

Upper Wensleydale Notes



May 2020

Jack Sutton

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

Guest Editorial

Sitting at my desk this morning, looking out over the fell-side where the new lambs are chasing one another, the pandemic that is claiming so many lives seems to be happening in another universe. I am woken every morning by the squawk of pheasants in the garden and at night I stand outside looking at the brilliance of the stars - more brilliant than ever before because of the absence of pollution from planes- and listening to owls hunting across the dale. It is a privilege to live in such a beautiful place, and in this troubled time it is even more of a privilege because of the community of people who live here- Polly who makes sure I have supplies of essentials, Ann who dropped off a box of chocolate eggs on Easter morning, the ever-cheerful postman, the fellow dog walkers, the farmers who wave at me as I go past, those farmers who never stop working, no matter what the weather and the world may bring because sheep and cattle still need to be fed and the land still needs to be tended.

But of course the coronavirus is not happening in another universe, it is here, silently, unbeknown to those who carry it. Here in springtime Wensleydale we are privileged indeed; life is very different in the cities where people are confined in tower blocks, where queues stretch twice round supermarket car parks, where children cannot go out to play and where families are facing unemployment and bitter hardship. I live alone normally, and through my computer I can meet family and friends via Zoom, carry on with my university work and access the outside world. I am lucky enough to have a garden to sit in, and as an obsessive knitter I spend pleasant hours making things.

At Easter I heard Mass and watched Pope Francis deliver his Easter message to the world. But for millions of people the lockdown is terrible. As this pandemic slows down and eventually disappears, the damage to lives will be immeasurable. Already we are hearing about a rise in domestic violence and mental health problems, and how could it be otherwise for people cooped up in small spaces for weeks on end, worrying about how they are going to pay bills and receive the health care they need but which is currently suspended?

My eldest daughter, who lives in London, is recovering from the virus and she said that she had never felt so ill in her life, with a fever of 104 and a constant hacking cough. Now, nearly three weeks since the symptoms first appeared she has just about enough energy to go for a short walk with the dog. She is a very fit woman with no health problems but somehow the virus attacked her, yet the other 4 members of the household have stayed perfectly well. Having a daughter who has had first-hand experience of the virus has sent shock waves through my family, and reminded us of the need to continue to follow government advice. Nobody understands this virus yet, how it spreads, how some people remain immune, how it can be treated, whether there will be a cure, and ignorance breeds anxiety.

Here, in springtime Wensleydale the main source of income apart from farming is tourism and so many livelihoods depend on visitors- not just workers in shops, cafes, restaurants and hotels, but those employed in kennels, sports centres, everyone connected to the annual shooting season, all the National Park employees, and then there are car mechanics, gamekeepers, hairdressers, chiropodists, chimney sweeps, builders, electricians, driving instructors - tens of thousands of people who may not be designated as front-line key workers during the pandemic but who are essential to the lives and well-being of the broader population in normal times.

For now, staying at home is the only thing to do, but as soon as this lockdown ends, we all need to do everything we can to help all those people get back to some kind of normality, because they really are essential to the life and future of the Dales.

Susan Bassnett

Takeaways and Deliveries

Here is our current understanding of the options available regarding takeaways and deliveries in our area.

As far as hot food is concerned then the Hawes chippie is open from **Wednesday to Saturday from 5.00pm till 7.00pm (Wed and Thur) and 8.00pm (Fri and Sat)**. Food is available on a 'phone and collect basis'. Phone your order in during opening times and they will let you know when it'll be ready for collection. Collect from the service hatch (window!). Please pay on collection by contactless card if possible. **Phone 01969 667663**.

On Tuesday the Hawes Chippie has a special service for those classed as vulnerable or self-isolating. Orders can be phoned through between **3.00pm-4.30pm** and will be delivered from **5.00pm**. If possible, please pay with a card when ordering. It'll be James on his bike delivering at this stage so they can only deliver to those living in Hawes itself and Gayle. They won't be charging for delivery, but please remember - the idea of this is to offer the option of a 'Chippie tea' to those who can't get to us.

If you fancy a pizza then the Hawes Pizza shop is open on **Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 4.00pm to 11.00pm – phone 01969 667784**.

Humble Pie in Hawes are supplying home-cooked meals and puddings. The menu which changes day to day can be seen on their Facebook page. **Ring 0734 603590** or email elizabeth@humblepieyorkshire.co.uk or message via Facebook. Order by **8.00pm** will be delivered the following day. (or book ahead if required).

The Bake-Well café in Askrigg are doing takeaways. See their Facebook page for timings.

The Street Head Inn in Newbiggin is doing takeaway meals every night **6.00pm to 8.30pm** but they have to be collected. Ring ahead **01969 663282** to book one of the pickup times (every ten minutes). The Fox and Hounds at West Burton will also offering takeaway meals. Phone **01969 663111** to order.

Hamiltons in Aysgarth are delivering meals locally on Sundays, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Local is Aysgarth, West Burton, Thorlby and Bishopdale. **01969 663423**.

Fairhursts at Berry's Farm Shop will also deliver pre-cooked meals on Wednesdays and Fridays. **Phone 01969 624668** or via their website, <https://www.fairhursts.co.uk/Meal-Delivery-Order>.

As far as general food deliveries for self-isolators then as far as we are aware these can be arranged at the Spar, Elijah Allen's and Cocketts Bakers and Butchers in Hawes and at Sykes in Askrigg who will include meat from Hammonds in Bainbridge and fresh fruit and veg. Aysgarth Garage will also deliver groceries by request. The Home Farmer is still doing his van with milk and cheese at the normal locations in Hawes, Askrigg, West Burton and Aysgarth.

There might very well be other options – please check with your local stores and shops.

All the information given above is based on our current understanding but these are very fluid times and things might change!

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May Competition

A trip down the North East coast: From the Tweed to the Humber. Here are some places. Some are anagrams, some are not!

1. O SHE RAN
2. INSIDE WALKING NIMBLY THROUGH
3. IMPERSONATOR JAN'S VEHICLE
4. IN HER SWEAT
5. ISITBADINTOHIERS; EVERY OTHER ONE
6. STROLL
7. UNDERSTAND? WITH L FOR T
8. HUM, O NETTY!
9. CARRIED ME OUT!
10. DEER IN THE FRENCH WATER
11. NCL ON THE FIRE
12. MISS OUT THE OCEAN

No prizes for this quiz. It is for entertainment only.

Advertising

Boxed adverts: £6, £12, £18

There is a big reduction for six issues or more, so for six issues the totals are:

£25, £50 or £75

Greetings etc. £2

What's ons (non-commercial) are free

Contacts for adverts:

For Hawes area and westward:

**Barry Cruickshanks, Lilac House, Hawes
01969 667458**

For elsewhere: **Sue Duffield, Fellside,
Thornton Rust: 01969 663504**

Whilst we try to ensure that all information is correct we cannot be held legally responsible for omissions or inaccuracies in articles, adverts or listings, or for any inconvenience caused. Views expressed in articles are the sole responsibility of the person by-lined. Articles by committee members carry just their initials. We appreciate being asked before any part of the Newsletter is reproduced.

Answers to the April Competition

1. Newark
2. Newmarket
3. Havant
4. Whitehaven
5. Banbury
6. Morecambe
7. Castleford
8. Nuneaton
9. Chatham
10. Woking
11. Motherwell
12. Darlington
13. Barnstaple
14. Nantwich
15. Potters Bar
16. Alloa
17. Bishop Auckland
18. Selby
19. Bury
20. Edinburgh



Wensleydale Creamery Visitor Centre

New Online Deli

www.wensleydale.co.uk

We're proud to stock and support small local businesses & bring our Cheese, Deli & Gifts to you online! Enjoy our artisan cheese & specialist selection of accompaniments Delivered direct to your door for £2.95

Thank you to our customers who continue to support us and local businesses.

Our amazing team, cheese-makers and farmers are all working exceptionally hard to make sure we can continue our supply of cheese.

www.wensleydale.co.uk 01969 667664

Carbon Emissions to be ‘Practically Eliminated’ by 2030

The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority has adopted an ambitious new ‘Carbon Reduction Plan’, six months after declaring a climate emergency. It requires the Authority to practically eliminate carbon dioxide emissions from its operations over the course of the decade.

The plan had been due to come before Members at a full Authority meeting but with all committee meetings cancelled in response to the Coronavirus epidemic, the Authority’s Chief Executive David Butterworth has used ‘Urgency/Emergency’ powers delegated to him from the Authority to formally adopt it.

The plan contains a new objective which commits the Authority to reducing its emissions by 95% by 2030, compared with a 2005 baseline. By March last year, the Authority had reduced its emissions by 62%, compared with 2005. Over the next five years the Authority will install further renewable or low energy technologies across its estate, which consists of four office buildings, four National Park Centres (including the Dales Countryside Museum), four workshops and 10 public toilet blocks.

All the Authority’s leased vehicles will be switched to plug-in electric, while carbon dioxide emissions from journeys made by car by officers, Members and volunteers will be reduced by at least 10% by 2025 and by 50% by 2030. The Authority will also maintain a £30,000 a year budget to directly fund new woodlands. This means that by 2030, the amount of carbon dioxide sequestered annually from woodlands funded by the National Park Authority will be at least 30 times the amount it emits.

The Chairman of the National Park Authority, Carl Lis, said: “The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority has been moving to a low carbon existence for some time, but having declared a ‘climate emergency’ last September, we must show what we can do in deeds not words. It is called an emergency for a reason. The Carbon Reduction Plan will take the Authority way beyond ‘net zero’. It will not be straightforward but we don’t undertake these actions because they are easy. We do them because they are hard. We expect to be judged, by future

generations, on our actions not our words, and we expect others to be judged in the same way.”

“The Authority and its partners have already set out ambitions, in the National Park Management Plan 2019-24, for making the wider National Park more resilient and responsive to the impacts of a changing climate. We look forward to working with others to achieve the objectives in that plan. What we are doing with our Carbon Reduction Plan is demonstrating how we are going to get our own house in order.”

Taplin and Mageean

Taplin and Mageean distillery based in Leyburn in Wensleydale has just switched its production to produce hand sanitiser that we are making available to front line NHS and carers etc... FREE OF CHARGE. This initiative has been personally acknowledged by the Chancellor Rishi Sunak who penned a letter to thank us for helping frontline workers helping to fight Covid 19.

Mystery Picture

Last month’s Mystery Picture was of the gate at the end of Mill Lane, Askrigg - possibly the smallest gate in the Dales?

Here is an easy one. Where can you find this bridge?



Complaints from Dissatisfied Customers

Here is a bit of light relief for you all. Below are extracts from actual complaints received by 'Thomas Cook vacations' from dissatisfied customers.

1. "On my holiday to Goa in India, I was disgusted to find that almost every restaurant served curry. I don't like spicy food."

2. "They should not allow topless sunbathing on the beach. It was very distracting for my husband who just wanted to relax."

3. "The beach was too sandy. We had to clean everything when we returned to our room."

4. "We found the sand was not like the sand in the brochure. Your brochure shows the sand as white but it was more yellow."

5. "It's lazy of the local shopkeepers in Puerto Vallartato close in the afternoons. I often needed to buy things during 'siesta' time -- this should be banned."

6. "Although the brochure said that there was a fully equipped kitchen, there was no egg-slicer in the drawers."

7. "I think it should be explained in the brochure that the local convenience store does not sell proper biscuits like custard creams or ginger nuts."

8. "It took us nine hours to fly home from Jamaica to England. It took the Americans only three hours to get home. This seems unfair."

9. "I compared the size of our one-bedroom suite to our friends' three-bedroom and ours was significantly smaller."

10. "The brochure stated: 'No hairdressers at the resort.' We're trainee hairdressers and we think they knew that and made us wait longer for service."

11. "When we were in Spain, there were too many Spanish people there. The receptionist spoke Spanish, the food was Spanish. No one told us that there would be so many foreigners."

12. "We had to line up outside to catch the boat and there was no air-conditioning."

13. "It is your duty as a tour operator to advise us of noisy or unruly guests before we travel."

14. "I was bitten by a mosquito. The brochure did not mention mosquitoes."

15. "My fiancée and I requested twin-beds when we booked, but instead we were placed in a room with a king bed. We now hold you responsible and want to be re-reimbursed for the fact that I became pregnant. This would not have happened if you had put us in the room that we booked."

Swaledale Festival Director Thanks Loyal Supporters

This year's Swaledale Festival had to be cancelled March 20th due to government regulations surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic. The cancellation at such a late stage threw the small charity into a financially precarious situation. But the Festival's future now looks a lot safer thanks to the generous donations made by its ticket-buyers and supporters.

Malcolm Creese, Swaledale Festival's Artistic Director since 2007, says he is stunned by the generosity of Festival fans:

"I offer my heartfelt thanks to all those wonderful art and music-lovers who have helped to secure our future. I feel humbled by the response from our supporters when it looked as if we wouldn't survive this unprecedented disaster. I would also like to pay tribute to my dedicated colleagues who have worked tirelessly from home during the lock-down. Over the last few weeks we have been ringing round our ticket buyers to arrange refunds, and we've been astonished by the number of people who have chosen to donate some or all of their ticket money to help the Festival survive."

"We are by no means the only organisation needing financial support at this time, but hundreds of people have been telling us how important the Festival is to them, and that we must continue our annual cultural celebration as well as all the work we do in schools and care homes. As a professional musician myself, I feel very sorry for my fellow musicians and other artists who have had their livelihoods all but wiped out. I found it hard to call up more than a hundred colleagues to tell them their Festival bookings had been cancelled. My aim now is to invite as many as possible to come and perform for us next year."

"I am pleased to report that my preparations for the 2021 Festival, which takes place from 29 May to 12 June, are well underway, and even at this early stage a stellar line-up of world-class performers is taking shape."

From the Archives Issue No. 23 February 1998.

The Second Semerwater Splash

On Christmas morning, at a time when most sane members of the public were frenziedly ripping the decorative paper off neatly wrapped presents, revealing what ghastly colour this year's number and socks were, six hungover fools were plunging head first into a flood-enlarged puddle known locally as Semerwater.

Two survivors from last time. Di the Spar and myself were joined by the "easily led when drunk" Kev and Monkey from the midst of the Hawes United defence, Janet "anything for a worthy cause" Dinsdale and Colin Nice Speedo's.

The thousands of adoring fans, who gathered to cheer on the scantily clad, tucked into copious amounts of deliciously warming mulled wine and mince pies put on by Marnie and Bryan, and our sincere thanks out to them.

Just as Mickey's little hand reached ten and his big hand approached vertical the time had come to make the boys parts point inwards. The water was breath taking cold (literally), and what seemed like a good idea at the time now resembled a chuffing nightmare. After a couple of minutes of splashing around, and some even attempted a few strokes, it was time to drag our "numb from the neck down" bodies back on to what now seemed like tropical shores.

Thanks goes out to my fellow swimmers and the sadistic onlookers who braved the cold that day, but most of all to anyone who gave sponsor money. The final figure raised should be somewhere in the region of £1100.

Stuart Dinsdale

Coronavirus thoughts

Coronavirus restrictions are turning us all into dogs.

We roam the house all day looking for food.

We're told 'no' if we get too close to strangers

And we get really excited about car rides.

Our usual contributor to the Police Report, Lucy Osborne, is on a one-year secondment to the North Yorkshire Fire Service so for the next 12 months the Police Report is provided by PC Julian Sutcliffe PC 558.

Dales Police Report

This month has seen little in the way of significant crime across the Dales area. Our focus, probably unsurprisingly, has been on helping to manage the impact of the worldwide Coronavirus situation on a local scale.

The 'Stay home and save lives' message has been reacted to well by the vast majority of people in our area. The crisis has brought out the best in our communities with many heart-warming stories of people putting themselves out to help their more vulnerable neighbours.

We are grateful that most local people and visitors have understood that the temporary restrictions put in place by the Government are there for good reasons – to protect the NHS, and ultimately save lives. Local police have had valuable support from partners such as the Yorkshire Dales National Park in getting the message out there on the ground. Our tactic so far has been to engage with people, explain the rules, and encourage people to abide by them. Some enforcement has been used, but this is a last resort.

Regulation 6 of The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) Regulations 2020 states no person may leave the place where they live without reasonable excuse. In brief, reasonable excuses include travelling to shop for necessities, leaving the house to take exercise, going to work (essential workers and those who cannot work from home), and other reasons such as medical needs and supporting vulnerable people.

As with any emergency legislation there are grey areas. We are taking calls regarding the use of second homes by owners, but this is not covered in the legislation. Everyone needs to focus on what they are doing themselves to reduce the spread of the virus. Only leave home if you have a reasonable excuse (according to the legislation) to do so, and when out and about apply social distancing guidelines. And, of course, wash your hands regularly.

Take care and stay safe.

Julian Sutcliffe

Local Planning

As chairman of the local planning authority in the Newsletter's patch, I am glad of the opportunity to get across this message: that we would like housing developers to come our way, and for government to do more to support them. Here in the Yorkshire Dales National Park – particularly in the northern dales such as upper Wensleydale – local people are crying out for new homes.

The need is not new but for every year that goes by when hardly anything gets built it becomes more urgent. Research we commissioned last year (with Craven and Richmondshire District Councils and North Yorkshire County Council) showed that we need around 50 new houses a year in the National Park until 2040. Just as importantly, at least 30 of those need to be genuinely affordable.

Last year, however, only 13 homes were built in the Yorkshire part of the National Park; none was affordable. It is quite literally not good enough by half. A lack of planning permissions is not the problem. There are now more than 600 unimplemented permissions for new housing units across the National Park. This year alone, we have granted full planning permission for more than 100 new dwellings. The problem is that we, and our partners in the housing authorities, are trying to hold back a national tide of policy, funding and market forces that is simply too strong.

A case study in Hawes illustrates the point. The primary school (pupil roll falling as many of you will know) sits prominently at town head. There is a field about 50 metres from the Hawes school gates which was put forward as a housing site at the request of the landowner, and which the National Park Authority allocated for 15 new homes in 2012. Since the allocation, nothing has happened. Allow me to say that Park-wide, there is evidence that landowners are not prepared to release land at a price that makes affordable housing development viable. There is also simply not enough investment coming forward in the sort of small-scale, affordable housing schemes that we need, in part because it's cheaper to build on large sites outside the National Park in places such as Skipton and Catterick Garrison.

As a planning authority we are doing all we can. We are giving more planning permissions for new homes than ever before, promoting all extant permissions, threatening de-allocation of development sites, identifying lots of potential exception sites, and reviewing policy. But these are the limits of what we can do. We do not have the legal powers to build houses or fund house-building. That is why we are working in partnership on the affordable housing shortage with District and County Councils and other bodies.

One related issue, I think it is high time the government took an honest look at the way the housing market is working against local communities in the National Park. There appears to be an insatiable demand for second homes and holiday lets, which year-on-year is squeezing the amount of housing available to people who might want to actually live here.

The problem of too-many-second-homes – which last month was highlighted by the Handley family of Bainbridge in the Yorkshire Post – has serious social consequences. Those with the powers to do something about the problem need to act.

The Yorkshire Dales is a great place to live. There is space on the roads (most of the year), in the schools and on the hills. But we need to get those affordable homes built, and other infrastructure improved, for local communities to continue thriving.

Carl Lis. Chairman

Community Support in Response to COVID-19

I hope you'll all staying safe and well during these challenging times.

There are a number of initiatives which have been launched to help support community groups and charities in response to the Coronavirus outbreak. One of the main incentives is in the form of a grant to those organisations who have premises with a rateable value of less than £51,000. Further detail on this scheme, including how you can apply, is detailed below:

In order to help tackle the outbreak of the coronavirus and to support local organisations the Government has confirmed that charities which would meet the criteria in regard to having a premises with a rateable value of less than £51,000 will be eligible for a cash grants of £10,000 or £25,000 per property. As such this means that many of our village halls and other community groups with their own property meeting the criteria will receive such a grant to support them through this time.

Depending on the business property rateable value, community halls may be eligible for a grant of up to £25,000.

- Properties with a rateable value of up to £15,000 will receive £10,000.
- Properties with a rateable value of £15,001 - £51,000 will receive £25,000

Even if your business rates bill is currently nil, you are still eligible to receive the grant.

In order to apply for this grant, you need to do so online. For more information and any queries contact

local.taxation@richmondshire.gov.uk

Chloe Lewis



This is what we in the dales call our food bank. It is called this so folks can (usually) access it anonymously and independently from our open churches. Obviously at the moment things are different as church buildings are closed, but "church" is still very much in action and open pantry is operating ...in fact even more so. The food is now being stored at a cool temperature and hygienically in the vicarage garage and all items are being sanitised



We are delivering (with our volunteer badges thanks to Julie Greenslade @ The Good life Project) to families with very young and/ or many children who are finding it difficult to get shopping, also to elderly and vulnerable. If you would welcome food and can't get it for any reason please call us on **01969 667553** or email davejclark61@gmail.com and a bag of selected packet/tinned groceries will be dropped off for you on your doorstep. These are different times so a different sort of "in need" has arrived

Also if you know of anyone that might benefit please let us know.



There is a collection point box at the bottom of the vicarage drive if anyone is able to donate anything as you go past on your daily walk. To those who have already donated thank you so so much. Fifteen families have already benefited and I'm sure more will. Let's all work together in this, communication is key so please keep us informed.

Thank you - David and Sarah Clark, The Vicarage, Burtersett Rd, Hawes, DL83NP (next door but one to Carrs Billington).

William Pickles G.P.

In these times of a virus pandemic some of our readers may remember William Pickles who was a G.P. in Aysgarth and one of the pioneers on the incubation periods of common infectious diseases of the time and his book *Epidemiology in Country Practice* (1939) earned him the reputation of one of the world's leading epidemiologists. He became the first president of the Royal College of General Practitioners in 1953.

Born in Leeds in 1885 he was in practice in Wensleydale for more than 50 years, half of which time he spent recording his observations, thus proving that the rural general practitioner had great opportunities to make observations on disease.

He held several locum positions in his early career and became an assistant to Dr Horsfall and Dr Eddison of Bedale in the North Riding of Yorkshire, doing his rounds by bicycle, assisting in operations and performing most of the midwifery. An incident involving a sick gypsy and a defective water pump led him to make correlations with an outbreak of typhoid. As John Snow had done with the Broad Street pump in 1866, Pickles ended the typhoid epidemic by having the water pump closed, which stirred his first interest in epidemiology.

In an article in the *British Medical Journal* in 1930 "Epidemic catarrhal jaundice: An Outbreak in Yorkshire", and in another in 1933, "Bornholm Disease: Account of a Yorkshire Outbreak", Pickles showed the opportunities available to GPs for epidemiological observation. His observations reached a wider audience in his 1939 book "Epidemiology in Country Practice", in which he described an unusually severe epidemic of catarrhal jaundice in the Dale that had occurred in 1929. It was later discovered to be Hepatitis A and many school children were affected. Through his observational studies, he was able to prove that the incubation period was 26–35 days. He also traced one case to the relationship between an affected maid and a man who sneaked through the door to help her "wash up". For Pickles, it was "great fun when we could exercise Sherlock Holmes tactics and nail the culprits".

In 1935 Pickles spoke to the Epidemiology Section of the Royal Society of Medicine on measles, the incubation period of which was

thought to be between 7 and 18 days. He used an example of a farm boy who transmitted the measles to his aunt who sat in the aerially connected room below, to demonstrate an incubation period of 12 days.

His period of service in Wensleydale eventually covered more than 50 years, half of which time he spent recording his observations. Once, as he looked down upon Wensleydale from the top of a hill, he realised that he knew everyone in the village and most on a first name basis. His success lay in showing that the rural general practitioner had opportunities for making observations on disease. This was as a result of Pickles' close acquaintance with the eight villages he looked after. His wife Gertie, was deeply involved in keeping the charts up to date and in order.

His right leg was amputated in 1965. Pickles died from pneumonia on 2 March 1969. His wife died later the same year. His obituary noted that he was respectful to all his patients, even the "most awkward" ones.

For readers who are interested there is a very good book about his life and work called 'Will Pickles of Wensleydale: The life of a country doctor' by John Pemberton ISBN 0713802790.

B.M.C.

Hardraw Brass Band Concert

Unfortunately, due to some serious family health issues the land owner, who runs the event in partnership with the YHBBA, is not able to commit to the event this year and so everyone has agreed that the event will be paused for this year.

Whaley

Irene and family would like to thank everyone who sent cards, messages and flowers following the death of "Jim". Your thoughts and prayers at this time have been a great comfort.

A big "thank you" to Dave Clark for conducting such a fitting service for Jim at "Widdale Side".

In The Time of Quiet

No one's told the daffodils about the pause to Spring
And no one's told the birds to roost and asked them not to sing
No one's asked the lazy bee to cease his bumbling round
And no one's stopped the bright green shoots emerging through the ground.

No one's told the sap to rest, deep within the wood
And stop the sleepy trees from waking, wretched about in bud
No one's told the sky to douse its brightest shades of blue
And stop the scudding clouds from puffing headlong into view.

No one's asked the lambs to still the springs beneath their feet,
To stop their rapid rush and quell each joyful bleat
No one's told the stream to halt its gurgle or its flow
And warned the playful breezes, not to gust and blow
No one's asked the raindrops not to fall upon the earth
And fail to quench the soil in the season of rebirth.

No one's locked the sun down, or dimmed the shimmer of the moon
And even in the darkest night, the stars are still immune.

Remember what you value, remember who is dear
Close the doors to danger and keep your family near.

In the quiet all around us take the time to sit and stare
And wonder at the glory unfurling everywhere.

Look towards the future, after the ordeal
And keep faith in Mother Nature's power and will to heal.

Phillipa Atkin

Farmers - We're Here to Help



“Whatever the challenge or the opportunity facing the farming community, the first reaction within the Farmer Network is always, what can we do to help?” says Adam

Day, Managing Director since 2015. “Without a shadow of doubt, the wider effects of the coronavirus pandemic will be more significant than those experienced during and after foot and mouth 2001, but we must maintain home-grown food production.” added Mr Day.

At the outset of the pandemic, Farmer Network members were raising concerns about what would happen if key workers on the farm were unable to work. The welfare of animals is clearly a priority along with the well-being of family and farm workers.

In response to this, The Farmer Network team has created a wide-ranging support initiative to help the farming communities of the Yorkshire Dales with the help of the Prince's Countryside Fund. The Farm Labour Emergency Support Scheme (FLESS) is now fully operational. Farmers needing emergency labour can link up with potential workers who are willing to go to the farm and ensure continued operation in a worse-case scenario.

“We're really looking for a strong response from the Yorkshire Dales. We would like more people to register with us and this includes anyone who may be able to offer emergency labour, including skilled and experienced farm workers and also people who perhaps just want to help the farmers where they can, if needed” said Mr Day.

The Farmer Network is also encouraging Yorkshire Dales farmers to make contact in order to discuss information about available funding schemes, preparing contingency plans, and any potential difficulties such as sourcing supplies or general worries or concerns.

Mr Day strongly suggested all farmers should visit the organisations website at www.thefarmernetwork.co.uk to view the Contingency plan template. “We hope farmers will pick the phone up, talk to the team and make a plan for the worst, in the hope that it won't be needed. Our message is clear, we are here to help”. The Farmer Network can be contacted on **01768 868615**.

Prunings

We live in strange times. We must be thankful that we are resident in such a beautiful part of the world. Most of us are cushioned from the worst effects of the lock-down, we have strong communities and kind, helpful neighbours, the postmen are heroes and whatever happens we will still have our wonderful views and very special wildlife on our doorsteps.

Spring is really “Bustin’ out all over!”. Down the road this morning I was bowled over by a bank of bluebells. Perhaps I am taking a jaundiced view, but there seem to be many more than there were last year, and I found myself surmising that it’s possible that there have been less visitors to stop and pick them. Whatever the explanation, they were glorious, interspersed with primroses and stitchwort. Further along I found cuckoo pint alongside dog’s mercury and jack by the hedge. I was almost tempted to pick some wild garlic leaves for the salad. I didn’t gather any, but only because I had nothing to put them in and I didn’t fancy the state they might be in by the time I got them home.

My other half has been very busy, as it’s been so dry, cutting back brambles and all manner of other overgrown vegetation. Progress, however, has been curtailed by the discovery of birds’ nests. We have seen a pair of collared doves building in the ivy on the Aralia. There is a thrush in a bush, blackbirds in the conifers and a robin has taken up residence in the greenhouse. One morning he found a small nest with three blue eggs. A modicum of research proved that it was not another thrush as the eggs were not speckled. It turns out to be a dunnock. After lunch I went to have a look and there were four eggs. I am now putting the washing onto the whirlygig from one side only so as not to disturb it. I haven’t worked out where the goldfinches have set up home, but it can’t be far away as there are so many on the feeders.

The sweet peas have not yet arrived, but the tubs are ready for them. I ordered 2 dozen, and this year I’ll plant them into three tubs. They grow into big plants and were struggling last year in only two. The runner beans have sprouted and I’ve moved them into the greenhouse so the birds can’t wreck them. The next problem will be compost, I just hope someone is prepared to deliver it and that there will be french beans available. I never have

much success growing them from scratch. It might have something to do with being so high up.

I haven’t grown any broad beans but a neighbour has some well grown ones. I must remember to tell him to put some fennel in along the rows as it attracts hover-flies who will lay eggs near black fly colonies. I don’t think he’ll want to use a spray.

So much to do! All our gardens should look good this year as we have no excuse for not getting on with it.

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

Rose Rambler

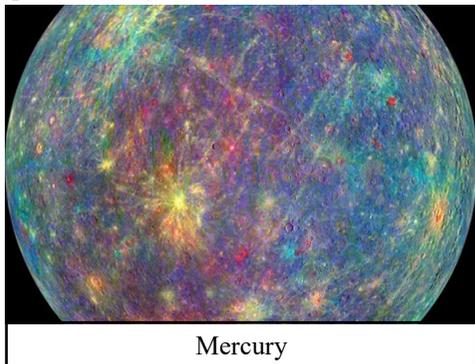
For those of you who have been unable to view the waterfall of Gayle Beck near Town Foot in Hawes, here is what it looks like after a month with virtually no rainfall!!



Heaven's Above

Venus loses its star billing this month. It's been a spectacular 'evening star' right through the winter and early spring, blazing away for hours after sunset. But all good things must come to an end and during the second half of May the planet begins to fade rapidly as it heads back towards the Sun and becomes lost in the solar glare. It reaches Inferior Conjunction - when it passes between us and the Sun - on June 3rd and we won't get to see it again until it re-emerges in the early morning sky a few weeks later.

In the second half of May, from the 15th onwards, Venus is joined in the evening sky by Mercury, the tiny innermost planet. The two lie quite close together on the nights of 21/22 of



May low in the NW. Mercury stands to the lower left of Venus and at magnitude minus 0.6 is a good deal dimmer. A couple of nights later on May 24 the pair are joined by a slim crescent Moon - a lovely sight in the gathering darkness. Best time to look is around 10.00pm.

It's a pity that bright moonlight badly affects this year's Eta Aquarid meteor shower which peaks on the night of May 5th/6th - a day before the Full Moon. We normally get to see 30-40 of these 'shooting stars' an hour in a good year but only the very brightest will show up well this time round. This Full Moon is also another 'Supermoon' - the last of four this year - but it won't be as big or as bright as last month's.

Now that May is here all the main springtime constellations are well on show in the south by late evening. Arcturus the golden-orange leader of Bootes the Herdsman and the brightest star in the northern sky is very prominent. The Plough is almost overhead which means the W of

Cassiopeia is at its lowest in the north. Vega, the brightest of the 3 Summer Triangle stars is gaining altitude in the NE. Leo the Celestial Lion with its famous 'Sickle' is still conspicuous over in the west. The bright blue-white star below Arcturus is Spica in the constellation of Virgo the Virgin. Hydra the Water Serpent sprawls right across the southern horizon with the cheeky crow, Corvus, balanced on its back.

Finally, this month please pledge your support for the National Park's campaign to make the Dales an international Dark Sky Reserve. The aim is to achieve official recognition for the exceptional nature of our night sky and to protect it from further light pollution. You'll find details of how to do this on the National Park's website which also contains loads of information and practical tips about stargazing in the Yorkshire Dales. Have clear skies!

Al Bireo

Notes from Thorney Mire

Spring

It's too nice to be inside so I am sitting in the garden typing this. To the east curlews are calling, to the west, pigeons are cooing, to the south, jackdaws and rooks and their young are making what can only be described as a din, oyster catchers are flying overhead making their presence felt and somewhere in the mix is a willow warbler. In this cacophony of sound, how do they expect me to concentrate?

The goldfinches are nesting in the cypress tree again. They are interesting to watch when it's windy. They cling on to the soft top branches of the tree and sway like colourful trapeze artists hanging on for dear life. Two flycatchers are flittering in and out of the garden, one presumably the male is displaying.

When I opened the bedroom curtains a few days ago a bird shaped object flew away from the top of the window. I was hoping it was a swallow as they had nested there last year, but it was too quick and my eyes are a bit bleary at that time in the morning. Since lockdown, early morning is 9am.

Two days later, two house martins were nesting under the eaves at the front of the house taking advantage of an old nest from last year and a swallow was flying around. Also on one of our "exercise" excursions we saw two swallows flying above the fields by Bands Lane. Since then, two swallows are nesting under the eaves at the back of our house. So they are back. On another one of our exercise trips to Ten End we were serenaded by a meadow pipit and saw a wheatear, which skilfully led us from its nest before flying back down the track again.

Spring flowers are beginning to appear, water avens, yellow dead nettle, lungwort, saxifrage, anemones, sweet cicely and marsh marigolds. Butterbur is rearing its purple head at the bottom of our lane. Wild primroses have slowly come into flower at the top of the lane and blackthorn is on the point of breaking out into its white spring glory.

Tortoiseshell butterflies are around. A red squirrel ran in front of us when we were walking up the lane and there are baby squirrels

in the wood. The wildlife which may benefit from this lockdown are rabbits, squirrels, hedgehogs and pheasants. They will be able to cross the road more safely.

Coming home on the track above Aisgill Force we saw two hares chasing each other between the rushes before disappearing. Further down the track we saw them again but this time they were together. I can only surmise that they were taking their one type of daily exercise but they were definitely not obeying social distancing.

Sylvia Turner

Upper Dales Community Partnership

Along with almost every other organisation, large or small, Covid 19 has faced UDCP with some serious challenges. Each function has required a specific solution. Sadly we were instructed by the County Council that our library, along with every other library, had to close. We thought that there might be a case for allowing our library to stay open but with such a major pandemic we decided that it was best simply to do what we were told and not to argue.

The Post Office was the opposite extreme. It had to stay open and it is functioning very much as usual but with just one weekly session at Sycamore. We don't have the tourists but some people who live locally and were used to travelling to a bank in, say, Leyburn are using the Post Office instead. The volume of parcels has reminded us of Christmas with some sending essentials to family members at a distance and some grandparents sending gifts to help parents to keep their children entertained.

Dale Head Garage comes between the library and the Post Office. With a credit or debit card anyone can buy fuel 24/7 as before but, as I am sure everyone will have noticed, the garage is now staffed only between 8.00am and 2.00pm on Monday to Friday. Our sales are only about a quarter of what we would normally expect with no visitors encouraged to come and many local residents driving much shorter distances than normal. Even with fuel prices higher than we would like we have to keep down our overheads, which mostly means staff wages, in order to avoid getting into financial difficulties. Our number one aim is to keep the garage open as a service to the local community and to be in good shape to resume normal service when the lockdown is lifted.

The Little White Bus is a complicated story in itself. The buses between Hawes and Leyburn are running pretty well as before though passenger numbers are well down. As schools are closed school buses are not needed but we are obliged to be ready to resume that service at short notice. With journeys by train falling off a cliff the Garsdale service is now on demand with no scheduled services. The other bus services, of less immediate interest to those of us living in Upper Wensleydale, are reduced but giving priority to getting older passengers to

Tesco's at Catterick Garrison when it is open for people who are particularly vulnerable.

There is a separate article in this on-line edition on UDCP's work as a hub to help everyone for whom the lockdown is posing particular problems.

A few weeks ago some of us began to worry that this crisis might put paid to UDCP. The Directors met by Zoom last week and are now reasonably confident that we will come out the other side. We are grateful to the Government and to the County and District Councils who have both been flexible and efficient in helping us to survive financially. Far and away our biggest debt of gratitude is to our own staff and volunteers who responded to the challenge before anyone had time to ask them and have tolerated unwelcome but necessary change with goodwill and no loss in efficiency.

Joe Pilling (Chairman)

Computer Corner

Video calling and conferencing are obviously giving huge benefits but which one should you be using and when? I will try to give a resume of the options, their limitations and some of the implications. The various apps can be separated into two classes. The first which is probably best described as social use and the second for business team meeting and conferencing.

First I will be considering the social video calling apps. There are a wide range of services that are dominated by Apple Face Time, Face Book Messenger, WhatsApp, Microsoft Skype and Google Duo.

1. Apple Face Time

If you and your family all have Apple devices the obvious choice is Face Time, This is a feature that is built into Apple system software and uses the Apple ID account that you had to setup when you first installed the device. When you activate it on the device you register your Apple ID or phone number, which means it can be used on an iPad without a phone connection. To make a call you simply select the persons phone number from your contacts list or type in their icloud.com email address and their device will ring to alert them just like receiving a phone call. The main draw back is that it is only available on Apple devices so if you want to contact a person with a different platform then you have to use a different method. The second limitation is that by using the app you are giving the other person your phone contact details so they will be able to call you directly which might not be acceptable in a business setting.

2. Face Book Messenger

If you are a Face Book user and so are your contacts, then the Messenger feature is an obvious choice, this works with any device, but does need to have a camera and microphone, so tablets, smart phones and laptops are the most likely. It uses you Face Book friends to allow you to send an invitation to be a contact that has to be accepted by the friend before they can be called. You simply click on a link in your list of friends to send them the invitation message. If they accept you can just click on their entry in your contact list and call them. By setting up groups it is possible for one person to initiate a conference call with several individuals but as it is often operated on mobile phone screens about 6 people is a realistic limit. The down side is

that it is only available to Face Book members and like all functions on that platform, it is about collecting data and profiles for targeted marketing.

3 WhatsApp.

At first glance WhatsApp appears to be available to install on any Apple or Android devices and hence have the option of contacting to any one who has it installed. However it uses your phone number to identify you so if you have it installed on a tablet without a linked phone there appears to be no way any one can call you.

4. Skype

Skype apps are available on most system, Windows 10 laptops and both Apple and Android mobiles and tablets. When you setup the app you register an account using your email address. This is then used to identify you for making one-to-one calls to other Skype users. It seems a bit dated but it works.

5. Google Duo

Google Duo replace the old Google Hangouts app that works on Android, Apple and Windows computers with the chrome browser. When setting the account up on any android device you get a text message sent to a mobile phone to verify the account. According to the Google web site this is a one off step. Once installed you can be contacted via your phone number or your google account email address. Any one in the address book on an Android phone that is also registered with the Duo app will automatically be shown in your Duo contact list. If you have chrome cast device installed on your TV you can cast a Duo video call and have the image the full size of the TV screen.

Video Conferencing

For the size of screen most video conference call are best done from a laptop computer.

For social use most people will simply make use of the group calling capabilities of Facebook Messenger or the free version of Zoom. Both of these are relatively easy to setup and work well, however you should be aware that the revenue streams for these services are based on collecting user profiles for targeted marketing and as Messenger uses Facebook friends it is not that appropriate in many business setting.

Microsoft Teams.

This is seen as the gold standard for secure conferencing for large organisations. It has its draw backs for more wide spread use as it requires a paid for Microsoft Business Essentials account and limits participation to members of that account or guests that have been added in advance by the account administrator.

Google Meet app.

Google Meet is probable the most suitable for small to medium business video and conference calling. It is part of the G-Suite set of apps and as such is a paid for account. To set one up you have to have an available internet domain or will need to register one during the process. If you register a suitable .co.uk domain name via google then it will cost £11 to setup the account followed by a £3 - £4 monthly fee and it creates an email address on that domain name. It only requires the person setting up the call to have the G-Suite account, other people can join in by invitation.

Once you have got the account set up you can send an invitation to join the conference group using the recipients email address or phone number. If you receive an invitation on a phone it will ask you to install the Google Duo app so handle your end of the call but on a computer it will simply open a windows within the browser and ask permission to access your webcam and microphone. The computer version does not install any software or require the user to accept cookies and leaves nothing behind when the call is over.

This is the choice I have gone for to help provide remote support to clients. I have yet to test using chrome cast from the laptop to a TV screen during a conference, but the larger screen format should help when multiple connections are open.

Gavin Edwards
Yoredale Computer Services
01969663365

Upper Dales Health Watch

Update from Central Dales Practice 13th April.

If a patient has COVID19 symptoms they should call 111 before contacting the Central Dales surgery.

If a patient is unwell and doesn't have/hasn't had COVID19 symptoms, they should call Central Dales and a GP or the Advanced Nurse Practitioner will call them back. NB please answer a withheld number as it will be a call from one of the surgeries. As far as possible patients' concerns will be dealt with over the phone.

Medications will be delivered if a patient is not able to collect them. However, there are village volunteers being co-ordinated by the Community Office in Hawes. Patients just need to phone 667400 if they need help with shopping, collecting medication etc. Prescriptions can be collected by self-isolating patients, and will be brought out to the car if the surgery is phoned in advance. Please make sure that the correct money (£9.15 per item) is brought when making a collection. Prescriptions will be signed by the Practice to reduce contact/time in the building.

Ordering repeat prescriptions - as far as possible this should be done via on-line accounts. The Practice will give details over the phone if a patient confirms details of themselves to the member of Practice staff they are speaking to. Patients can ask family/friends to order via email on their behalf.

Emails: hawes.dispensary@nhs.net and aysgarth.dispensary@nhs.net

Central Dales Practice will deal with as much as possible by phone so patients should not worry about contacting them. The Practice has directly contacted those in the highest risk category direct and asked them to shield and given advice. They will continue to be checked on.

Referrals – routine referrals are being cancelled. Anyone who has had their referral cancelled (they will have had a letter), should get back in touch with the Practice when this health emergency is over should their issue not have been resolved, and they will be re-referred. Urgent referrals (suspect cancers etc.) are still being made and accepted.

UDCP Ltd turns into Regional Community Support Organisation to help residents in Wensleydale

Since the COVID-19 crisis hit the UK, the UDCP Ltd has been working together with both North Yorkshire County Council and Richmondshire District Council as a “Community Support Organisations”, CSO for short. We are one of 23 CSOs in North Yorkshire who are acting as the single point of contact for the councils to co-ordinate their care efforts with the local voluntary sector, and have been delivering this support via the Community Office in Hawes, and through our A Good Life Project, led by our Project Co-Ordinator, Julie Greenslade.

The role of the Community Support Organisation is as follows:

*The single point of contact for those who are alone and isolated by the pandemic;

*Signposting to what local support is available in the community;

*Act as local hub for individuals and groups wishing to volunteer in the community response;

*Provide information on local shopping options and trusted suppliers who are delivering directly to those who are self-isolating;

The CSOs are working with local voluntary groups to arrange:

*Collection and delivery of shopping using local volunteering resources. Shopping will be delivered in line with the safety guidelines and left on the doorstep or in a safe place, in order to avoid close physical contact;

*Collection and delivery of prescriptions using local volunteers. Prescriptions will be collected by a nominated person or organisation with the agreement of the GP or pharmacist;

*Caring for pets, for example walking a dog.

*Regular social contact via telephone, FaceTime, Skype or other methods that avoid physical contact with an individual in self-isolation.

*Delivery of books and magazines or materials to support hobbies, such as wool or knitting or art materials.

To date, we have the help of an amazing team of 137 active volunteers, with numbers growing all the time, and have supported the community as follows:

*Helped 302 individuals or families

*Delivered shopping to 60 individuals or families

*Delivered prescriptions to 36 individuals or families

*Set up befriending for 3 people.

*Taken 123 calls for help

If you need support but don't have any family or neighbours nearby who can help, you should contact the County Council's customer service centre on 01609 780780, which will direct you to the contact point in your area. Alternatively, the Community Office can be contacted directly on 01969 667400.

If you would like to register as a volunteer, please call the office on 01969 667400, or our Project Co-Ordinator, Julie Greenslade, on 07917 711227.

Many thanks to everyone involved, together we can get through this crisis.

Abbie Rhodes, Manager, UDCP Ltd

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**Founded in 1995
by the late Alan S. Watkinson**