that the flu jab is available, that it helps to protect against flu, and that flu is especially dangerous for people with heart and circulatory conditions.

So please don't avoid the flu vaccine because of a possible small risk (which may not even prove to be a risk) of an interaction with a vaccine that isn't available yet.

Can I get flu from the flu jab?

No. There are no live viruses in the vaccine, so it can't cause flu.

How do I go about getting it?

Your GP surgery will be able to tell you. There may be flu-jab clinics with appointment slots at some GP practices or your practice might ask you to make a private appointment. NHS flu vaccinations are also available from some community pharmacies (for adults only). Don't wait for your GP to contact you to arrange an appointment – there are so many people who need flu jabs, it's best to be proactive.

Sachin Tammewar

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As pressure grows to protect our planet, reducing the impact of cars and improving public transport comes all the more to the fore. The Upper Wensleydale Railway project may seem to some like blue sky thinking or a pipe dream, but there are community-led projects bringing former railway lines back into use all over the country. The Department of Transport's "Ideas Fund" has been created for this purpose. Whilst we are still awaiting the outcome of our bid for funding towards a feasibility study for the reinstatement of the six mile single track line between Hawes and Garsdale, we have heard encouraging news from Ribbles Valley. Their project has been granted funding towards these costs. We hope that soon we will be in a similar position, and the railway link could one day become a reality – benefitting future generations.

Such a development would help to support the economy of Hawes, bringing in new visitors to enjoy all that the area has to offer and in doing so boosting income for local business. Please spread the word and share the dream of all that might be possible. We hope to bring you positive news soon! For up to date information you can visit our website at www.upperwensleydalerrailway.org.uk You can also contact UWR c/o The Community Office, The Neukin, Hawes DL8 3RA.

Josie O'Dowd

Hawes Sunflower Competition

Do you remember the spring? There was so much fun and partying in the pubs and coffee shops, oh and let's not forget walks in the hills and holidays. No wait, that was how it should have been, but on the 16th of March the whole of the country went into lockdown and so did everyone's spirits and mental health. Undefeated, the good people of the Holme (Hawes) would not be deflated. They decided to hold a sunflower growing competition. The bright sunflowers would represent the bright, radiant and smiling faces of the community in the Holme.

Some twenty-eight pots were distributed, each containing two American giant sunflower seeds and a note suggesting "Cheat as much as you can." There were many successes but some plants perished along the way causing great dismay to the growers (You know who you are!!).



Now finally, however, we have 3 winners. In first place, Ian and Janet Woolley at 239cm. 2nd place was Barry and Marilyn Cruickshanks at 221cm. In 3rd place Rachel Ellis at 220cm. It is also worth mentioning Ed and Margaret Ward at 213cm in 4th place. Watch this space for 2021's home grower's competition.

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Wensleydale Fundraising Group

Christmas Wreaths - For several years Wensleydale Marie Curie Fundraising Group has sold hand-made Christmas wreaths at an annual coffee morning in Leyburn's Methodist Church Hall. Sadly, it's unlikely that this will take place this year, so the group is doing all it can to raise much needed funds for Marie Curie. Marie Curie nurses visit homes throughout Wensleydale, up to Hawes and across the Dales' communities.

The cost of a simple wreath is £10.50 and for a decorated wreath it is £14.00. The wreaths must be paid for in advance by cash, or cheque payable to Curie. To place an order, please call **01969 623813** or **623533**, or e-mail:- wensleydale.mariecurie@gmail.com by **November 27th**.

The wreaths will be available for collection from 5 Cliff Drive, Leyburn DL8 5EX on **Friday, December 4th from 10.30am – 3.00pm**. Marie Curie Christmas cards will also be on sale. Approximately 40% of the price will go to the local Marie Curie Nursing Service.



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Mystery Picture

Last month's Mystery Picture is of the entrance to a barn at Newbiggin near Askrigg. Where can you find this group of toadstools, part of a large 'fairy ring'?



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Well what a year we have had so far in 2020. We are really pleased to inform the families of the dales that we are back open and running a tight ship to ensure all the children are cared for in the safest environment possible. We have worked really hard to ensure children are kept in small bubbles and still have a stimulating environment to play and learn in, whilst keeping in line with the government guidance.

We have had to alter our booking system in order to keep children mixing with the same groups of children. This means that we now have fixed bookings which will be the same each week and they can be changed termly rather than monthly. You still won't be charged for days you don't need them in as long as we have 30 days notice, or you have added them onto the termly booking form. If you need care for your child please do get in touch and we can arrange to show you around one evening when there are no other children in the setting.

Children learn lots from playing alongside peers and it is really good to build up their confidence and social skills. We care from 3 months up to 12 years. We also offer the 2, 3 and 4 year old funded provision and we are now taking bookings for the new year.

At Dalesplay the children have all come back full of smiles and had fantastic stories to share with us from their time at home. Despite not being able to offer the staggered settling-in

sessions, they have all settled in really well and have enjoyed the autumn activities we have had to offer. Children have been doing yoga, exploring different sounds in the environment, cooked up some delicious dishes and much more. Take a look at our Facebook page to see what we have been up to!

With children spending more time at home over the past months and services being limited, Dalesplay's training provider has kindly offered all our parents at Dalesplay a free Paediatric First-aid online learning course. This is a really useful course for everyone and we highly recommend that everyone gains some basic first aid training as it may save a life.

Although we won't be holding the annual Halloween walk, we are inviting everyone to decorate a window of your home so that families can have a walk around the town or where you live, and enjoy seeing your wonderful creations. Parents could give their child a little treat to enjoy as they walk along and spot the different creations. You don't need a lot; string will easily make a cobweb and you could cut some spiders or pumpkins out of a cereal box and colour them in. Let's keep the fun going despite these uncertain times. We are also raffling off a little treat hamper. Numbers are £2 each and the money raised will help replenish resources at Dalesplay. Money can be dropped in a named envelope or you can pay by BACS to purchase a number. Just let us know via email dalesplay1@btconnect.com and we can send our bank details to you.

Take care everyone.

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Editor's Note: This is the first of what we hope will be a regular contribution of recipes to the Newsletter from Elizabeth Fawcett of Humble Pie, Hawes.



Autumn is such a beautiful time of year and food moves into that comforting one-pot casseroles and hearty soup style.

A cassoulet is virtually a complete meal (perhaps add some fresh green veg) and is deliciously tasty yet undemanding. For variety, try substituting some of the pork with some chicken (preferably leg/thigh meat).

Pork Cassoulet

Serves 4

600g diced pork (or mixed pork and chicken thighs) Depends how hungry you are!

1 onion, diced

2 cloves of garlic, finely diced or grated

1 yellow pepper, sliced

400g tin of chopped tomatoes

1 packet of passata

100g chorizo sausage, sliced

1 chicken or vegetarian stock cube dissolved in a little boiling water.

400g tin of haricot or cannellini beans

Fresh herbs if you have them (thyme, rosemary, parsley) or dried mixed herbs

Black pepper

For the top:

4 slices of white bread, made into crumbs

25g butter

60g mature cheddar cheese

A few sprigs of thyme and parsley

Black pepper

Pre-heat the oven to 150C. In a casserole dish, fry off the onions in a little olive oil until softened. Add the meat and garlic and cook until the meat is opaque. Add the sliced peppers and fry for a few minutes until starting to soften. Add the tomatoes, passata, beans and herbs. Add the stock and a little water if needed to cover the meat. Bring to the boil. Put the lid on the pan and put in the oven for 1.5 hours until the meat is softened.

Whizz the bread, butter, cheese, herbs and black pepper in a blender until crumbs. Sprinkle on top of the casserole and return to the oven for around 20-30 minutes until golden brown and crispy.

Elizabeth Fawcett

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**NOVEMBER WHAT'S ON LISTING;
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- 4 Deadline for applications for Defra Grant. See p.7.
- 12 Wensleydale School Open Evening 6.00pm. See p.5
- 18 Erection of Hawes Christmas Lights. See p.39
- 23 Deadline for Area Partnership Funding Scheme Applications. See p.13.
- 27 Deadline for ordering Marie Curie Wreaths. See p.16

Dales Countryside Museum

Exhibition. View from the Fells, an exhibition of collagraphs by printmaker Hester Cox, is the culmination of a two-year project inspired by the life and work of Marie Hartley. The exhibition is now extended until **January 24th** To find out how to book your tickets visit www.dalescountrysidemuseum.org.uk.

Research Room Reopening

The research room has reopened between **10.00am and 4.00pm on Mondays and Wednesdays**. Our volunteers will be available to help you with your research, assist with queries and to monitor the research room. You will need to book a ticket in advance by calling the Museum on **01969 666210**. If possible, please could you let staff know your research subject at this point, together with any specific requests for material. This will help us to prepare in advance. We can only currently accommodate two people each morning or afternoon slot.

Story of School Projects

Dales Countryside Museum and The NASH are making a giant community photo mosaic celebrating youth and schools in the Upper Dales! If you went to school in the upper dales, we would love to see them. Drop-in sessions at the Museum will be on **Tuesday November 3rd and 10th, between 11.00am and 2.45pm**. There we can photograph any images for the project. Or upload your pictures at thepeoplespicture.com/storyofschools/.

Christmas Cards for Good Causes

We are selling Charity Christmas Cards in our shop. There are cards from a variety of different charities from Age UK to Stroke Association. At least 70p in every pound goes back to the charities.

John Blackie Memorial Stone

After John died in July last year, residents asked if there could be something permanent to remember him by. Two suggestions were most popular 1. That the Community Office be named after him. 2. That a Permanent memorial could be put in the town. The Parish Council wrote to Directors at the Community Office but to date have not had a decision. It was decided that a stone to acknowledge everything John had done for the Dales would be appropriate.

There followed a discussion at a Parish meeting and two locations were discussed. A) school green at Town Head and B) The triangle next to the shepherd at Town Foot. It was thought appropriate and only right that the Town should decide the location and detailed drawings were produced and placed on show in the Community Office along with the facility to vote. The result of the vote was A)105 and B) 28.

A visit to Calvert's Architectural Stone in Leyburn was arranged to find out the possible cost and they informed us that they would like to "gift" the stone to Hawes as an acknowledgement of all the work John had done in the Dales. A remarkably generous gesture



and a lovely tribute. The Newcastle Building Society has also generously given money so we can plant flowers at the base in recognition of John bringing banking back into Hawes.

Of course the pandemic then sadly stepped in. It was originally planned to invite all residents and various dignitaries to see it arrive but "the rule of six" meant it was sadly not possible as people's safety is paramount and we have to observe the law. Hopefully this can be done at some time in the future when the crisis is over.

As it was being put into place a resident walked past and said "how fitting- John was our rock."

Jill McMullon

Heavens Above

We've all heard of the Pole Star, or Polaris to use its proper name. It's the main star in Ursa Minor – the Little Bear - the sky's northernmost constellation. It's actually a triple system made up of a supergiant star - Polaris A - and two smaller companions that aren't visible to the naked eye. Polaris' main claim to fame is that it's the closest bright star to the North Celestial Pole. It's not exactly at the Pole but close enough for it to remain almost stationary throughout the year while all of the other stars in the northern sky appear to circle around it.

In the northern hemisphere Polaris has been used as a navigational aid for thousands of years. It never sets and always lies in the northern part of the sky so when you face towards it you instantly know which way is north. Stretch your arms out and your right hand points due east, and your left due west. Due south is obviously right behind you. Because Polaris always stays in the same spot in the sky at a particular location all year round, measuring its height above the horizon gives you your latitude. From our part of the world Polaris is roughly 54 degrees up so we're at latitude 54°N. As you travel northwards, however, Polaris climbs higher in the sky and by the time you reach the North Pole – 90°N - it lies directly overhead. At the Equator - Latitude 0° - it sits right on the northern horizon. Below the Equator of course, Polaris can't be seen at all.

Polaris is fairly easy to find at this time of the year. Look for the seven familiar stars of The Plough, low in the north at the moment, and then find the two stars furthest from its handle, Merak and Dubhe. They're often called the

Pointers as they always show the way to Polaris. Draw an imaginary line from Merak to Dubhe and follow this upwards about five times the distance between them and you'll arrive at Polaris. Its not particularly bright but stands out well in a pretty barren part of the sky.

Polaris hasn't always been the Pole Star as the position of the celestial poles change over many thousands of years due to the Earth's axis moving around a bit like a gyroscope. At the time they were building the pyramids for instance, it was a faint star called Thuban in the constellation of Draco the Dragon. In about 14,000 years time we'll have a really spectacular Pole Star – Vega, the brightest of the three Summer Triangle stars.

Next month on the night of **December 21st** we're treated to a spectacular planetary conjunction between Jupiter and Saturn. The two giant planets will be closer together than at any time since 1623 and with the naked eye will seem almost to merge together. So, here's hoping for clear skies!

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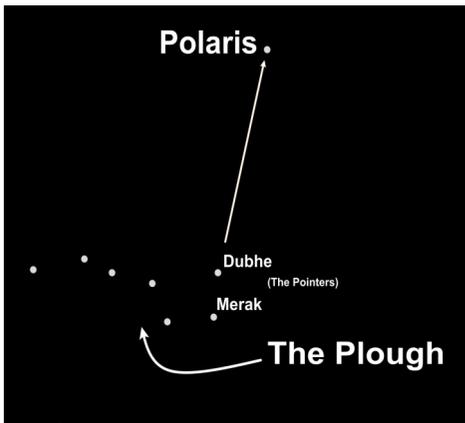
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The Trees of Redmire

October saw many visitors travelling through Redmire suddenly stopping and taking a photograph before continuing along the dale.

The feature that was causing this activity? The large tree putting on a fine display of autumnal colours on the top green in the village. It is a strong contender for being nominated the 'most photographed tree in Wensleydale'. In the past it has featured in publications such as postcards, greetings cards and calendars.



The tree in question has often been identified incorrectly. It is in fact a Cappadocian Maple which is native to areas of China and South-east Russia. Usually the last to bud and the first to drop its leaves out of all the trees in the village, the maple's glossy leaves which turn a rich yellow colour in autumn have been particularly striking this year.



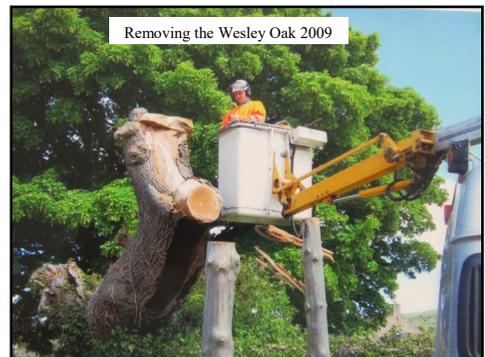
The tree was one of five trees planted in 'suitable positions' in the village on June 26th 1902 to mark the coronation of Edward VII. Unfortunately, the parish records do not note the chosen locations. The tree on the green closest

to the Bolton Arms is a sycamore which is probably also one of the five planted in 1902.

Close to the monument on the middle green is a very large dome shaped sycamore. This may have been planted to commemorate Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee on June 20th 1887 or possibly even earlier. However, it must have been planted after 1840 as an old smithy was located on the site up to that date.

Trees have always been a well-known feature of Redmire and old guide books refer to the 'Wesley Oak' located on the middle green. This 500 year old oak tree was a landmark and was said to have offered shade to John Wesley the founder of the Methodist Church, when he preached to the villagers in the 1700s.

Even by the end of the 18th century the ancient oak's branches were being supported by large wooden poles. By 2005 the oak tree's condition had deteriorated and it was thought it would be reduced to a 7 foot stump. However, after a tree expert was called in by the Woodland Trust and with a donation of £200 from Yorkshire Water, it was felt the tree could be preserved.



Unfortunately, its condition deteriorated still further and on May 11th 2009 the 'Wesley Oak' was cut down. However, offspring of the oak tree live on. In 2011 a sapling grown from an acorn from the original tree was sent to the church in Luss on the shore of Loch Lomond, which at the time was celebrating 1,500 years of Christianity. Another sapling was planted on Redmire village green close to the site of the original tree.

K.D.



Yorebridge Sport and Leisure Centre

New sessions available in Weight Management, Nordic walking, Parent and Buggy Walking.

Interested in a weight management session? We are looking to deliver a session to help you manage your weight and lifestyle. Get in touch via admin@yorebridge-sport.co.uk or **01969 650060**.

Walkercise sessions (Nordic walking). **Wednesdays 11.00am**, using our Activator Poles to engage your core ledge, build upper body strength and take the weight bearing load off your leg joints.

Parent and Buggy session. Get down to our outdoor tennis courts, get active and have social time with other parents. **Fridays 9.30am**. Toddler in tow? Plenty of space on our fenced tennis court.

There is no better time to join our gym - we have worked hard to be Covid-19 compliant. The equipment is spread across three rooms, with plenty of space for your exercise routine. Staying active and healthy is vital for good health, quality of life and building resistance to infections.

Our existing classes are:

Strong and Steady, falls prevention classes, working in partnership with North Yorkshire Sport and Age UK, are once more being delivered, **Mondays 11.00am**. Worried about falls or had a fall? Do you have a relative, neighbour or acquaintance who would benefit?



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Evening Circuit, a high intensity session to blast away the days worries **7.30pm**.

Get in touch either by phone **01969 650060**; by email at admin@yorebridge-sport.co.uk or take a look at our website www.yorebridgesportandleisure.co.uk or Facebook Wensleydale Sport and Leisure Centre. Instagram @yorecentre.

Gayle Public Seating

It has been reported that the large (seven foot) seat by the Gayle public telephone box at the bridge end is in a sorry state and having been asked to check I can report that indeed it is! It was originally presented to Gayle by the Gayle Ladies to commemorate their 50th anniversary in 2015.

In the past few years the Parish Council had asked me to deal with seating around Hawes as and when problems or requests arise. You may have noticed that there are now a fair number of extremely durable hardwood seats in various positions around the Town, not least the huge one on the School Green which has certainly had good use this year!

The cost of a replacement seat at Gayle in similar style and quality (heavy duty hardwood), but at a slightly larger size of 8 feet would be £550 including delivery and a 10 % discount. This would still fit the space well. If a brass plaque is required there would be an additional cost of approximately £40.

If any local organisation, or indeed if any family or group of friends would like to commemorate a loved one I would be very happy to arrange this together with a suitable plaque. In the first instance please give your contact details to the Hawes Community Office and I will be in touch.

Richard Noble



Artwork to Celebrate Dales Schools and Youth

Dales Countryside Museum and The NASH are making a giant community photo mosaic celebrating youth and schools in the Upper Dales.

Do you live in the Upper Dales? Did you go to school here? We'd love to see your pictures about what youth in the Dales means to you. Images can be vintage or modern and feature landscape and buildings as well as people, and artwork and drawings are great too. You can upload your images until November 15th. at thepeoplespicture.com/storyofschools/.

The mosaic will be created by digital artist Helen Marshall of The People's Picture whose most recent work was 'Rainbows for the NHS'. It will consist of over a thousand pictures of youth and school life in the Dales that will come together to create a whole new image. Hundreds of photos for the mosaic have already been submitted, but we hope that you - the Dales community - will bring forward many more. We'd love you to take part!

You can also drop-in your pictures at Dales Countryside Museum, Hawes, on **November 3rd and 10th between 11.00am and 2.45pm**. The Museum has social distancing regulations in place. Please come prepared with a face covering and a member of our team will take your details and a photograph of your image.

The photo mosaic is part of 'The Story of Schools in the Upper Dales' - an oral history and research project funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund and the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority's Sustainable Development Fund.

It will be displayed in a multi-media exhibition at the Dales Countryside Museum opening on **January 30th 2021**, including the big reveal of the mosaic alongside a short film, display boards, audio recordings and artefacts. The artwork will later feature in the Swaledale Festival.

Have You Been Here?

I have been in many places, but I've never been in Cahoots. Apparently, you can't go alone. You have to be in Cahoots with someone.

I've also never been in Cognito. I hear no one recognizes you there.

I have, however, been in Sane. They don't have an airport; you have to be driven there. I have made several trips, thanks to my friends, family and work. I live close so it's a short drive.

I would like to go to Conclusions, but you have to jump, and I'm not too much on physical activity anymore.

I have sometimes been in Audible, but you won't hear me talk much about that.

I have also been in Doubt. That is a sad place to go, and I try not to visit there too often.

I like to be in Active. I find it a very relaxing place to visit.

I've often been in Discreet. Boy I could tell you some tales of some of the things that happened there.

I've been in Flexible, but only when it was very important to stand firm.

Sometimes I'm in Capable, and I go there more often as I'm getting older.

One of my favourite hotels is in Habit. I would like to live there permanently.

One of my favourite places to be is in Suspense! It really gets the adrenalin flowing and pumps up the old heart! At my age I need all the stimuli I can get!

And, sometimes I think I am in Vincible but life shows me I am not.

People keep telling me I'm in Denial but I'm positive I've never been there before!

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'Wensleydale' Published as Audiobook

The classic 1936 book 'Wensleydale' by Ella Pontefract and Marie Hartley has been published as an audiobook – to coincide with a special exhibition at the Dales Countryside Museum in Hawes (DCM).

The exhibition, 'View from the fells – In the footsteps of Marie Hartley', features new work by Ribblesdale artist Hester Cox as well as re-prints of the exquisite woodblocks carved by Marie Hartley to illustrate her books.

The 'Wensleydale' audiobook is available for free listening or download on Soundcloud, with the woodblock images published alongside each of the 22 chapters.



Ella Pontefract and Marie Hartley in the Dales in the late 1930s

Ella Pontefract, from Huddersfield, and Marie Hartley, from Leeds, worked in partnership as author and artist in the 1930s and 1940s. Their collaboration resulted in six books. 'Wensleydale' was their second work, published by JM Dent and Sons in 1936, illustrated with wood engravings and photographs. JM

Dent and Sons reprinted it in a smaller format from 1942 and Smith Settle in paperback from 1988.

After Ella Pontefract died in 1945, Marie Hartley went on to write and illustrate many more books on the Yorkshire Dales with Joan Ingilby. Marie and Joan founded The Upper Dales Folk Museum in Hawes, which opened in 1979; it is now called the Dales Countryside Museum.

View from the Fells: In the footsteps of Marie Hartley has been given an extended run at the DCM until **January 24th 2021**. The exhibition is the culmination of a two year project during which artist and printmaker Hester Cox researched diaries, sketch books and routes taken by Marie Hartley when exploring the Dales. The exhibition features personal items, woodblocks, books and sketchbooks linked with Marie, displayed alongside new work by Hester Cox.

Penhill Benefice Services for November

You are very welcome at our services, by phone, zoom or in church. We have sought to make our church buildings as safe as possible. Please keep your distance from others and use hand sanitizer where provided. You are invited to leave contact details for 'test and trace' purposes. The wearing of face covering is mandatory.

Sunday, November 1st

9.30am Holy Communion, St. Mary's, Redmire.

3.00pm A Service of Commemoration and Thanksgiving for those who have died at St. Andrew's, Aysgarth. If you have been unable to join with friends and family for a funeral service – or wish to light a candle in memory of someone special, please join us for this quiet, reflective memorial service.

Please email penhill.benefice@btconnect.com or phone **624542** if attending, as space is limited. You may also indicate names to be commemorated. Face masks required, sanitiser provided, test & traceable event.

Sunday, November 8th Remembrance Sunday Services

9.30am St. Mary's, Redmire

10.45am Holy Trinity, Wensley

10.45am St. Andrew's, Aysgarth

Sunday, November 15th

9.30am Holy Communion, St. Mary's, Redmire

11.00am Holy Communion, St. Andrew's, Aysgarth

Sunday, November 22nd

9.30am Morning Service, St. Margaret's, Preston under Scar

11.00am Holy Communion, St. Bartholomew's, West Witton

Sunday, November 29th

11.00am Holy Communion Benefice Service, St. Andrew's, Aysgarth

There is a Telephone Service available every **Sunday at 9.30am** and a Zoom Service at **10.30am on the 1st, 15th and 22nd**.

Yore Club

Following the announcement that Eleanor Scarr and Anne Deans are to stand down from the Yore Club, it is apparently a relief that I have stepped into the breach to take on the organisation of the Club!

I will clearly need some guidance from Eleanor and Anne but am looking forward to putting together an exciting programme of meetings for 2021. All we need now is for Covid-19 to disappear and we can get cracking, but I rather suspect it isn't going to be that easy.

Obviously, as things currently stand it isn't possible to hold face-to-face meetings but it would be nice to think that by the time 2021 comes around, some of the guidance will have been relaxed and we can get together. In the meantime though, I shall have the opportunity to settle into this new role and to get my thinking cap on to come up with an interesting programme for next year.

On behalf of all the current members of the Yore Club, and indeed past members, I would like to extend a huge thanks to Eleanor and Anne for all their hard work over many years and wish them a well-earned retirement!

I look forward to seeing members old and new when meetings resume.

Karen Prudden

Editor's Note

We received a letter from Mary Scarr of Bainbridge wishing to publicly thank Eleanor and Anne for all their hard work over many years.

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New Vets in Wensleydale

Wensleydale Vets is a mixed independent veterinary surgery that opened over lock-down. It is the brain child of Amy Cockett and Becky Piper.

From graduation Becky Piper, who is originally from Scotland, worked as a mixed vet in Leyburn 2013 to 2018, then left to obtain a post-graduate certificate in small animal surgery and has been taught by Nigel Harcourt-Brown FRCVS and Heather Eastham at Crab Lane Vets in Harrogate. Becky found the long drives to Harrogate difficult and missed being the community vet that allowed her to give a high standard of care to small and large animals.

Amy, originally from Sheffield, graduated from the Royal Veterinary College, London, and started working in Richmond at Swale Veterinary Surgery. Here she joined Richmond Operatic Society and met husband Dan Cockett and subsequently moved to Hawes to be closer to his family butcher and bakery business JW Cockett and Son. Amy Joined Hawes Operatic Society (now known as Wensleydale Music and Theatre Group). She directed Dick Whittington and the Pirates of the Caribbean and Jack and the Beanstalk in 2017. She continues to be involved in the society as Chair and hopes to have a panto in 2021 – Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs.

Amy enjoyed working locally at Bainbridge Vets as a mixed practice vet. During this time she had her first child Eva then following the birth of her second child she worked as a small animal vet at Forrest House Vets in Bedale, then moved closer to home working at Yoredale Vets in Leyburn. Amy found the demands of the veterinary profession unsustainable around family life, and craved a more flexible working pattern, as well as missing life as a mixed practice vet in the community that she loves living in. One day, during a consultation, Amy was pulled aside by a client who said “you remind me of a vet that once worked here” and it was through this client that Amy was introduced to Becky.

Having discussed setting up their own business they did not think it would come about till Becky had finished her surgical certificate, and Amy’s kids were older (currently 2 and 4 years). However, as time went on, they could see there was a demand in the area for a mixed

practice veterinary surgery and providing 24-hour care for pets, so they decided to take the leap. It was difficult finding a location, as they craved good parking, but through a pub discussion they were soon introduced to Metcalfe’s, which subsequently offered them a home at Washfold Farm off Whipperdale Bank and the Moor Road out of Leyburn. They could not have asked for a more perfect location.

In November they are opening a small cabin located at Hawes Auction Mart, which will offer small animal consultations, and be open for farmers to order and collect medicines. They have grown quickly and are proud of what their team have achieved in such a short time.

At the beginning of September they took on a third vet, Amelia Briggs who has a huge passion for farm work and has dreams of completing a certificate in Advanced Veterinary Practice in sheep. Currently the work force includes a part time practice manager, Faye McComb, nurse Robyn Pike, Trainee Nurse Danielle Parsons, and receptionists Heather Cameron and Val Robinson.

They offer a personal friendly service for ‘all creatures great and small’ which includes, small animal consultations, diagnostics, surgery, budget friendly preventative health care plans for dogs, cats, and horses, farm animal routine work and TB testing, as well as ambulatory equine services, with an in-house 24-hour emergency service for small animal, farm, and equine cases.

B.M.C.



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Blueboxt Productions – November Update

As Schools reopened in September, we watched in anticipation to see if the Pandemic was going to send a signal. Sadly, rising cases and government restrictions wasn't the signal we were hoping for and our own activities, along with many voluntary arts organisations, community groups and industry professionals face a bleak 12-24 months ahead. It is not all doom and gloom though; our digital solutions continue to connect our volunteers with young creatives across the Dales and beyond. There is a lot happening and you can be part of it too.

Going Digital - Mentoring and Support.

Around twenty young people are accessing our mentoring and home study support receiving feedback on their creative achievements and progress towards Arts Award, music production, instrumental or theory qualifications. Technical support is available to help tackle social and digital isolation including access to and set up of equipment and an internet connection where needed.

Play > Record > Perform. Our new project is all about recording and sharing - young people will develop their skills through a series of individual and group challenges. They will be encouraged to record at home, in our pop-up studios and visit professional recording studios. When it is safe to do so, there will be group sessions to develop instrumental skills and our webpage already has a number of performance opportunities listed for 2021. In the meantime, we will be using our website and social media to share the results. This project is supported by Wensleydale Rotary Club, NYCC (Locality Grant), YDMT Roger Stott Community Fund, NYMAZ and Youth Music, using public funding from the National Lottery through Arts Council England.

Reverberate - We have just found out that our application to the English Heritage - Shout Out Loud has been successful. Our project is called: Sounds Oft' Dales "It's a cracking tune Grommit" (the application form asked for a cheesy title!). The project is all about Youth Voice and creating a sense of civic pride. We are looking for interested young people 11yrs and over to take part. Participants will identify what is important about the Dales and the people who live and work in our communities

and will create a presentation using audio and visual art forms to share their findings. There will be online support sessions (using Zoom) covering topics such as research, song writing, composition and film techniques.

We have set a creative challenge to be completed by the end of December and can't wait to see the ideas develop and share the results. The choices are to:-

i) Research folk songs about Wensleydale and Swaledale and their relevance to a modern-day audience.

ii) Create a new piece which you feel represents and celebrates a sense of place and the people who make the Dales special.

iii) Create a slideshow of images and video of the things that are important to you and create narrative/ soundtrack to accompany them. This project is supported by Sound Connections and English Heritage, using public funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Fell-Foss Theatre – Despite the safety curtain being firmly down on live entertainment our Theatre in Education activities are still able to continue with a bit of creative adaptation. Mark Cronfield will be creating the Victorian school experience for local primary children as part of the Story of Schools heritage project to be delivered by The NASH and Dales Countryside Museum.

Our next touring production 'The Life and Opinions of Tristram Shandy, Yorkshireman' will now tour in Autumn 2021. We hope to reschedule dates for Crusoe's Island too. We would like to hear from community groups and individuals interested in hosting live theatre and concert performances.

BlueAngels continue to provide the vital lifeline that helps is keep the bills being paid and covering our essential costs. We are so thankful for their financial support and the amazing dedication and work of our volunteers. Could you help support our work?

If you would like to know more information about taking part in our activities or becoming a BlueAngel we would love to hear from you. Please contact **Colin Bailey** on 07711 211169 or info@blueboxt.co.uk or message via our website www.blueboxt.co.uk or social media.

Colin Bailey

Sonja – Hairdressing

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I'm self-isolating till this pandemic is over!

Free Christmas Greetings

The next issue of the Newsletter will be the Christmas edition. As usual we will be including **free personal Christmas greetings**.

Please ensure that your greeting reaches us in plenty of time well before the deadline of **Tuesday, November 17th**.

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Swaledale Mountain Rescue Team appeals for your help!

Help us raise £80,000 to purchase an Incident Command Vehicle with a donation large or small.

Swaledale Mountain Rescue Team is undertaking a major equipment upgrade project and is appealing for public assistance. The team is made up of a dedicated group of over forty local volunteers. We are available 24/7 to save life and limb across 750 square miles of predominantly upland fells.

Our unique skills and capabilities enable us to assist all the North Yorkshire Emergency Services across a wide range of life-threatening situations including search and rescue above ground, underground and in water. The team is also ready and available to assist with national incidents if required.

We are a registered charity and receive no regular government funding and rely almost entirely on generous public donations. To provide these services we not only rely on the dedication and skills of our volunteers but also on a wide range of specialist equipment and vehicles.

Our Incident Command Trailer has been one of these vital pieces of equipment for over fifteen years. It is our operational nerve centre on call outs and houses our communications and IT equipment, but time has taken its toll and we desperately need to replace it. It is difficult to manoeuvre, requires specialist driving skills, is time consuming to set up and is requiring more and more maintenance. After careful consideration we have concluded that the best solution is to replace our trailer with a new Incident Command Vehicle which will offer greater operational flexibility and reliability and help with our life saving work

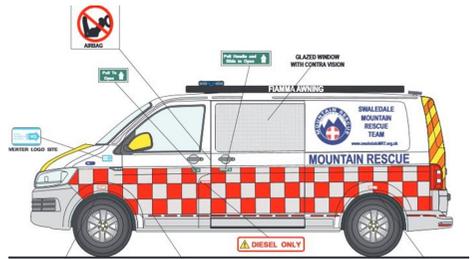
The team is looking to purchase and convert a Volkswagen T32 van into a new Incident Command Vehicle.

The vehicle will:

Act as a communications and IT hub and liaison point with other emergency services.

Transport team members to call outs both in and out of area.

Carry additional equipment when required.



Have built in welfare facilities for team members. Something we presently do not have.

Be fully liveried as a Mountain Rescue vehicle with blue lights and sirens.

Enable us to respond to and manage operations more effectively.

Ultimately provide better care for casualties.

We have talked at length with suppliers, vehicle converters and other mountain rescue teams and we have found a vehicle and conversion specification that will best suit our needs for now and many years into the future. We have fully costed up our project and will require £80,000 to turn it into a reality.

The team intends to raise the £80,000 in November 2020 by crowd funding (asking a large number of people to donate money via the Internet). Please go to www.crowdfunder.co.uk/smrt-vehicle-appeal to watch a short campaign video that further explains who we are, what we do and why we need an Incident Command Vehicle and to make a donation if you wish to do so.

If you would like further information or you are able to signpost your contacts and social media followers to our campaign video and crowdfunding page, please contact us using appeal@swaledalemrt.org.uk. We thank you all for your continued and generous support.

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Prunings

When the spectre of "Ash die-back" reared its skeletal head all those months ago we worried about the effect it would have on our wonderful landscape. At first the changes seemed subtle, but now as this Autumn progresses the grey ghosts seem to be everywhere. We have a large one down the front field which has given in, and it will be difficult to fell as it is in a wall. Another, just over the river, has three trunks. It will have to go, but the stumps form part of the riverbank and so cannot be removed. Even the smallest changes can alter the flow and cause untold damage somewhere else. There is a lot of "blame game" in the air at the moment but I don't suppose any organisation will take responsibility for this particular disaster.

On a more practical theme, cutting back is now the order of the day. The Buddleias are looking especially tired and although there are still one or two blooms left on the white one, I think we have probably seen the last of the butterflies and so a haircut is in the plan. At this time of year it is best to cut them down by about half (helps to reduce root-rock) and then trim them back further in the spring when they have begun to put on new growth. They have given us a wonderful show and appropriate treatment now will ensure that the same happens again next year.

The Aralia has managed to flower again, and as ever, the flowers appeared just as the first



leaves started to turn. I can't imagine that it will ever set seed, but as its underground rhizomes sprout everywhere, I hardly think it matters. I read somewhere that one of these, or a close cousin, had spread to cover many square miles and is a contender for the title of "largest living thing on the planet".

One of the Dahlias I bought from Sarah Raven

produced luscious peachy heads that were at least nine inches across, but as it was very late getting there it only managed two. I must be sure to get it going sooner next year, and perhaps I'll buy some tubers now so they too can make an early start. They don't seem to mind living in large pots as long as they are well fed and watered. The star of the season was a dark leaved single called "Bishop of Oxford". It was flowering when I got it just as the first lockdown eased and it is still sporting half a dozen blooms.

A coal tit was selecting the seed it fancied and dropping the rest. A pheasant stood on the corner of the raised bed feasting on the rejects. I wish he would be a bit less choosy and go and clear up the mess where the goldfinches have wasted the niger seed. Since the rain it has sprouted like a seed bed.

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

Rose Rambler



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Leyburn Arts Centre Special Screening

We are delighted to announce that on **Sunday, December 20th at 4.00pm** we will be screening **WAR HORSE (12A)**, filmed live from London's West End in 2014. All tickets are £12 and will need to be booked and paid for in advance of the screening (**01969 624510** between **1.00pm and 4.00pm Monday to Friday**).

Based on the novel by Michael Morpurgo and adapted by Nick Stafford, **WAR HORSE** has delighted millions of people around the world on stage since it was first performed at the National Theatre in 2007. This will be the first time since its original broadcast in 2014 that **WAR HORSE** will be able to be viewed on cinema screens. Telling the story of young Albert and his beloved horse Joey who, at the outbreak of World War One, is sold to the Cavalry and shipped to France. Though still not old enough to enlist, Albert embarks on a treacherous mission to find him and bring him home.

This powerfully moving and imaginative drama is a show of phenomenal inventiveness. At its heart are astonishing life-size puppets by South Africa's Handspring Puppet Company, who bring breathing, galloping, charging horses to thrilling life on stage.

Running Time: 2hrs 45m (including interval). Please note that the show contains gunfire, flashing lights and strobe lighting.



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Askrigg Cricket Club

Isn't it strange what a crisis can do?

Back in 2001, the Foot and Mouth crisis was partly to blame for the folding of Askrigg Cricket Club and yet in 2020, a year like no other, the Covid-19 pandemic has been the catalyst for the Club re-forming.

One or two of the Askrigg men were talking and thought that, as some people might have more time on their hands, due to the lockdown and Covid restrictions, it might be worth thinking about getting a group together to re-create the wicket on, what for many years, has been the football pitch between Askrigg School and Low Mill Outdoor Centre. Before you could blink, volunteers were appearing from all sides and not only was the wicket prepared but the Askrigg Cricket Club was resurrected.

There was huge support for the initiative with local farmers loaning tractors and the owners of The White Rose repairing the old rollers and purchasing equipment. Numerous local businesses donated prizes for a fundraising raffle, all keen to see this initiative succeed in what have been difficult times for many.

Of course, the key ingredient was to find enough people wanting to play cricket, but it turned out there was no need to worry on that front. It wasn't long before eager cricketers were seen practicing in the nets and very quickly there were sufficient players to be able to hold two matches between two Askrigg teams.

There are now around 30 players who have come forward, ranging in age from 7 to over 60, all eager to refine their skill at the wicket. It has been particularly heartening to see so many youngsters wanting to take up the game and be part of the new Club.

Aside from the two friendly matches (or maybe not that friendly, given it was Askrigg 1 v Askrigg 2!), a couple of 20-over matches were played against Hawes. Although both were lost, by 8 runs and 3 wickets respectively, they were good competitive matches, with victory in both only secured in the final over!

Excitement was building and supporters were in plentiful supply for the next match which was to be a 40-over match on the August Bank Holiday weekend, again against Hawes. Now it should be mentioned that Hawes have had a cricket team for many years and clearly have a lot of experience, so it was no surprise that the match ended in another defeat. However, if a score was awarded for enthusiasm and support, then Askrigg would have come out clear winners.

Obviously, with autumn now upon us, the matches have ended for this year, but the intention is that they will resume next summer. Before then, there will be a meeting (when Covid restrictions allow) to officially re-constitute the Club and form a committee and, no doubt as soon as the weather starts to improve, there will be training sessions for the eager players.

It is also hoped to hold some fundraising events in due course to assist with the costs of running the club. Offers for fixtures for next year's season are already coming in so it is hoped that there will be plenty of opportunities for all the players to get a few games in.

For the time being, it is just great that there is such enthusiasm to re-instate the Club into the local community and it is clear that with such enormous support from the community, there should be good times ahead. All that is missing is the good weather!

If anyone is interested in joining the Club, or has any enquiries, please contact **John Hodgson on 07989-185972**. The Club also has a Facebook page to keep you in touch with developments.

K.P.



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Upper Wensleydale Benefice Services for November

Date	St Mary & St John's Hardraw 9.00am	St Oswald's Askrigg 10.30am	St Margaret's Hawes 10.30am	St Matthew's Stalling Busk 2.30pm
Nov 1st	Morning Prayer	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion	
Nov 8th		10.45 Remembrance Service @ The Market Cross, Askrigg	10.50 Remembrance Service @ War Memorial, Hawes	Holy Communion
Nov 15th	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Morning Prayer	
Nov 22nd	Holy Communion	8.30 Holy Communion 10.30 Praise in the Pen Family Fun	Holy Communion	Evening prayer
Nov 29th	Morning Prayer	8.30am Holy Communion	Morning Prayer	

Remembrance Services – November 8th

Hawes – There will be a short parade to the War Memorial followed by a brief service of remembrance at **10.50am**.

Askrigg – There will be a short service of remembrance at **10.45am** held at the Market Cross.

Marshals will be on hand to help ensure social distancing rules are followed at both services



Praise in the pen

4th Sunday in the Month 10.30am in St Oswald's, Askrigg

This is our new fun activity session to welcome our families back to Church. Each family will have their own, socially distanced pen, (or pen!) and all craft activities, dancing, stories and prayers will be done as a family 'in your pen' with all materials supplied. Families are encouraged to bring snacks to eat whilst listening to the stories. The session will last around 45 minutes and adults only will need to wear a face covering. We only have a limited number of 'pens' so please book your family's place early by emailing office@upperwenben.org giving the names of the adults attending, and the names and ages of your children.

We hope you can join us for Sunday Worship in one of our churches soon and you can always keep in touch through our facebook page -Upperwensleydalechurch-CofE, website www.upperwensleydalechurch.org, email office@upperwenben.org or telephone **667553**.

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Polar Express Update

For the past couple of months we have been working very closely with PNP Events to ensure that all relevant precautions and procedures were in place to provide a Covid-19 safe environment for all our Polar Express visitors. This work has even involved taking advice from the local Environmental and Public Health Offices.

During this period the Covid-19 climate around us has continued to change on an almost daily basis. That situation all around seems to be worsening, especially in those areas where the majority of our Polar Express visitors come from.

The potential for restrictions on people's movement and the growing uncertainty over other more restrictive measures has made the situation between now and Christmas even more doubtful.

It is against this climate that PNP have regrettably made the difficult decision to cancel Polar Express this year on the Wensleydale Railway. Whilst we fully understand and support this decision, it will have a huge impact on the Wensleydale Railway in all manner of different ways. Perhaps the most serious will be the loss of a significant amount of income that would have safeguarded the railway over the lean winter period. Whilst we have been fortunate to receive grant aid, the majority of this is project related and will not help cover the basic costs of keeping the railway open.

I appreciate that this news will come as a huge disappointment both internally and to those who were looking forwards to the experience but the decision is the right one given the current circumstances. PNP Events will handle all issues relating to ticket enquiries / refunds etc. so any queries concerning this should be directed to them, not the Wensleydale Railway.

The Railway is in the process of formulating a plan for a December "Special" which will in no way replace Polar, but which we hope will be popular. The details of this will be announced on 1st November. Whatever we do, we will not be able to recover the serious loss of income created by the cancellation of Polar Express so if you are able to assist us by making a donation, this should be sent to Wensleydale Railway Plc., Sort code: 40-35-03, Account Number: 21319353.

Hawes Christmas Festival

It is with great regret that I have to announce that this year's Christmas festival **on December 5th** has been cancelled. The children's party in the Market House, the community carol singing led by the Hawes Prize Silver band and meeting Farther Christmas have been postponed till next year.

HOWEVER, we are in discussion with Santa to see if it will be possible for him to visit and travel around Hawes. This will include stops so Santa can drop off presents in a safe way to as many children as possible. When details have been agreed the route and timings will be published.

We have also decided not to send around the Friends donation letters to businesses and families, we understand what a difficult year it has been for all. It is with thanks that the donations we have received from various organisations have enabled us to repair and renew the displays.

Hawes will be a shining light to enable us all to celebrate Christmas and the New Year.

Peter Wood chairman

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Guy Loveridge

(Chairman of Wensleydale Railway plc)

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Hawes Christmas Lights

Help needed

We will be putting up the displays on **Wednesday, November 18th**. If anyone can help us, even for a couple of hours, it would be much appreciated. Meet outside The Old Post Office at about **8.30am**. Be prepared for wet weather. Many hands make light work!

Hawes in Bloom

The time is fast approaching when we will be taking down the baskets and boxes around town. It has been a difficult summer even without the problems of Covid 19! The weather has been an ever changing mix of hot and sunny, then dull and damp and of course those frequent high winds.

In spite of all that nature could throw at our efforts I do hope you feel it was still worthwhile endeavouring to brighten our Town both for residents and visitors alike especially during these odd times.

If anyone has a particular colour scheme they would like to see next year do please let me know as I am happy to continue as long as age, infirmity and enthusiasm allow!

I will be contacting my fellow volunteers to help in the big job of dismantling and removing the heavy and damp containers, often in cold and damp weather too! I would like to thank them all for their generous support.

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Archive hard copies back to 1995 are in the Dales Countryside Museum resources room.

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