

THE UPPER WENSLEYDALE NEWSLETTER

Issue 272

February 2021

Donation please:
50p suggested



Daisy at Castle Bolton

KD

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

Guest Editorial

With all the anxiety about the spread of the covid virus it has not been easy to stay cheerful over the past year. We could not even look forward to seeing friends and family at Christmas and New Year, when the situation took a turn for the worse and the number of cases started to rise again. Here in the Upper Dales we did not experience until very recently the kind of problems our friends and relatives have been dealing with in other parts of the country, and in such circumstances you tend to focus on the negative and to miss some of the more positive things that are happening even during this pandemic.

Early on in the first weeks of the lockdown I noticed that the stars seemed brighter, and then I learned that this was not just my imagination, it was indeed the case, as with the reduced number of planes flying there is less pollution in the skies. I had not even thought about the kind of pollution caused by the vapour trails that aircraft leave behind until then.

On my iPad I have an app that gives me a map of the heavens and when I stand in the garden I can move it round the points of the compass and identify the constellations. The app enables me to follow the changing movement of the planets over weeks and months - provided, of course, that the sky is not overcast. On a clear night the Milky Way curves right over the house, there are thousands of stars, and little luminous blips created by satellites as they cut across the constellations.

We are very fortunate here in the Upper Dales in that we are able to look up and see the stars. In cities where there is so much bright light you can barely see the stars at all, and my visitors will often stand out in the garden even on very cold nights, or walk up the fellside where there are no street lights just to look up and marvel at what they can see.

Last December came the announcement that the Yorkshire Dales National Park had achieved Dark Sky Reserve status, and together with the North York Moors we have one of the largest dark sky areas in Europe. Dark Sky status means that recognition is given to places where there is very little light pollution so that the stars can really be seen. The National Park website has a lot of information about Dark Sky status, including details of the next Dark Skies Festival in February, and ideas about activities for

children to help them learn about the stars. This year there will be an emphasis during the Festival on nocturnal wild life, another exciting and mysterious part of all our lives about which many of us know very little. Last year there was a workshop on astrophotography where you could learn from an expert how to take great photos of the night sky. Pete Collins, whose website Diamond Skies has some magnificent images of night skies across the north is one of several talented photographers in our region.

The Dark Skies Reserve is important for communities, because it both acknowledges something very special that we can all enjoy and ensures that future lighting will stay appropriate. Just to give an example of how important this is, in the Midlands village where I used to live a wealthy new home owner installed what felt like an array of searchlights round his property which could be seen for miles and which infuriated the locals. That kind of thing could not happen here.

I have a new app now too, thanks to one of the many over-worked delivery men who have been bringing essential supplies during the lockdown. This app is called Aurora, and it tells you when there might be a sighting of the Northern Lights in the Dales. He told me he has often seen the Northern Lights when on his rounds, and recommended this app. I haven't been lucky enough to see that particular phenomenon yet, but it is something else to look forward to as we wait hopefully for the end of lockdown.

Susan Bassnett



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A Good Life and Community Support Hub

Well, I think we all knew that the lockdown was coming and we at A Good Life Project know that this will bring with it many worries.

The support offered by A Good Life and the Community Support Hub has been in place since March 2020 and the volunteers have continued to support our communities throughout this time and this support remains in place. We can help with shopping, dog walking, prescription collection, and regular support via telephone.

Don't be alone. If you have been hit financially, please get in touch. We may be able to help you to switch to a better electricity tariff or signpost you to other available help within North Yorkshire.

We are very proud to be working with The Open Pantry which is there to support ANYONE in our communities who is in need of food supplies.

Other financial help may also be available for residents within The Upper Dales.

Whatever concerns you have, we will do our best to help. Our contact details are: email : julie@udcp.co.uk or hello@udcp.co.uk; phone: 07817 711227.

Due to the lockdown there will be fewer staff members at The Community Office so please try the above ways of contacting before using the Community Office number : 01969 667400.

Take care and stay safe.

Submission of articles

Please note that all submissions should comply with current copyright legislation. If submitted articles are not the original work of the person submitting them, then all relevant permission should be sought and granted for reproduction.

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**TUESDAY FEBRUARY 16th
(Unless we are full earlier)**

PUBLISHED ON FEBRUARY 25th



Eunice the Ewe

In the December issue I was at the foot of the back cover sheet and the lucky winners of the £10 prize are Sid and Bertie Peacock of Hawes.

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

Sumner Jewellers

As of the end of February my shop will be no more, so can I take this opportunity to thank you for your support over the years.

I will be contacting customers who still have repairs or engraving with me, to arrange collection or delivery, any queries please ring or message, 07927 385453.

During this lockdown, I am operating a pay and collect/delivery service for all remaining stock which is now half price, so if something catches your eye in the window give me ring on the above number. Thank you.

Geraldine Sumner

The accuracy, appropriateness or legitimacy of any product or service advertised in this publication is the sole responsibility of the advertiser and not of the Upper Wensleydale Newsletter.

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Upper Dales Community Partnership Report

UDCP Ltd is flourishing despite the COVID restrictions.

While there have been the inevitable changes to how we operate our services over the past year, we are proud to have continued to deliver for our community.

In “normal” life, UDCP Ltd would hold an open Annual General Meeting for members of the public to attend but, like so many organisations, Directors were forced to hold the September AGM by Zoom. Officers were re-elected, and the accounts for years 2018/19 and 2019/20 were formally approved. All UDCP Ltd accounts are available on the Companies House website.

As a not-for-profit organisation, it is vital that we generate a surplus each year in order to maintain those services that will never make money. For example, although we are generously housed in an NYCC building and supported in other ways by North Yorkshire County Council, it is perhaps not known that we do not receive a subsidy for running the library. Hawes Post Office operates at a loss because we do not have the retail outlet income that Post Offices located in shops do. Therefore, to maintain these services we need to work hard on the profit-making sides of the business. This is achieved by balance.

But what do I mean by balance? If we look at the Little White Bus, a small surplus is generated through operating a mixture of community bus services alongside the contract services. We have a great team of employed drivers, but we also have a great team of volunteers. At Dale Head Garage the key to balance is generating profits to plough back into the non-profit making parts of the business whilst trying to keep petrol prices competitive for residents and visitors. For the Post Office, library and Community Office it is balancing

these services that make no money, lose money even, against the needs of the community to keep these services running.

So where else does our money come from, and what do we do with it?

We have a wonderful, long-standing relationship with Richmondshire District Council, and we deliver both their Community Office services and manage their business units on the Industrial Estate. Our ties with North Yorkshire Police remain strong, and we celebrate our second year of partnership with Newcastle Building Society, a great asset to the community.

Grants have allowed us to carry out the Community Support work we have delivered through COVID, full details of which are in a separate report.

To be sure, without the government’s financial support this year could have been a very different story. Swift actions executed at the beginning of last year meant the Board and Management Team were able to restructure the Partnership to hopefully safeguard it against the financial trials of this year and no doubt the year ahead. Whatever comes our way, you can rest assured our hard-working, committed team here at UDCP Ltd will do our utmost to always be here for our community.

Abbie Rhodes
General Manager, UDCP Ltd

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:	Sykes Shop,	650535
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

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Heavens Above

Mars is pretty much the only bright naked-eye planet visible in the night sky this month. It's faded quite a bit since its close approach last year but you can't really miss its bright orange spark high in the south-west around **10.00pm**.

On **February 18/19th**, the crescent Moon joins the Red Planet near the Pleiades star cluster forming a lovely tableau in the late evening sky. All being well, **February 18th** also sees the arrival at Mars of Nasa's latest Rover, Perseverance. Its landing sequence is an extremely complex affair involving the spacecraft being lowered to the surface by a rocket powered 'Skycrane'. It'll be a tremendous feat of engineering if all goes well. Perseverance has a tiny helicopter, Ingenuity, on board which will be the first aircraft of its kind to achieve powered flight on Mars if things go to plan. The lander also carries a tiny electronic chip bearing the names of more than 10 million people from all over the world including a couple from Upper Wensleydale! There wasn't enough room for any cheese though!



Mars Skycrane

If you can bear the cold, February offers some of the best starry skies of the year. Look south soon after dark and you'll see the grandest of all the constellations, Orion the legendary Hunter of ancient Greece, striding across the horizon. His rectangular figure with a distinct sloping line of 3 stars forming his 'Belt' is unmistakable. Orion is accompanied by a whole retinue of bright star patterns – Taurus the Bull, Castor and Pollux the Heavenly Twins, Auriga the Charioteer, and Canis Major and Minor – the Greater and Lesser Dogs – a glorious sight on a sparkling frosty night. Sirius, the main star in Canis Major and by far the brightest in the sky, is particularly striking. It's at its highest for the year this month and flashes all the colours of the rainbow in the chilly air.

Over in the northern part of the sky, right on the horizon, you'll find another brilliant star, steely-blue Vega in the constellation of the Lyre. By way of contrast the bright yellow star almost



overhead is Capella, the She-goat. In the north-east the familiar shape of the Plough stands on its handle with the distinctive W-shape of Cassiopeia prominent in the north-west. Over in the east one of the main springtime constellations has climbed into view – Leo the Lion with its famous 'Sickle' asterism. If you can get away from the street lights, bearing in mind the lockdown, you should be able to pick out the pale ribbon of the Milky Way. It's beautifully displayed this month running right across the sky from north to south – you'll be amazed at how many stars come into view just using an ordinary pair of binoculars.

Finally this month, well deserved congratulations to the Yorkshire Dales and North Yorkshire Moors National Parks which were both awarded International Dark Sky Reserve status in December. A job well done. You'll find lots more information about what this entails on the YDNPA website along with full details of this year's Dark Skies Festival (**February 12th – 28th**) which has gone virtual due to the lockdown restrictions. Let's hope we get a few more clear skies so we can really enjoy our new Dark Sky status.

Al Birio



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February Competition

After the events of last year, another lockdown and possibly a 'dry January', some people may feel the need for a drink.

Below are clues to alcoholic drinks. The answer may be a type of drink or a famous brand name. See how many you can identify. Cheers!

1. Regal mixer
2. Mother is very small
3. Scarlet complaining cry
4. Is a sun singe good for you?
5. Winter fight weapon
6. Sounds like a crazy period to take this drink
7. It's almost Russian water
8. Old, Bill and David
9. Acrid and resentful
10. German master of the hunt
11. A gem in old Mumbai
12. Mix up Bryan mums lav
13. Crown jewels guard
14. Put at ease in Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana
15. Dendrocopos drink
16. I am a monarch
17. Effervescent dollars
18. Change map around
19. Beat it up and why
20. Marx meets his ship sinker but doesn't have ice
21. Wizard part in an auction
22. Beach city 30 miles west of LA
23. Aunt Mary in Spain
24. Cup number 1
25. Cleverest flower part

Send your answers to arrive no later than **Tuesday, February 16th** for a chance to win the £20 prize which will be sent to your nominated charity.

Answers to the December Competition

This proved a little trickier than usual for our readers (even allowing for two alternative answers). The answers that we had in mind were;

1. Break NECK tie
2. Green HOUSE hold
3. Dream TIME trial
4. Penalty TRY harder
5. Fret SAW tooth
6. Grand MOTHER tongue
7. Hard TIMES table
8. Mine WORKING lunch
9. Night TIME lord
10. Onion RING tone **Or** SKIN tone
11. Red PEPPER pot **Or** HOT pot
12. Root VEGETABLE patch
13. Mexican WAVE length
14. Tang ENT rant

Only three totally correct answers this month and the winner drawn from the hat was Brenda Peacock of Hawes who nominated Yorkshire Air Ambulance as her charity. They will receive the £20 prize.

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News From Bainbridge Vets

Happy New Year to all our clients and patients, we hope that 2021 starts to bring some normality back for everyone.

We recently have had a case of Leptospirosis in an unvaccinated dog. This is a disease that we see relatively commonly and yet is preventable by vaccination. Unfortunately, most clinical disease is missed until the dog becomes very jaundiced and by that point the dog is usually in liver failure and despite our best efforts cannot be saved. This disease can also be passed to humans through infected urine, making vaccination essential. For more information, please ring us on **01969 650263**.

Could we also politely remind everyone not to just turn up to the practice. We would request that medicines are ordered over the phone on the number above, or by email reception@bainbridgevets.co.uk, or through the website www.bainbridgevets.co.uk, in advance as we are still running an appointment system rather than open surgeries so we can ensure social distancing.

All the best and keep safe everyone from Bainbridge Vets.

John and Anne Bowe

Would like to thank everyone for the cards, presents and flowers etc. received for their Golden Wedding.

Emma Cloughton

Emma would like to thank friends and family for gifts and money received for her 21st birthday x.

Jean Airey

Would like to thank her family and friends for their cards, gifts and good wishes on her 90th birthday.

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‘Lines On Map Time’ For New Local Plan

People in the Yorkshire Dales National Park are being invited to put forward potential sites in their towns and villages for new housing. Letters have been emailed to about 400 organisations and bodies including all Parish Councils in the National Park. Members of the public, including landowners, are encouraged to take part in the consultation, which will end on **Friday, February 26th**.

To take part, people can visit the National Park Authority’s website for maps, guidance and consultation response forms. People can also email localplan@yorkshiredales.org.uk or phone **01969 652334** with enquiries.

The call for housing sites constitutes the third public consultation on a new Local Plan, to cover the period 2023 - 2040. The Local Plan will determine where development will and won’t take place across the whole National Park. The first consultation on a new Local Plan took place from December 2019, when people were asked general questions, such as what they thought were the most important planning issues in their part of the National Park. In summer 2020, a second consultation garnered views on housing numbers, low carbon development and farm related development; the views of young people were sought specifically.

Carl Lis, Member Champion for Sustainable Development at the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, said: “We’ve listened to what people have told us in the first two consultations. Whilst there is support for a more ambitious Local Plan, there is also a sizeable minority who think we should not be planning for any more new housing in the National Park. Now the time has come to get down to detail and start drawing lines on the map. I would like to ask communities to think carefully about whether their town or village has capacity for more housing and, if so, where development should happen. In other words, I am urging local people to help identify the land that is suitable for housing development in their area, and the land that is not.”

“Now is the time to get involved if you would like to shape the development in your area, as the Local Plan determines the principle of developing land. The new Local Plan will guide all decisions on development in the National Park from 2023 onwards.”

In November 2019 a Strategic Housing Market Assessment recommended that at least 50 additional dwellings needed to be built every year in the Yorkshire Dales National Park to counter population decline and increase the stock of affordable housing. The new consultation asks whether that target should be even higher, to enable the population to grow.

Mr Lis continued: “Quite a number of sites that were allocated for new homes the last time we created a Local Plan, eight years ago, regrettably remain undeveloped. It’s been very disappointing to see new housing completions at a low level in the National Park for several years running. So, as part of this consultation, we will need to understand whether there is any point carrying over housing sites allocated in the existing Local Plan that have stood undeveloped. “I would like to see sites being allocated for new housing only where there is a genuine commitment to build. All comments and suggestions for sites will be carefully considered in this consultation, but speculators are not welcome. It’s vitally important we get this right because without new homes, it is very likely that the resident population in the National Park will decline. To make the National Park a better place, we need to see affordable new homes being built and permanently occupied.”

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Notes from Thorney Mire

I mentioned in a previous article that two grey squirrels had been seen in the wood. During the Autumn a trapping programme took place and two female grey squirrels were caught. The red squirrels continue to thrive and can be seen scampering up the trees, running along the walls and occasionally coming to the bird feeders.

We seem to have a local kestrel. It can often be seen flying around the house, sitting on the telephone post, or balancing on the wires in blustery winds trying to keep its balance. Walking along our lane one afternoon, as we passed a barn, a tawny owl flew out from an opening and gave us a bit of a start. It flew along the lane, got into a conflict with a jackdaw then disappeared. We often hear the call of the tawny owl after dark.

It's that time of year when the robin population quadruples. The resident one wastes a lot of energy chasing one of the visitors, while the other two, presumably females sit on the sidelines waiting for an opportunity to get to the feeders. On two occasions we have seen long tailed tits on the feeders, there were seven of them at one point. They stay for a while then move on.

The birds are having a hard time this winter, especially in the snowy weather. Our supply of commercial bird food is running low. I've tried to explain to them that Boris won't let me out to buy peanuts and fat balls, so I'm having to get inventive with things I can find in the kitchen, but they don't understand. Two collared doves made short work of softened Cheerios and the crust of the blue cheese was gobbled up in no time by the smaller birds. I even spent ages cutting apple peel into small pieces. I know there is no fat content in peel so it wouldn't help to keep them warm but it would count as one of their five a day. The R.S.P.B birdwatch took

place on January 29th to 31st, so that passed an hour during lockdown.

I have long suspected that I am becoming a grumpy old woman. Nearly every time you switch on the television, there is a bright young thing, usually from a town or city extolling the virtues of being in the countryside, saying how good it is for our mental and physical health. Well yes, we know it is, that's one reason why we live here. We are told how peaceful it is and how you can hear the birds sing, no mention of R.A.F. jets and motorbikes. We're also informed that we can smell the grass, the moss, the woods, again no mention of slurry. Now don't get me wrong, I'm all for people coming into the countryside to enjoy its benefits, but please, don't present it to me as if it's a new idea. It's a bit like when adolescents find out about the facts of life and they think they are the ones who have discovered them.

Grumpy Old Woman. I rest my case. I blame lockdown.

Sylvia Turner

Margaret Pearson, West Witton

Margaret would like to thank all her family and friends for the lovely cards, emails, phone calls and best wishes, sent to her, to celebrate her 90th Birthday on New Years Day.

Including all who had a virtual cup of tea with her, helping to make Margaret's Birthday so special. Thank you.

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Happy New Year to everyone. Education is certainly changing fast. I would like to thank all of our students, parents and staff for their community spirit and support. Below is a snapshot of our journey over the first few days of the New Year.

On December 28th the Senior Leadership team met to discuss how we implement our Mass Testing Scheme.

By January 1st the bays were all built and in place. Staff completed all the training and printed off certificates to prove it. We had set up the whole system and had a roll out plan ready to go. We completed the Staff Training day as planned on January 5th.



At 8.00pm on January 5th, schools were told to close and the Prime Minister tells all Year 11 and 13 that exams are cancelled in the summer. That was the first we had heard of it!

January 7th, the Secretary of State threatens schools with Ofsted if we don't provide quality online learning, but there are no further IT devices on their way. We have been allocated 21 and that's it. Meanwhile The Wensleydale School and Sixth Form continues to be open for key workers and vulnerable students

Actions we have taken as at January 7th:

1. Conducted a google survey to find out parents IT needs.
2. Teachers have set project based assignments initially for the first week, to give us time to Covid test everyone and reorganise working rotas etc. However, from January 11th all teachers will be available at the timetabled

times to teach and answer questions from students

3. From January 18th all lessons have some face to face teaching (via google video link) in each lesson wherever possible. To make this happen we have asked staff for their IT wishlist and will need to make sure everyone has the training and technology they need to make this happen. NYCC Public Health are very clear that because Richmondshire and Hambleton have the fastest rising covid cases in the county, it is not sensible to have all teachers in school using school IT, they must be allowed and encouraged to work from home where possible. We will keep this under review.

4. All Senior Leaders will be in school every day. 5 teachers and equivalent support staff will be in school each day to support key worker/vulnerable children, on a rota basis. Staff will be covid tested every day they are in school, except SLT who will test weekly.

5. We will have tutoring on a daily basis from January 11th, making the tutor available at the end of the school day to phone, email or video call students to make sure they have support.

6. Year 11 will be tutored by the Senior Leadership team from Monday, January 11th. At a parent's suggestion we will also arrange a Year 11 online Parents Evening - in some format to discuss how to achieve grades and keep motivated. I suspect the government will take some time to let us know how we are supposed to award GCSE and A level grades, so it is really important students do not just give up, as we might need additional evidence.

7. Year 9 options process will continue and be rolled out shortly. We will devise an online Options Evening format.

8. Other year groups will have online Parents Evenings as and when we feel it necessary.

9. We tested all Year 10 BTEC music students and Year 13, prior to their exams in January.

Julia Polley
Headteacher

Free to Good Home

Nakajima AS 160

Electronic Typewriter

Hardly used – with Instruction Manual etc.

Contact Ian Woolley

01969 666849

Cultura Trust plans to reopen Gayle Mill to visitors in 2021

Cultura Trust, which owns the Gayle Mill site, has received £159,000 to support its sites and collections from the Culture Recovery Fund for Heritage and the Heritage Stimulus Fund.

The funding has allowed the trust to appoint Richmondshire county councillor Stuart Parsons to prepare the mill for reopening.

Graham Bell, director of Cultura Trust, said: "We are very pleased to have been selected to receive this valuable support and, as part of our commitment to Gayle Mill, to be able to announce that the funding has enabled us to appoint Stuart Parsons to help us prepare the mill for Covid-safe reopening in 2021. Stuart is well known in the Dales as a former mayor of Richmondshire District Council and for his many personal community responsibilities."

Stuart said: "The mill represents over 200 years of British industrial innovation. I'm thrilled to become part of its story, especially during these difficult times. For me, it is the people in the story which brings it to life."



Jill McMullon and Stuart Parsons

Jill McMullon, chair of Hawes and High Abbotside Parish Council, said: "Gayle Mill is very much a part of our local history and it will be amazing to have it restored back to a working mill."

"In such difficult times it's lovely to have such good news and we look forward to see its progress and eventual completion."

In addition to employing Stuart Parsons, the package of funding for Cultura will help Gayle Mill with setting up a photogrammetry community project to produce a digital model of the mill and digitise some of the collection.



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Police Report

Happy New Year to you all, although it sadly may not be the start we had hoped for. Onwards and upwards though!

Incidents of note throughout December to January;

Overnight on December 13th a BMW estate parked on Little Ings at Gayle was broken into, and a number of tools were stolen from within, including 2 black Milwaukee impact wrenches, some coil spring compressors, a Kielder battery and a Milwaukee radio. Nearby on the same evening, a Fiat van was broken into and tools were stolen from within, including Makita drills, radio, sander and batteries. Around the same time on Burtersett Road, Hawes a Peugeot van was broken into and tools stolen, including a Hilti drill and a Pasload Bluetooth speaker.

If you have any information about the above events, please contact the police on 101. We would like to deal with these offenders as robustly as possible, as we are aware of the misery and even fear that this type of anti-social behaviour (ASB) can cause, but we need facts and details in order to deal with these incidences - which is where we need your assistance in you coming forward.

In the early hours of December 22nd, staff at Tan Hill Public House reported a disorderly drunk couple causing problems for staff on the premises. Police attended and arrested a female from the Manchester area for assault. Unbelievable behaviour, given the current Covid crisis!

Overnight on January 2nd, a Ford Ranger pick-up left unattended near Coverhead Bridge in Coverdale was broken into by the side window being smashed, and items stolen from within, including a pair of high value Swarovski binoculars. Please avoid leaving such items on view if you leave your vehicle unattended.

We received third-hand reports in the New Year that a group of youths are causing anti-social behaviour around Hawes. We believe this has included door knocking, removing and damaging Christmas decorations and potentially causing criminal damage to the public toilets and residents' cars. We are led to believe that all the youths are local - indeed, one or two names have been put forward. However, we need local residents to phone these incidents in

first-hand at the time of occurrence and with details of what and where - without this information we are unable to deal with matters effectively. All calls made to us are dealt with in the strictest of confidence and with absolute discretion so please do not feel worried of repercussions should you report individuals to us.

Leading on from the above; sometime between December 26th and 28th, a white Fiat Panda parked in the Town Foot area of Hawes has been damaged by someone jumping or sitting on the bonnet. This has happened while the car was parked on the main road so if anyone has any information relating to this, I urge you to come forward.

As we come to terms with a further national Coronavirus lockdown, unsurprisingly the police are receiving a lot of calls regarding breaches of guidance and rules. To be sure you are complying and for up-to-date information please go to www.gov.uk/coronavirus. If you want to report a breach of the rules please go to northyorkshire.police.uk where there is a specific Coronavirus report form to complete. Please remember that self-preservation is the key, so continue with regular hand washing, social distancing and mask wearing.

**PCSO 3744 Lucy Osborn
Northern Dales Neighbourhood Police Team**

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Weight Loss Scheme Goes Virtual

A weight management service which has helped more than 100 people in its first year has gone virtual.

The 'Choose to Lose' scheme run by Richmondshire District Council is offering online classes and groups so members are able to join the programme without the worry of travelling to classes, missing class times, and finding a group that suits lifestyle and commitments. And success will not be interrupted by any changes to lockdown and tier restrictions during the journey to improve health.

The free of charge programme is for adults with a Body Mass Index (BMI) above 25 who are in need of support to implement a healthier lifestyle. Funded by North Yorkshire County Council Public Health, and launched last spring, it is made up of a 12-week structured weight management programme plus a 12-week maintenance programme for those who achieve 5% weight loss in their first 12 weeks.

The virtual service will provide both aspects of the programme as well as access to a Weight Loss Advisor, online live classes, chat groups

and Facebook open and closed groups. The service is free to anyone who meets the following criteria;

- aged 18 years or over;
- BMI (Body Mass Index) equal to or greater than 30 or 25 with other health conditions;
- resident or registered with a GP practice in North Yorkshire;
- working for an organisation based in North Yorkshire.

To register interest please contact Jo-Anne Scott on **01748 901045** or email jo-anne.scott@richmondshire.gov.uk. You can calculate your BMI by visiting <https://www.nhs.uk/LiveWell/loseweight/Pages/BodyMassIndex.aspx>.

For more information on the service visit <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/healthy-weight-and-eating-well>.

Aly Thompson
Communications Officer
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2021 Wensleydale Tournament of Song Cancelled

The Council of the Wensleydale Tournament of Song were very disappointed that they had to cancel last year's Tournament at the last minute, due to Covid 19. They have now made the difficult decision not to proceed with the Tournament in 2021, again because of Covid 19.

Since its inception in 1898 there have been only two previous occasions when the Tournament has not been held annually for two or more consecutive years, both of these as a result of World Wars. We have now tentatively started making arrangements and are looking forward to an outstanding Festival in 2022.

Are you interested in helping?

We are looking for someone who would like to join our enthusiastic group of volunteers and support the Tournament by acting as Secretary. The role would require you to have all the usual secretarial and IT skills. Initially you would be required to help with correspondence but as we approach our next Tournament there are many other areas in which you could assist.

We all know how vitally important it is to keep music alive in the Dales. In this respect, the Tournament is such an important event,

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having taken place since 1898 and being one of the oldest Festivals in the country. It has promoted amateur dedication and effort both in music and spoken word to the delight of audiences over many years, with the hope that it will continue to do so for many years to come.

If you feel able to help us, please contact Val Nelson (President) on **01677 450227**.

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Although the gym is closed during this lockdown, the great news is we have all our fitness classes running via online zoom. It is so important to stay healthy and keep fit during these times so why not join us in the comfort of your own home for a great workout! New members are very welcome.

The classes we are running are:

Bootcamp; **Mondays 7.00am – 8.00am, Tuesdays and Thursdays 6.00am – 7.00am;** get your metabolism going for the day, high intensity strength, endurance and mobility.

Fit for Life; **Mondays 9.30am - 10.30am;** a strength-based session to keep you active and able to carry out everyday activities with less effort.

Daytime circuit; **Wednesdays 9.30am - 10.30am;** to keep active people, active. Even with a 'designed for Yorkshire Dales stiles' exercise!

Core Strength and Mobility; **Wednesdays 6.00pm -7.00pm;** work on your core strength supporting all your joints to keep mobility for life and to counter balance and inactive lifestyles.

Evening Circuit; **Wednesdays 7.30pm - 8.30pm;** a high intensity session to blast away the days worries.

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We are also running zoom Conversational French on **Wednesdays 10.30am - Noon** (with a 20 minutes coffee break interval). You don't need to be fluent and its fine to make mistakes! The emphasis will be on communication and grammar but we will work on vocabulary and structures to give you confidence and help to make progress.

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Christmas Lights Update

2020 posed us a few problems. We were determined to provide some light and Christmas cheer to Hawes. We hope that everyone can agree that we achieved our ambition. Please let us know what you thought and any improvements we could do.

We managed to replace or repair a few displays and although we didn't have the usual party and carol singing we did have Santa on The Road.

It was decided that we would not ask for donations this year and so limited our spend. We did have some donations which were gratefully received. We will be asking you to become a Friend of Hawes Christmas Lights next November. We are all volunteers and any money raised is spent on keeping Hawes welcoming over the seasonal period.

A big thank you to all the businesses and friends who provide the electricity for the displays. Also to everyone involved with erecting and dismantling the lights.

We would welcome any new volunteers, especially those younger members of the community to continue efforts for years to come. Finally a thank you to Peter Wood, who has stepped down as our Chairman.

Liz Lawson



Closure of the Church Buildings in the Upper Wensleydale Benefice

Cases of infection from Covid19 have been rising steadily in our local area. With the rapidly deteriorating situation in our hospitals and the exhaustion and distress of medical staff, patients and patients' families, we have taken the decision to close our church buildings once again in order to ensure that we are doing all that we can to help restrict the possibilities of transmitting the virus.

Opportunities to engage in worship will continue through a telephone conference room, our weekly 'Church in the Home' news sheet and e-message as well as online. Details may be found on our website www.upperwensleydalechurch.org or our Facebook page: [Upper Wensleydale Church – CofE](https://www.facebook.com/UpperWensleydaleChurch-CofE).

The church buildings may be closed but the Church is not and continues to pray for you all. I invite you to join with us as we pray for one another in these challenging days. If you have a prayer request, any questions regarding accessing help from 'The Open Pantry' or would like to talk then please do get in touch. Telephone: 01969 667553 or email: office@upperwenben.org.

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More than 22 hectares of woodland to be planted this winter

Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust (YDMT) is supporting the planting of 29,000 trees in the new year as it creates new woodlands in the Dales. The Clapham-based charity looks set to help create close to 22.5 hectares of new woodland, nearly 28 football pitches in size, thanks to its partners and players of the People's Postcode Lottery.

Carol Douglas, YDMT Woodland Officer, said: "Since our Together for Trees appeal launched in 2018, we have supported the planting of nearly 60,000 trees, helping to counteract Britain's contribution to global warming and create woodland that everyone can enjoy – for health, wellbeing, and habitat creation. It's great to work with landowners who want to create new woodland, and the fact we can help them plant trees is thanks to our superb supporters, partners and players of People's Postcode Lottery."

"The news of our successful Green Recovery Challenge Fund grant will allow us to further enhance this programme over the next two years, bringing a real difference to communities in the Dales."

The expanded Together for Trees programme will see even more native woodland, alongside the restoration of 1,000 metres of hedgerow and the planting of new iconic field trees to help mitigate the impact of ash dieback.

Carol added: "We are also excited about creating new community woodlands - bringing landowners and volunteers together to help the environment, as well as explore ways to remove, recycle and find alternatives to using plastic tubes in woodland creation. This is an exciting time for woodland creation in our region!"

Players of People's Postcode Lottery have raised nearly £2.5 million for YDMT since 2009, which has allowed the charity to continue expanding its work to support the people, landscape and wildlife of this special area.

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Bigger ambition for woodland in National Park

Farmers in the Dales will be able to take advantage of increasing opportunities to plant and manage woodland during the next ten years, helping to maintain the viability of their farm businesses.

In December, members of the Authority voted to adopt a new ten-year 'Dales Woodland Strategy', the second of its kind. The strategy has been devised by the Dales Woodland Forum, a partnership of landowners, charities and public bodies such as the Forestry Commission.

It sets an ambition to enhance the landscape by creating 6,000 ha of woodland habitat in the Yorkshire Dales National Park by 2030. That would take the area of the National Park covered by woodland, which is currently smaller than London (4.5%) and the smallest of any of England's National Parks, from 4.3% now to 7%. It was confirmed that the ambition in the first Dales Woodland Strategy 1995-2020, to plant 2,000 hectares of new woodland, had been met.

Member Champion for the Natural Environment at the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, and member of the Dales Woodland Forum, Ian McPherson, said: "We have agreed that the open, farmed character of the Yorkshire Dales must be conserved. That's why the new Dales Woodland Strategy clearly sets out that any new woodland must enhance

the landscape. The new ambitions represent a significant scaling up of woodland creation and management in the National Park, but we are all clear that trees must be planted in the right place and for the right reasons. For example, we must ensure tree planting doesn't adversely affect habitat used by birds of conservation concern such as the curlew."

"The new strategy acknowledges the role that existing conifer plantations play within the Dales and careful management of them will be key to survival of the native red squirrel. Creating further conifer plantations could be possible but only when they provide tangible benefits to the natural beauty, wildlife, and cultural heritage of the National Park."

"I would like people to share my enthusiasm about the prospect of more trees in the National Park. New woodland is beautiful. It attracts wildlife. The good news is that public money is available for it. Trees sequester carbon and can help with water quality, natural flood management and, crucially, farm business viability. Managing existing woodlands will become an equal priority to creating more woodlands. Existing mature field trees, usually marking boundaries, are hugely important in the landscape, as are existing hedgerows, such a feature in the Cumbrian part of the National Park. Our starting point will be to work with people to expand or connect existing native woodlands. If we can do this and improve public access to woodlands, so much the better."

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Mystery Picture

Last month's Mystery Picture was the
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***FEBRUARY WHAT'S ON LISTING;
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Dark Skies Festival

The Yorkshire Dales and North York Moors National Parks, together with Nidderdale AONB, are holding the sixth annual Dark Skies Festival from **Friday, February 12th to Sunday, 28th**, this year with a virtual twist.

The theme for 2021 is nocturnal wildlife and we're working on a virtual line up to provide a fascinating insight into our precious wildlife when the sun goes down. We hope to reveal the importance of dark skies and how being free from light pollution plays a crucial role to many species' existence.

Friday, 12th - Sunday, 28th;

Magical discoveries on your doorstep. A recorded mindful walk instruction and information on the night sky with access to a stargazing app, just pick a time to do it.

Downloadable Beginners Guide to Stargazing. Can you identify Cassiopeia from Cygnus? We've quizzes to test your knowledge, fun astro facts and a guide to stargaze from home.

Live Wildlife Cameras at Night. Enjoy spectacular sights of animals after dark via live cameras courtesy of wildlife artist Robert E Fuller.

Saturday, 6th – Friday, 12th; CPRE Star Count with Go Stargazing. Everyone is invited to count the number of stars they can see in the constellation of Orion.

Friday, 12th; Planet Discoveries Inspired by Star Trek. Join Professor Carole Haswell, Head of Astronomy at the Open University, for this family friendly talk about extra-terrestrial planets.

Saturday, 13th; Beginners Guide to the Night Sky. Join astronomer Richard Darn for an introductory tour of the night skies!

Sunday, 14th; Go on a Mission to Mars. Colin Stuart is an astronomy presenter and author of a number of fantastic children's books on astronomy. Participants will be whisked away on a mission to explore the red planet!

Monday, 15th; Landscape Astrophotography for Beginners. Astrophotographer Gary Lintern looks at how to get the best from your camera when shooting in the dark.

Tuesday, 16th; Reverse through the Universe. Join Martin Whipp, Lead Astronomer from the Lime Tree Observatory, on a backward adventure through the Solar System.

Wednesday, 17th; The Invisible Universe. Dark skies let us see some of the glories of the night sky, but even on the best, darkest night, much is hidden from us by kinds of 'light' that our eyes have never evolved to see. So, how are we exploring this invisible universe.

Thursday, 18th; NASA's Perseverance Rover Lands on Mars! Join us for the historic moment.

Thursday, 18th - Thursday, 25th; Join one of the Go Stargazing astronomers for real time views of the Moon (weather dependent).

Saturday, 20th; Building a Satellite. Join Dr Luke Tyas for insights into his role as an Instrument Scientist from Durham University.

Sunday, 21st; Beginner's Telescope Workshop. Join Neill from Go Stargazing for a drop-in Zoom session for advice, tips and live troubleshooting of your telescope.

Nightscape Photography in the Yorkshire Dales. Pete Collins is a keen photographer who captures stunning images in the Yorkshire Dales, particularly at night time. Join him for an introduction to night scape photography using minimal equipment, a DSLR camera and tripod.

Monday, 22nd; How Animals Deal with Darkness - from the echolocation calls of bats, to the crazy asymmetric ears of owls to our own night-time vision (and why we have red-eye in flash photos).

Tuesday, 23rd; The Dark Side of Street Lighting. Join Dr Callum Macgregor from the University of Hull to discover how light pollution impacts on nocturnal wildlife.

Wednesday, 24th; Swaledale Starscapes. Paul Clark has been capturing the beauty of the Yorkshire Dales night sky for 5 years. Join him for a tour of the region with images taken around Swaledale that celebrate not only the fantastic starry skies but also nocturnal wildlife and industrial heritage.

Thursday, 25th; Space Detectives – In The Night Sky. Ideal for young astronomers. Find constellations, travel back through history and discover how important it is to look after the night sky today by becoming a Dark Sky Ranger!

Friday, 26th; Voyage of Discovery. Join experienced astronomer Steven Gray for a family friendly voyage through the Cosmos.

Saturday, 27th; How fast are you moving when sitting still? Dr Fred returns with a talk that will knock you off your seat.

Sunday, 28th; Art in Space. We welcome Sam Cornwell, inventor of the Solarcan, for a tour into outer space to explore art and sculpture that has left Earth's atmosphere.

Details of all the above events can be found at [Dark Skies Festival: Yorkshire Dales](http://Dark_Skies_Festival:_Yorkshire_Dales) (darkskienationalparks.org.uk).

Having been designated an International Dark Sky Reserve, joining an exclusive global family of Dark Sky Places, the Yorkshire Dales are home to some of the darkest skies in the country, with large areas of unpolluted night sky where it's possible to see thousands of stars, the Milky Way, meteors and even the Northern Lights. As part of a coordinated approach by the two National Parks, the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA), has granted Reserve status to both areas, which combined cover over 3,500 km2 of northern England. This is by far the biggest such announcement in the UK and represents one of the largest areas in Europe to be simultaneously designated.

In addition to global recognition of the National Parks' exceptional starscapes, designation also provides an opportunity to promote locations, events and businesses which provide outstanding opportunities to look up into the night sky. As well as enhancing habitats for wildlife, improving health and wellbeing and bringing increased economic benefit to the local tourist industry.

The ambition is to enhance the areas dark skies still further by promoting the importance of dark sky-friendly lighting, therefore reducing unnecessary consumption of electricity and minimising carbon footprints and energy costs for households.

GARDENING

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Steve and Ann Sadler

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ann.sadler@icloud.com

Mobile Skip Dates Re-arranged

The visit of the Mobile Skip to Brunt Acres Park in Hawes which was scheduled for January was cancelled due to snow and ice. A new date has now been arranged. It will now be in Hawes between **9.00am and 1.00pm on Saturday, February 20th.**

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Chaplaincy Role at The Jonas Centre

The Jonas Centre run by The Jonas Charitable Trust, provides low-cost, self-catering accommodation for individuals, families and groups in a peaceful setting in Wensleydale.

This year our former chaplain has taken up a new role with SASRA in Colchester and we will miss his support to the staff team plus his regular visits to the Centre.

We are looking for someone to replace him in the role of providing pastoral support to the staff team. They could be military or civilian, ordained or lay but preferably local and with a heart for our staff and the work of The

Jonas Centre.

Do contact me if you want to understand more about the role or know someone who might have the gifts and skills needed to do this. Tel: **01969 624900**, <http://www.jonascentre.org> or at the Jonas Centre, Redmire, DL8 4EW.

Simon Eastwood, Centre Director



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Askrigg Community Energy (ACE)

Askrigg Community Energy (ACE) is a project founded by a group of seven local, not-for-profit, community serving organisations. These organisations serve communities across Upper Wensleydale within the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

The seven organisations that are the key stakeholders in the ACE project are Yorebridge Sport Development Association (YSDA), Yorebridge Education Foundation, Askrigg VC Primary School, , Askrigg Temperance Village Hall, St Oswald's Church, Low Mill Outdoor Centre and The Askrigg Foundation.

ACE has been working through the lockdowns, since receiving a grant in June 2020 from the Rural Community Energy Fund to conduct a renewable energy feasibility study. The Consultants have been working well with the ACE team and have achieved:

- Keeping our project on time and within budget.
- Holding most of our team meetings and community consultation with Askrigg and the broader community via zoom.
- Creating all the technical specifications to aid our 3 local schools to bid for further funds to install ground/air source heat pumps. One of the schools has reached the funder's next level and we have high hopes for a positive outcome.
- Identified quick wins to replace the current lighting in our community buildings with LED's. Funding is being sought to enable this to happen.
- Identified that only by our organisations working together and sharing buildings that can have installations of photo voltaic (PV) panels with those that have complimenting usage patterns also space and public access for electric vehicle (EV) charging, can we make a financially viable case to take the project forward. As an example there is space on Askrigg school roof for PV's but as there is no longer a feed in tariff to pay for any surplus electricity generated, they need another partner with use at weekends, school holidays etc. using this energy to make the investment worthwhile. Yorebridge Sports Centre is next door and in normal times is open 7 days per week and throughout the school holidays.

They could use the spare electricity generated and justify the installation.

- The best financial case is where electric vehicle (EV) charging takes place to utilise all the renewable energy produced. Further work is being done on demand for EV charging.

By sharing access to training courses, we now have a qualified Energy Ambassador based at Hawes Community Office who can help local households to reduce energy bills, get grants for home insulation and more.

We have also helped the BAWB schools apply to the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund to upgrade their heating systems.

Our next steps are to share the results of the funding applications and details of the Feasibility study over the next few weeks and to conduct a survey regarding residents' future commitment to purchase electric vehicles, both cars and bikes.

There is potential to include other local buildings, such as the three buildings over the road from YSDA that Bainbridge Vets Limited and Yorkshire Dales Brewery occupy. However, the focus of the feasibility study must be the primary buildings and locations.

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Rainfall Figures (in mm) in 2020

	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total for first half year	Total for year 2020
Hawes	110	153	100	182	230	207	1043	2025
Breconbar	72	128	82	168	151	193	709	1503
Carperby	89	105	67	131	100	158	655	1305
Askrigg	54	93	61	109	81	128	462	989
Thornton Rust	98	140	92	170	135	197	844	1676
West Burton	77	140	99	170	142	161	871	1663

What was the Weather Like in 2020?

I have set out below a short record of the weather for last year as observed from Thorney Mire west of Hawes. The weather up and down Wensleydale can vary considerably as can be seen from the rainfall figures.

As a general rule rainfall decreases as you go down Wensleydale. The Dale's east/west axis follows the prevailing westerly wind (compare the total figures for Hawes and other sites). This is due to the air being warmed as it descends from the Pennines, and becoming drier. Note that the summer figures do not vary from site to site to the same degree as the winter ones.

January was a fairly average month with mainly westerly winds and depressions bringing occasional wet and windy weather. The maximum temperature was 11.1°C on the 8th and the heaviest rainfall recorded was 32.9mm on the 12th. Snow was notably absent but there was an occasional covering on the surrounding fells. After a drier spell in the second half of the month the weather was about to change dramatically in February.

Temperatures remained about average but the Jet Stream, (a narrow circulation of strong winds in the upper atmosphere) began driving storms across the country. Heavy rain and gales arrived on the 9th with 104mm of rainfall. Considerable damage was caused, walls were demolished and fences were torn down. Large areas of farmland were flooded. There followed a short spell of cold weather with some snow on the 13th. This ended abruptly on the 15th with the arrival of Storm "Dennis" with gales and 70mm of rain. The stormy weather finally eased when colder weather arrived at the end of the month with frost and some snow. 446mm of rainfall was

recorded this month, the highest since I moved here in 1996.

The cold weather with snow showers and night frosts continued into March before milder air returned on the 9th with spells of rain. The middle of the month was characterised by alternating mild wet periods and colder spells, but by the 20th there was another notable change when it became much drier and warmer by day, but with night frosts.

This dry warm weather continued into April and from the 8th there were 21 consecutive days without any measurable rainfall. Some days were rather cloudy but with the sun getting stronger, temperatures rose reaching 16.8°C on the 11th. However under clear skies the nights were cold.

There was a changeable spell at the beginning of May with showers at times but from the 3rd there was a dry period for 15 consecutive days. It was cool and cloudy at times but there were some warm sunny days and the temperature reached 20.9°C on the 21st. An unusually cold night on the 14th with a minimum temperature of -0.5°C caused damage to fruit blossom and newly emerged leaves on trees. There then followed a brief changeable spell before more warm dry weather returned until the end of the month.

The first half of June was changeable with rain at times, but drier very warm weather returned as a plume of hot air from the Sahara and Spain arriving towards the end of the month sent temperatures soaring with a maximum of 24.5°C on the 25th. However, as is usual in Britain, this hot spell was ended abruptly on the 26th with thunderstorms and heavy rain.

Cooler, wet weather continued into July. It

became slowly drier by mid month but temperatures were below average. Showers returned by the last week of the month before another plume of hot air arrived from the south behind a warm front and temperatures rose to 25°C on the 31st.

After a cool, wet start to August it became drier and temperatures recovered reaching 23.5°C on the 13th. However this recovery was abruptly ended by a thunderstorm the same day! Cool wet weather returned and continued until the end of the month by which time temperatures had fallen considerably with a maximum of only 11.7°C on the 30th.

It was cool and wet into September but by the 10th it became much drier and settled although rather cloudy at times. Temperatures remained around average but by the end of the month it became changeable with cold northerly and easterly winds and ground frosts at night.

October began rather changeable and cold with rain and showers most days. It became drier and more settled by mid month with temperatures near average. There was a return to cooler wetter weather with strong winds at times for the remainder of the month.

The beginning of November was stormy. On the 1st there were gale force winds and heavy rain by the evening. Torrential rain on nearby fells caused Widdale Beck and the River Ure to overflow their banks resulting in flooding to

some properties in Appersett. Many fields were under water and further damage was caused to stone walls and fences around Hawes. Nearly 60mm of rain were recorded from this storm with possibly higher values on surrounding hills.

After a short dry spell mid month, the last two weeks were changeable with periods of rain interspersed with sunny spells. Temperatures remained near or a little below average.

A fall of light snow on the 3rd of December left a thin covering and heralded a cold spell with night frosts and sleet showers. It turned less cold by the 10th but remained rather dull with rain at times but also with occasional sunny spells. Just in time for Christmas, colder weather returned with light snow flurries on the 24th and also, briefly, on Christmas Day morning! These showers were very localised and unfortunately could be easily missed.

The month ended with heavy rain and gales on the 26th which cleared on the 27th to colder conditions. The last few days of the year remained very cold and mainly dry with occasional snow showers.

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Blueboxt Productions Update

As we rapidly approach the point where the Pandemic will have impacted face-2-face and live entertainment for a full year, it looks like our prediction that it will be more like two years of impact is coming true.

All plans up to September are now all under review to see how we can still provide concerts and celebrate our 30th Anniversary. Our digital solutions will continue to connect our volunteers with young creatives and audiences across the Dales and beyond. There is a lot happening and you can be part of it too.

Going Digital - Mentoring and Support. We can help with home study support offering feedback on creative achievements and progress towards Arts Award, music production, instrumental or theory qualifications.

Play > Record > Perform. More young people are set up with the facilities to record at home thanks to a grant from Richmondshire District Councils – COVID Fund. The DVD of our Magical Christmas Concert is a great example of what we were able to achieve with over 20 participants being able to make-music together, even though we were apart. Copies are available for £10. We will also be sharing performances on our website and social media over the coming weeks. We are full steam ahead planning for our virtual celebration concert to be shared in March. This project is supported by Wensleydale Rotary Club, Leyburn Arts Centre, NYCC (Locality Grant), YDMT Roger Stott Community Fund, NYMAZ and Youth Music, using public funding from the National Lottery through Arts Council England.

Reverberate - Our Sounds Off? Dales project all about Youth Voice and creating a sense of civic pride is progressing well. Participants have identified what is important about the Dales and the people who live and work in our communities and are creating a presentation which will include music, images and spoken word to share their findings.

Fell-Foss Theatre – Our next touring production, ‘The Life and Opinions of Tristram Shandy, Yorkshireman’, will now tour a year later in Autumn 2022. 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 us 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. Our latest newsletter is now available, please contact us if you would like a copy and to find out how you could support our work.

If you would like to know more information or take part in our activities, please contact Colin Bailey on **07711 21169** or info@blueboxt.co.uk, or message via our website www.blueboxt.co.uk or social media.

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Prunings

A Happy New Year for 2021, or rather, I wish you a happier one than last year. When I reflect on it, I have to say with gratitude that there are so many worse places to be locked down than here in our beautiful Dales. We still have our countryside, our lovely views, our kind neighbours and of course our gardens. As long as the sun shines, (have faith in that) we have lots to do and lots to enjoy.

We had snow! About three inches of it was sitting on the bird feeders and the box hedge. My other half rescued the hedge before the white stuff froze solid and did any damage. The temperature lifted and the landscape changed from fairytale pristine white through patchy and grey, and now today (January 12th) the sunshine on the grass renders it brilliant green. Were it not for the tell-tale slivers of white behind the walls you'd think it was a month later.

We sometimes shop in Catterick, partly for variety and partly because we can get a take-away meal. Funny how good a "Big Mac" can taste when you haven't had to cook it and it's about 15 years since the last one! Eating it on the car-park as you have to, I noticed cheering signs. The Mahonias are just lovely, and driving over the moor there is quite a show of blossom on the gorse. I rather fancied a Mahonia, both for scent and winter colour, until a neighbour told me a tale of woe. Hers was about to burst into bloom when she went out one morning to find that marauding deer had eaten it down to about 3 inches – so if the deer come visiting, avoid Mahonia.

I'm keeping an eye on my nearest patch of snowdrops to see when the first tiny spears appear, - not long now until their nodding heads will be evident. The shape of the flowers allows them to provide a micro-climate where the hardiest beasts can get in to take nectar and pollinate. There are dozens of new cultivars, (see Garden News magazine) with amazing variations in colour and markings. If you want new ones always buy them "in the green". They have a much better chance of survival than dried ones in packets with an uncertain history, and you can see what they should look like. However, I would choose to keep some of any new variety in a pot. - They are very likely to hybridize and whereas you might be lucky and find a completely new example in a couple of years, the pot will ensure that you retain the original.



If you have congested clumps of Spring bulbs they can be transplanted as soon as the spears begin to show. Prepare the planting hole before you begin. Cut round the clump with a trowel and then use the blade to lever them out. Take the whole clump and replant immediately. The bulbs will barely notice as at this stage they are growing so strongly – It's all going on underground!

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

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Farmers recommend new mapping tool

Farmers have helped to produce a new interactive map showing the location of important habitats in the Yorkshire Dales National Park and are encouraging fellow land managers to use it to spot opportunities for new income streams and conservation work.

The mapping tool, named 'Re:Cover', is designed to help people looking to protect, expand and connect habitats such as flower-rich hay meadows, wildlife-rich wetlands and ancient woodlands. It uses information gathered from surveys every year since 2010 by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, as well as information collected by Natural England and the Forestry Commission.

Re:Cover has been developed by the National Park Authority in partnership with the Yorkshire Dales Farming and Land Management Forum. Craven farmer Anthony Bradley, who is a member of the forum, tested the map as it was being developed. He said: "The Farming and Land Management Forum and the steering group for the National Park Management Plan were keen to have this habitat map. The great thing about the map is that it shows you what you've got and the possibilities that can come from that. It's a really good starting point if you're thinking of doing some stewardship scheme or other work like that, giving a factual basis for informed discussion."

Mr Bradley runs 150 ewes and about the same number of rearing cattle on 90 acres at Mearbeck between Settle and Long Preston. He has been planting hedges as part of a Countryside Stewardship agreement. He said: "We had these little bits of becksides woods and some old ancient hedges that were all fragmented. Even on our modest-sized place we've managed to put in 1300 metres of hedge to try to connect it all. And we'll go for another five or six hundred metres if we can get the funding. There's an old hedge that we've connected to and, well, there was an enormous flock of long tailed tits in there. If people know where there are hedges and woods and all the rest of it, you can start to see where you can make links. Farmers want to farm. But we get that we have to do this other stuff, too. There are many win-wins to be had and this map is good at giving you little pointers and clues. It's quite interesting, for a farmer."

The Chair of Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, farmer Neil Heseltine, who also chairs the Farming and Land Management Forum, added: "Farmers will know their own land better than anyone, but what some might need help with is seeing the bigger, landscape-scale picture. I hope Re:Cover will become a valued tool for helping to identify opportunities for habitat creation or restoration which connect to the wider landscape. There are going to be many new opportunities in future to get paid for managing land to benefit nature and people, and we want Dales landowners to be in a better position to take those opportunities. At a time of uncertainty in agriculture, we want to help farmers to identify options now that will allow them to survive and thrive into the future."

Re:Cover makes available the information held by the National Park Authority on the habitats farmers and land managers already manage and protect. However, it goes further by indicating where new habitat could be created, or the land better managed, to create networks that spread throughout the National Park. The map also shows the parts of the National Park where exciting and novel approaches to managing land for nature are already being trialled.

Web-based guidance is available to use alongside the map. It is intended to aid discussion and decision-making. There are also links to further information and advice. The full 'landing page' address for Re:Cover is: www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/park-authority/living-and-working/recover-habitat-network-map/. To launch the map go to yorkshire-dales-mpa.cloudmappin.com/habitats.

Completing the map was one of the objectives of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Management Plan 2019-24. Re:Cover will continue to develop as more data becomes available.

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Our church buildings at Aysgarth, Castle Bolton, Preston under Scar, Redmire and Wensley are open for private prayer every day during daylight hours. St. Bartholomew's, West Witton is open every Sunday and Thursday. Please remember to wear a face covering and use the sanitiser and the test and trace facility along with social distancing.

Thornton Rust Mission Room is presently closed.

Major Dales Landscapes Study Published

A comprehensive and updated source of information about the landscapes of the Yorkshire Dales National Park is now available.

The 'Landscape Character Assessment 2020' includes an overview report illustrated with new maps and photos, together with detailed descriptions of 19 distinctive landscape character areas in the National Park. An interactive map on the National Park Authority's website gives easy access to the information.

The new Landscape Character Assessment builds on an original 2002 study, including by looking at the areas of Cumbria and Lancashire which became part of the National Park in 2016. Completing it was one of the objectives set by a partnership of local organisations and businesses in the Yorkshire Dales National Park Management Plan 2019-24.

The Landscape Character Assessment was prepared by consultants Sheils Flynn and can be viewed at: www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/about/landscape/landscape-character-assessment/.

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Younger Voices To Be Heard On Influential Steering Group

Members of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority have approved a move to appoint two young people to represent the views of young people living, working and using the National Park, on an influential steering group.

They will join representatives from the Environment Agency, Natural England, the Dales Rural Estates, Farmer and Tourism networks and District Councils on the National Park Management Plan Steering Group. This partnership is responsible for setting the long-term goals for the National Park and for overseeing a five-year programme of work by a range of local organisations.



Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority Chair, Neil Heseltine said: “Many organisations have a key objective to promote the National Park as a place to live for younger working age

households to help halt the decline in their number. By appointing two young people to the National Park Management Plan Steering Group, our plan of work will be shaped by the very young people we are trying to attract. It’s a positive step forward and one which was enthusiastically received by the full membership of the National Park Authority and our partners on the Steering Group”.

The Yorkshire Dales National Park Management Plan 2019-24 contains 49 specific objectives for a range of bodies to achieve including tackling climate change, supporting farmers and landowners through national agri-environment schemes and to promote the National Park as a place to live for younger, working age households.



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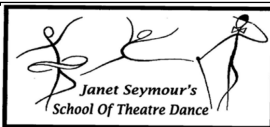


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Swaledale Festival – The Shape of 2021

In 2021 we're spreading our annual offering of arts and culture over a six-month period and although the pandemic means we are scaling back on the number of events, we are not scaling back on quality.

Festival Family Fun Days will take place on Reeth Green over the May bank holiday weekend from **Saturday, 29th to Monday, May 31st**. There will be kite-making, dancing, brass bands, quoits and more, and it will all be free of charge.

Concerts this year will take place in just four of our regular larger venues - St. Andrew's in Grinton, St. Mary's in Richmond, Tennants in Leyburn and St. Andrew's in Aysgarth. The concerts will be just 60 minutes long and we're offering each concert **TWICE** to enable audiences to be socially-distanced and the venues to be cleaned between shows.



Folk superstars The Young'uns (above) will perform at Tennants on **Sunday, May 30th** and The Society of Strange and Ancient

Instruments will share their early music adventures at St. Andrew's in Grinton on **Monday, May 31st**. On **Saturday, June 5th** Hildegard Transfigured - a performance of beautiful medieval vocal music with a stunning light show - will be staged at St. Mary's Church in Richmond as part of the Richmond 950 Celebrations.

On **Wednesday, June 9th** at St. Andrew's in Grinton, four stellar musicians will perform Josquin to Jones; Schubert to Sting - a celebration of lute songs through the ages, including the world-premieres of brand new songs by Led Zeppelin's John Paul Jones and fellow rock star Sting! On **Friday, June 11th** in the same venue, you can hear Welsh harp virtuoso Catrin Finch with Senegalese kora master Seckou Keita.

Several Festival exhibitions will take place this year, including 'From Waste to Wall' by young Yorkshire artist James Owen Thomas at The Station in Richmond from **May 28th to June 17th**. James began making stunning pictures with discarded scratch cards after noticing one floating in a puddle of water.

Further events are planned in July, August, September and October, including The Hut People, Solus Trumpet Ensemble and Aurora Percussion Duo. As usual, tickets for all Swaledale Festival concerts this year will be available for under 25s at just £3.

We hope to start selling tickets in March. Please check www.swalefest.org for further updates and information.



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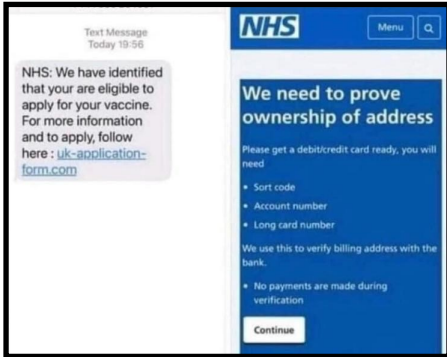
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Email: martin@daleschimneysweep.co.uk



Vaccination Scams

Please be aware of the vaccination scams which have started.

Some people are receiving fraudulent calls and text messages offering the COVID-19 vaccination. In some cases, people are asked to press a number on their keypad or to send a text message to confirm they wish to receive the vaccine. Doing so is likely to result in a charge being applied to their phone bill. In other cases, callers are offering the vaccine for a fee or asking for bank details.



Like other scams, the same rules apply;

Don't click on links or attachments in unexpected texts, emails or instant messages.

Challenge every request for your personal details.

It doesn't matter what they say or what they know about you, don't respond to unexpected

phone calls, hang up, take five then verify their claims via a trusted method. (such as the usual website or official phone number).

The vaccine is only available from the NHS and the NHS will contact you when it is your turn. The NHS will **never** ask you to press a button on your keypad or send a text asking you to confirm you want the vaccine. It will **never** ask for payment for the vaccine or for your bank details.

If you believe you have been the victim of fraud or identity theft, report it to Action Fraud ; <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/> or via phone **0300 123 2040**.



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Leyburn Arts and Community Centre

Similar to November, our film screenings are on hold again. It is very frustrating but understandably necessary at this time but we would still like to wish you all a Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing you soon!

The Community Support Hub is still open and the office staffed each day, thanks to the volunteers who I am sure did not expect to be still required 10 months later. Some groups can still function but the majority of our activities are on hold. It was particularly disappointing to have to cancel Matthew Bourne's ballet 'Cinderella' on New Year's Eve though not being able to screen live La Traviata from Barcelona was not entirely unexpected.

Any refunds due from bookings already made will be dealt with by Kay as soon as possible once she gets into her stride again after her Christmas break.

If you are in need of a little excitement - we shall soon be beginning our 100 Club again for the next 12 months. For the sum of £12 you are entered into a draw each month to win one of three possible prizes, £25; £15; or £10. If you would like a new flutter or if you need to renew your existing entry please get in touch. Better odds than Premium Bonds or the Lottery and it helps to support the Centre during these difficult times.

If you would like to help our charity, we would be incredibly grateful. Please also see

our Just Giving page via our website: www.leyburnartscentre.com The website will also keep you up to date for any forthcoming events we are planning (and hoping) we shall be able to offer. There is a one-man comedy play planned for the end of February, fingers crossed.

The Classic Christmas concert was much enjoyed by those who were able to attend and the CDs are now available at £10. The DVDs also can be ordered for the same price. The concert lasts for approximately 2 hours and also contains a conversation with Colin Bailey and one of our Directors and some lockdown tips and advice from Liz Carter.

Also still available is Your Screen, extra screenings for you at home if you are fed up of the poor film repeats on TV. See the What's on page on our website for how to access them. The Centre receives a small amount if you take advantage of this very good offer.

Tickets for our raffle are still on sale. Please get in touch if you wish to purchase any.

The Little Shop is also still open if you are running out of books or jigsaws. It is an Honesty Shop so no staff around and you can keep Covid-19 safe, entry via the side door (ring the bell if locked) with 100% of takings going to LA and CC funds.

Thank you as always for your support and patience, best wishes from us all. Take care.

**From all at
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As restrictions are lifted we will return with our wide variety of entertainment, activities and other community services:

**CINEMA ~ MUSIC ~ THEATRE
WORKSHOPS ~ ART ~ CAFÉ BAR
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Meanwhile, as the district's COVID-19 Community Support Hub, we are supporting local people and businesses in need of help.

To do all of this we rely on a merry band of volunteers. If you usually have some time to spare, and it doesn't need to be a lot, please consider joining us. There are many ways to help, please contact us for a chat and more information:

Phone: **01969 624510** email: **admin@leyburnartscentre.com**

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**Greetings etc. £2
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**Contact for adverts:
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Published by

The Upper Wensleydale Newsletter
Lilac House, The Holme, Hawes, DL8 3QR
01969 667458

Email for submission of articles, what's ons, letters etc.: **uwnlinput@gmail.com**

Newsletters on line, simply search on "Upper Wensleydale Newsletter"
Archive hard copies back to 1995 are in the Dales Countryside Museum resources room.

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by the late Alan S. Watkinson**