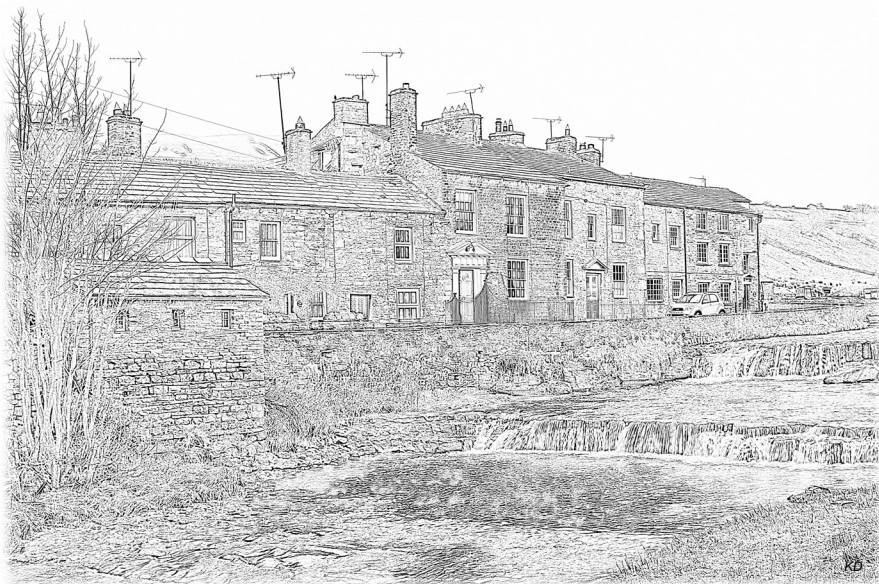


THE UPPER WENSLEYDALE NEWSLETTER

Issue 276

June 2021

**Donation please:
50p suggested**



Gayle

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

Guest Editorial

As I sit at the kitchen table in the little terraced house I bought in Oxford 26 years ago and to which I've now returned, the words of the late Michael Weatherald come back to me. I'd gone to interview him at his home in Askrigg, where he'd lived all his life, for the 2015 village book. He'd seen people come and he'd seen them go, he said. But rarely, if they hadn't been born here, or married somebody who had, did they stay.

"You'll be no different. You'll be going back before you know it. People always do. They come here for five years or so because they want to live in the country, then they realise it's not easy and go back to where they came from."

I pointed out, a bit rattily, that Ian and I had already been in Askrigg for eight years and had no intention of leaving. Ever.

Ian had even made it known, after a parish council meeting where the lack of use of the cemetery was bemoaned because so many people were choosing cremation, that not only did he want to stay in the village for the rest of his life, but wanted to be buried there when his number was up.

It cut no ice. "You'll not stay," Michael confidently predicted.

As it turned out, he was right. In mid February we took the decision to leave the beautiful village we'd called home for 15 years and go back to city life. Two months later, almost as much to our surprise as anyone else's, we were gone. The how and why of the timing doesn't matter: the fact was, the realisation had slowly dawned that at some stage we would have no choice but to leave.

We weren't following family - with seven children between us we'd be hard-pressed to choose: and anyway we weren't convinced we were ready for the "we had them last Christmas" argument - but what we were following were our survival instincts, as the age-old arguments played out in our ageing brains. Thirty-plus miles from the nearest hospital, only one of us (me) now able to drive, public transport minimal and a reluctance to rely on well-meaning friends in the event that I, too, might one day have to give up the car.

There were, of course, many counter arguments. Hills, dales, rivers and waterfalls, (though it has to be said I was never the intrepid

walker: too many cows in summer, too much ice in winter), a landscape many would give their eye teeth to be part of and which we now see only in reruns of the old All Creatures.

And yes, the people. Not just close friends and the best neighbours ever, who thoughtfully produced a lockdown baby for us to coo at over the garden fence (hello, Thomas), but the ones who just become part of your life, whose presence, foolishly, you take for granted until you have to say goodbye. There are those you wish you'd made more of an effort with; the ones you always intended to visit more regularly, or should have thanked more often or just been a bit nicer to but hadn't because you thought they didn't like you.

And the ones who, like Keith from Milners in Leyburn, take you totally by surprise. On the very day of leaving he fought his way through the boxes and burly removal men to stand in the hall. I did a double-take. Had I ordered a carpet and forgotten, asked for a quote for blinds, not paid for the curtains? "I've only just heard you're going and I couldn't pass and not say goodbye," he said, giving me a brief and illegal lockdown hug and Ian a manly nod.

But in the end you have to do what's right for you - and give thanks for the technology, reviled though it so often is, which gives you the opportunity to stay in touch in a way that, until relatively recently, would not have been possible.

I'm reminded of another interview, this time for a job in London, twenty years ago. "What would you say is your greatest strength, Betsy?" That was easy. "I take decisions very quickly," I answered. "And your greatest weakness?" That was easy, too. "About half of them are wrong."

It was true. Sadly, leaving Askrigg wasn't one of them. It's just a shame that for so many older people, like us, who feel they still have a lot to contribute, staying isn't a viable option.

Betsy Everett

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Area Partnership Fund

Grants of up to £1000 for local community projects

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Fund has previously supported village halls, flood prevention work, speed prevention, scout groups, community noticeboards, defibrillators, sport groups, play parks, community benches, walks

CLOSING DATE **FRIDAY 30 JULY 2021**

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or: grants@richmondshire.gov.uk



Eunice the Ewe

Last month I was on a shelf in the Gayle Mill Trust Woodcraft Studio advert on page 9 and the lucky winner of the £10 prize is Jean Jordan of Redmire.

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

Bainbridge Vets

This month we thought we would concentrate on parasites in lambs. We have been seeing multiple problems on farms with coccidiosis and nematodirus.

The weather this year is challenging, particularly to predict how the parasites will behave so it's even more important to use tools such as NADIS / SCOPS forecast and worm egg counts. For more information, please ring the surgery **01969 650263**.

Colour Photos Wanted for Front Cover

For our next edition in July 2021, the Newsletter will have a colour outer cover. We are requesting from our readers any colour photos with the theme 'Summer in the Dales' that they would be willing to have published in the Newsletter. Please send any photos to uwnlinput@gmail.com by **June 17th**.

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.

DEADLINE FOR COPY FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS

TUESDAY JUNE 22nd
(Unless we are full earlier)

PUBLISHED ON JULY 1st

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June Competition

Around the world in 16 anagrams

All the answers to this month's quiz are the names of countries. Solve them all and travel the world!

1. Doug knit denim
2. Bug mile
3. Wizards lent
4. Son alive
5. Air coat
6. Rabies
7. A quiet iguana role
8. A fruit chaos
9. Gable hands
10. Linda hat
11. Prison age
12. A tin foes macerated suit
13. Salad lover
14. Us airmen
15. Rent again
16. Laced in

Send your answers to arrive no later than **Tuesday, June 22nd** for a chance to win the £20 prize which will be sent to your nominated charity.

May Competition Answers

1. Ure
2. Swale
3. Tees
4. Wampool
5. Esk
6. Eden
7. Calder
8. Aire
9. Nidd
10. Wiske
11. Caldew
12. Duddon
13. Leven
14. Derwent

Only a couple of correct entries for the Competition. The winner, drawn from the hat, was Molly Day of Ingleby Greenhow, Teesside. Her charity is Hawes Christmas Lights. They will receive the £20 prize.

Kathleen Martin

Wishes to thank everyone for all their best wishes, lovely cards, flowers and baking after her stay in hospital.

Help Needed – Music and Theatre Group

The Wensleydale Music and Theatre Group really need helpers! We are so excited to be planning for our next production of Snow White and Seven Dwarfs but we need your help!

The society is looking for a new committee member in the role of Secretary. The role would include taking the minutes at meetings (four to six a year), writing them up and distributing amongst members, plus there will be a few additional letters to be written throughout the year. We will fully support you throughout the first year in the role while you familiarise yourself with the society.

We are also looking for as many volunteers as possible to help with the set and props. This role would entail utilising all of the current set and stage equipment we have in store and also creating some new pieces when necessary, and assisting with the stage and set before and during a production.

Please email us at WMTG@mail.com for more details. Thank you!!

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 lngs	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
Thoraby:	Sandra Foley, Shop	663205
West Witton	Christine Barker, Chestnut Garth	624934

The Wensleydale Experience Wins National Award

Rural businesses from across Britain are celebrating following the Rural Business Awards National Final, held online for the first time due to lockdown. Jules Hudson, the BBC Escape to the Country presenter, delighted the finalists as host for the virtual ceremony held on February 25th.

The awards aim to recognise and celebrate the successes of businesses operating in the UK's rural economy; a sector which in England alone contributes £261 billion to the nation's Gross Value Added – nearly a fifth of the country's total economic activity.

Twelve category winners, including a new Sustainability and Environmental Impact Award category, and six additional "Triumph Over Adversity" winners, were announced, following a record number of entrants and a competitive shortlist process. The winner of the 'Best Rural Tourism Business' was Yorkshire-based business, The Wensleydale Experience. "It's an honour to support the Rural Business Awards' efforts to showcase the incredible talent of British rural business," said John Boumphrey, UK Country Manager for Amazon. "On behalf of Amazon, I would like to congratulate The Wensleydale Experience on this achievement, and I wish them further success in the future."

The Wensleydale Experience offers an immersive, integrated experience of Wensleydale life. They provide guests with a unique place to stay in their luxury yurts or 18th-century temple folly, both with fantastic views across the dale. They run farm tours and experiences from their yurt site (also a working farm), and educate visitors in an authentic way about local agriculture. Their farm experiences now form part of the English National Parks Experience Collection. The Wensleydale Experience also works with several on-site partners to offer further services: Fairhurst's at Berry's farm shop and café provides homemade local food and gifts, and The Healing Collective provide in-yurt complementary therapies for a truly relaxing stay.

Tim Durham, site manager at The Wensleydale Experience, said: "We are absolutely over the moon to have been recognised by the Rural Business Awards and Amazon with the national award for the Best Rural Tourism Business. We love providing our

guests with unique, immersive, authentic experiences in the stunning Yorkshire countryside, with eco-friendly stays, farm tours, local walks, delicious food, complementary healing and a ton of off-the-grid relaxation all on site! We really cannot wait to start welcoming our visitors back in the near future."



Olly Thornton-Berry, owner of The Wensleydale Experience, said: "It is absolutely amazing to win this award in recognition of our focus on sustainability, going above and beyond for our guests and doing our utmost to give people the best of Wensleydale. This is a very proud moment in The Wensleydale Experience's history, and I feel so blessed to be part of such an amazing team!"

Founded by rural-based business women, Jemma Clifford and Anna Price, the Rural Business Awards are backed by Amazon and judged by an independent panel, drawn from the rural business sector, rural public sector agencies, and rural charitable organisations.

Jemma Clifford, Director and Co-Founder of The Rural Business Awards, said: "The last year has been tough for all rural businesses, but we remain amazed at the high calibre of entries to the RBAs and this has certainly continued in the 2020/21 year. The judges had a real challenge on their hands when picking the winners and every business shortlisted should be very proud of their achievement of reaching the National Final. Our winners have all shown great determination and have bright futures ahead - on behalf of everyone at the Rural Business Awards, we congratulate them all."

Visit www.wensleydale-experience.com to find out more about The Wensleydale Experience, or www.ruralbusinessawards.co.uk to learn about the Rural Business Awards.



Upper Wensleydale Benefice Services in June

	St Mary & St John's, Hardraw 9.00am	St Margaret's, Hawes 10.30am	St Oswald's, Askrigg 10.30am	St Matthew's, Stalling Busk 2.30pm
June 6th	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Morning Prayer	
June 13th	Morning Prayer	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion	Holy Communion
June 20th	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	10.30am Morning Prayer 2.00pm BCP	
June 27th	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion	8.30am Holy Communion 10.30am - Praise in the Pen Family Service*	Evening Prayer

Evening Prayer on **Sundays at 4.00pm** via our telephone conferencing service.

For details go to www.upperwensleydalechurch.org/services

*Please email office@upperwenben.org to book your "Pen"

Road to Recovery

Hasn't it been wonderful to see our businesses opening up and beginning to trade once more, to see the visitors gradually returning and enjoying the accommodation, shops and our wonderful countryside. When the campsites first opened up it was like a scene from the gold rush on the A684 outside the vicarage, with dozens of caravans in a constant line heading for their pitch. It's been wonderful to sit in our pubs and cafes once again to enjoy a meal and a drink.

The farmers work hasn't stopped and we can see the fruits of their labour in the fields and for that we are really thankful. As a church we want to let you know through all the challenges we face, you are never alone and we have been praying for you regularly. We know this pandemic is not over, so as we take these first steps on the road to recovery, we must remain vigilant, be considerate to those around us and stay safe.

Rev Dave

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The Dales Quits League

The Dales Quits League made the decision to start playing matches again in light of the relaxing of the Covid lockdown rules and the opening of pubs on May 17th.

The first matches in over 18 months were due to take place on that evening and all participants were looking forward to this with anticipation. Unfortunately, the evening turned out to be one of very unpredictable weather and some teams had to cancel their matches due to the heavy rain. Consequently, for many their first match games will have been on Monday, May 24th (weather permitting).

The league will be run on a friendly basis for 2021 as we do not know if future events may stop our activities. Although there will be a league table for the two divisions, the end results will not affect the standing from the end of the 2019 season. We would hope to commence from the 2019 league table positions in 2022 with a full programme of League and Cup matches.

Any individual wishing to join a team or even a new team wishing to enter the league please contact Stephen Mason on **01969 662743** for further details.



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Val, Dave, Steve, Elaine and Ian wish to thank everyone for their support and messages of condolence and flowers received following the death of Les. A special thank you to those who turned out to give Les a good send off from the village, and to the Corn Mill Tearoom for providing the catering.

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Editor's note:- We have received the following article from a contributor (name and address supplied) who wishes to remain anonymous. We believe it to be of interest so we are including it. We invite a response from the Highways Department which we would be happy to publish.

In Need of Somewhere to Park...

Well, you will be fine now on the A684 after weeks of night-time working to 'titivate' our lay-bys!

It is fair to say that this project has caused a considerable amount of controversy along the length of the A684 and one would have to ask who it was that thought the priority for our roads was either removing or urbanising our lay-bys. For most people, the real priority for our main road through Wensleydale was repairing potholes (some of which have become increasingly dangerous recently) and damaged surfaces, and addressing the increasing issues caused by water run-off after heavy rain. However, instead of these pretty crucial matters being dealt with, we now have some very smart, but not very rural, official lay-bys.

The Safer Roads Fund has paid for this work and was established by the Department for Transport to provide road safety improvements on the fifty highest risk local 'A' roads in England. You may recall there were various

consultations held which included plans to improve the centre of Hawes by creating a one-way system, installing traffic lights and amending junctions and road markings. Thankfully, that excessive idea was knocked-back following local feedback to the proposals. However, it seems that the lay-by schemes managed to 'sneak through' with very few queries, complaints or recommendations made to the proposals. That is a real shame as we now find ourselves with the results of this work which many believe are very far from necessary, nor in keeping with the local, rural surroundings.

Along the length of the A684, numerous lay-bys have been removed and in their place some topsoil has been levelled and bounded along the roadside by red, black and white reflective bollards. I have travelled the A684 recently from Bedale to Hawes and I counted almost 200 of these new bollards and I am aware that the work continues along the road to the boundary with Cumbria and there are yet more along that stretch!! I rather suspect that none of them required planning permission from the YDNPA and yet they are now quite a significant blot on our lovely landscape!

The lay-bys that were deemed to be necessary and not presenting a risk to drivers from cars entering or leaving have been formalised, which in many cases has meant reducing them in size, levelling them, laying tarmac and placing kerbs

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around them. These probably look fine in an urban area, but in the depths of the country, look very out of place and quite unnecessary. In some specific locations, the reduction in size of these lay-bys is likely to cause issues in the height of the tourist season as they were used by tourists to visit some of our wonderful scenery and walks. Let us also not forget that lorry drivers need places to stop and rest, and whilst they may not be the most scenic things to look at, the drivers of these vehicles are limited to the number of hours they can drive before they are required to take a break by law and therefore if they find themselves in the depths of Wensleydale, they need somewhere safe to park up. If we remove all of the places for them to stop safely, what are they supposed to do? These people have kept this country going during the recent pandemic, transporting much needed food and supplies around the country and yet this is how we treat them - not really in the spirit of things. In the past, there were specific lay-bys along the A684 where lorry drivers felt safe to park up and rest, either during the day or at night, but from what I have seen, these have now all gone and in their place are tiny little lay-bys directly on the side of the road. I don't think I would feel very safe parking up and going to sleep there, so why would the lorry drivers?

There is one lay-by in particular that concerns me in this respect and that is the one at the end of Wild Wood, between Constable Burton and Akebar. This used to be a large expansive area where it was possible to pull safely off the road and park up, well away from the carriageway. It is now a very narrow, small lay-by directly on the side of the road, and worse still, right on the bend after the long straight beside the wood. That is not somewhere I would be prepared to park in the hope of sleeping!

Unfortunately, because there was little in the way of feedback to the original plans, or perhaps because no-one realised quite what was involved, some of the lay-bys removed were actually not lay-bys at all, but were areas needed by farmers in order to safely access their fields! In the removal of some of them, farmers have actually been unable to access their fields because the aforementioned bollards have been erected and block their gates!!

So, having spent a huge amount of money on the original work to remove these assumed lay-bys, additional work was then required to remove the bollards and reinstate what, in effect, were turning and access areas!! Don't forget that all of this work is taking place at night, so that incurs additional, substantial cost and with parts of this work having been done twice - once to do it and a second time to un-do it - this is a huge cost to someone.

I also noticed on my travels along the road that there are some new formalised lay-bys that, quite frankly, are more dangerous than the ones they replaced! There are two of specific concern just outside Bainbridge which are on both sides of the road at the top of a blind hill. I wonder how long it will be before we hear the sound of sirens over a weekend when a speeding motorcycle has collided with a vehicle pulling out of one of these?

So, whoever it was that dreamt up this idea, can we perhaps suggest that next time you consider spending pots of money, you do so in a more sensible manner addressing actual issues, rather than imagined ones. I am not aware that there has been a price attached to this whole project but one imagines it is a significant one that could have made a real difference to the condition and real safety of the main road through Wensleydale.



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Best Foot Forward – Barbondale Breakout

For this little excursion we are going westwards, far enough to leave the old national park and enter part of the new park extension in Cumbria (formerly in Westmorland). Excursion seems to be the right word because the walk was done soon after the lockdown was eased in mid-April this year. After over three months just walking from the doorstep, a few tentative forays had been tried in Wharfedale and Swaledale, and as we hadn't been shot at by the locals in either case, we decided to venture beyond the county boundary.



Our destination was Barbon, not too far away from Kirkby Lonsdale, which, I imagine, is where Barbon people go shopping. It is a delightful village on the west of the Pennines, not quite so old and quaint as Dent but a good base for the walking in that area. The shortest and most scenic route there from Wensleydale is via Dent (turn left at Gawthrop) but arguably it might be quicker to go via Ingleton and Kirkby Lonsdale. Parking in Barbon isn't immediately obvious but there is some near the pub. Yes, pub: we'll come back to that word later.

From the start we turned left at St Bartholomew's Church with its stout tower and proceeded northwards to Estholme Farm. There was no obvious signpost here telling us to turn right but that's what the map told us to do, so we did. It took us onto the Open Access area and we were able to follow a buggy track steeply up the hillside. We came to a cairn and, as it was such a glorious day, we paused to look at the view westwards. Somewhere down there was the River Lune, difficult to see in the folds of the land but we knew we would be returning close to it later in the day.

The hillside eased back a little but it was

relentlessly uphill for over a mile. However, the dry ground (we'd had very little rain for three weeks) and the short grass made the ascent a little easier. At the first top, called Castle Knott, we found a small mound to sit on for coffee. It was remarkably still and quiet: no people, no traffic, no wind and not much bird life.

As we were about to leave I spotted what looked like droppings around our mound. Close inspection revealed that they contained fur and bones, so we decided they were probably owl pellets and our mound was actually a butcher's table for small mammals.

There was a slight drop to a col from Castle Knott and hereabouts we discovered we were being followed by a party of four. We didn't rush to keep ahead of them and we even stopped to observe some features of nature: frogspawn, which unfortunately had dried up for lack of rain; and a heron, seriously off route as there was hardly any water anywhere on the ridge. In spite of those distractions, we did actually reach the trig point before those following us and in any case, they went off in a different direction.

The trig point appeared to have been adopted by some 'friends' as there was a succession of stars stencilled onto its sides. Trig points, of course, played a vital role in the Ordnance Survey's triangulation of the country for its maps but methods are much more sophisticated these days and trig points are largely redundant.



A number of them have been adopted by walking and countryside groups. This particular one has a very significant height on the old one-inch map. At 1,999 feet above sea level, Barbon Fell just wasn't quite tall enough to be classed as a mountain. The 2,000-foot contour would be around your knees.

For some distance from the summit the ridge loses very little height and the path makes the going easy. As we moved steadily northwards we had excellent views of Dentdale with the village of Dent prominent in the middle of the scene. Whernside, the dales' highest peak, was

now also visible. So too was Baugh Fell, that giant bulwark at the head of Wensleydale. Ingleborough, which had been visible earlier, had now disappeared behind Great Coum, and we didn't see Pen-y-ghent all day. As the ridge curved westwards downhill there were great views of Sedbergh and we could see traffic on the M6 in the distance. It was too hazy to see the Lake District but some of the Howgill Fells were in view. This was the pleasant prospect we enjoyed as we ate lunch.

Moving down onto the lower slopes the ridge becomes much broader. In general, walking up a hill is navigationally easier than descending: you just keep walking uphill to the top. Going downhill there are many options and it's easy to go wrong. Finding the way off Barbon Fell is such a case. There are tracks in the grass going in different directions so it is advisable to keep the map handy. It seemed a long way (the whole ridge is about eight miles) but eventually we did leave the fell at a farm appropriately named Fellside. Some serious investment had taken place here and many of the barns and outbuildings had been converted into very smart-looking holiday lets. Ten minutes later we reached the A683 Kirkby Lonsdale to Sedbergh road and the valley floor.

Quite suddenly we were in a different environment. Instead of rough grass, curlews and lapwings we had trees, celandines and willow warblers. The temperature rose markedly and we were soon stripping off layers of clothing. The farming was different too. Green fields on the improved land, higher densities of sheep and even a few cattle, although these were much scarcer than in Wensleydale. It was now a question of threading a route along field paths and minor roads back to Barbon, sometimes near the picturesque River Lune, and sometimes walking close to the old railway. At one point

we saw our first swallow of the season (remember it was only mid-April), as well as bluebells, stitchworts and dandelions in the hedgeback.

At the end of the walk we were delighted to find that the Barbon Inn was open and fairly busy.



After the lengthy lockdown, supping a pint in a pub garden in lovely spring sunshine was a real treat. We had walked about thirteen miles and we decided that it had been a splendid day out. Hopefully, as the restrictions ease, there will be plenty more such days to come.

N.P.

Leyburn and District U3A - Back in Business!

As the Covid restrictions are gradually eased some of the interest groups are beginning to meet again... in person, with the current safety rules in place of course.

The outdoor ones are the first, though some groups have met outside when weather has been kind or the members have had extra woollies and coats on! There will be an open meeting in July when people will be welcome to come and find out more, but if you wish to enquire now, please see the Leyburn section on the U3A website.

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Giant Artwork Unveiled As DCM Reopens

The Dales Countryside Museum (DCM) in Hawes re-opens with a special exhibition telling the story of schools in the Upper Dales.

A spectacular 4.5 metre-wide photo mosaic was unveiled to the public on Monday, May 17th, as the museum celebrates the end of a six-month closure owing to Coronavirus restrictions.

The Mosaic of Dales Youth, created by art and design studio 'The People's Picture' led by digital artist Helen Marshall, features nearly 2,300 photo tiles of youth and school-life in Upper Wensleydale, Swaledale and Arkengarthdale. The images were shared by local people over eight weeks in autumn 2020. The photos come together to reveal two large images selected by Ms Marshall: portraits of David Hodgson of Askrigg School, aged 7 in 1954, and Joan Miller of Yorebridge Grammar School, aged 12 in 1946.



'The Story of Schools in the Upper Dales' is also told through interpretation boards, vintage and modern photographs, a short film and oral histories.

The exhibition opened at DCM on May 17th, and will run until July 18th. It marks the culmination of a project run by The NASH in partnership with the museum, and funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund and the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority's Sustainable Development Fund.

The NASH Project Manager Emily Rowe Rawlence said: "Once we began delving into the history of The NASH, which is short for National School Hawes, we realised the landscape was peppered with little schools that played transformative roles, all with their own story to tell. This exhibition maps them out and explores themes such as the changing journey to school, the tension between learning

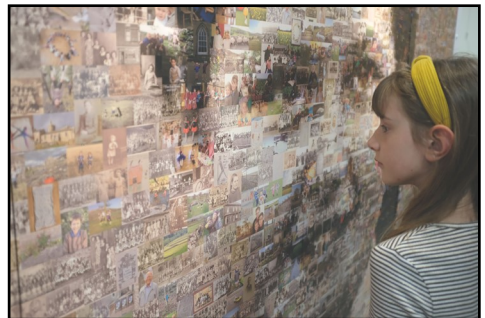
and earning and the life of teachers, bus drivers and school attendance officers known as 'Kiddy Catchers'. It's amazing how much energy and effort goes into the making of a school."

Fourteen oral history interviews took place with well-known local people who attended Upper Dales schools from the 1930s onwards. Clips from these interviews have been used in Series One of the Dales Countryside Museum's Voices From The Dales podcast.

"Recording their stories has been a project highlight," said Ms Rowe Rawlence. "The exhibition is full of anecdotes, from filling pockets with bullets in the second world war, to walking alone through brutal weather two miles to school and back at only five-years-old, to being sent down the pub to buy cigarettes for the headmaster at breaktime. Each person had a fascinating story to tell of a Dales childhood in the 30s, 40s, 50s or 60s. Together with the giant photo mosaic, they bring the past hundred years to life."

The exhibition had been due to open on January 30th but was delayed due to the third national lockdown. The last day will now be **Sunday, July 18th** to give people every chance to visit. There will also be a programme for local schools run by the project's Education Officer Heather Hodgson and teacher-actor Mark Cronfield, who will be in the character of a Victorian Headmaster.

Heather Hodgson said: "We all have memories of school, some stronger than others, often evoked by smells, songs and rhymes or photographs. Come and re-live your school days by sharing in our interactive exhibition telling the story of school life in the Upper Dales. There will be family-friendly activities, emotive displays and thought-provoking educational resources."



Helen Marshall of The People's Picture said: "I am incredibly excited to have been able to create a work about and for such a special place - revealing so many stories, personal and evocative. I hope many people get to see it in its final online and printed form."

Fiona Rosher, Museum Manager at DCM, said: "We're so pleased to be able to share this wonderful exhibition at last. The museum has Covid Secure measures to keep visitors and staff safe, including timed tickets that can be booked online. We look forward to welcoming both visitors and local people to enjoy the exhibition and hope they will share their memories of school life with families and friends."

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Mystery Picture

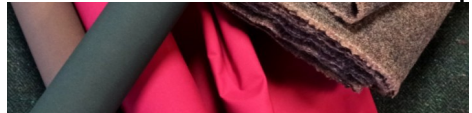
Last month's Mystery Picture was of the waterfall at Swinner Gill in Swaledale.

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Brewing Up a Great Welcome at the Farmers Arms

I met Andy, the new owner of the Farmers Arms in Muker, on a sunny May morning outside the pub under the new canopy. We were soon chatting like old friends about what brought this West Yorkshire couple to Swaledale.



Andy and Mandy Gascoigne have been in the licencing trade for over 30 years. Andy explained that after a career in Rugby League playing for a number of Yorkshire clubs, he did what many ex-sportsmen do – bought a pub. They ran the Wagon and Horses, a remote pub on the moors above Oxenhope, for 7 years where Mandy developed her passion for cookery and Andy started his micro brewery. Since then, they have owned a pub and brewery on a remote Scottish Island, developed a city centre hostelry and more recently opened the Haworth Steam Brewing Company. As the brewery expanded they moved production to Leeds where Andy and his brother developed a range of distilled gins and spirits together with their own tonics and mixers. They distributed their products via farmshops and independent outlets all over the North.

They left the Haworth Steam Brewing Company in the capable hands of their daughter and moved to Swaledale in September 2020 to open the Farmers Arms and Brewing Company in Muker. They have reduced production in the Leeds brewery to concentrate on supplying a

few regular trade customers and their two family pubs.

Andy is passionate about beer and he serves ales from all over Yorkshire alongside his own brews including Shepherdess Resilient Blonde, Crackpot IPA and Farmers Draft Ewe. Mandy's meals are getting quite a reputation locally too, with great value Yorkshire dishes, homemade breads and Indian specials. Together they have created a very welcoming atmosphere in the short time that they have been open.

They have refurbished the interior whilst keeping a traditional pub feel and, with the outdoor umbrellas and seating, have been able to open for alfresco meals and drinks since April. They have been open fully for meals inside since May 17th, initially from Wednesday to Sunday. They are currently recruiting staff and hope to increase their opening hours over the summer.

I am sure with their experience in the trade and their infectious enthusiasm Andy and Mandy will make a success of their latest venture. Why not try their new menu and ales by booking a table on **01748 886297**, email farmersarmsmuker@gmail.com.

K.J.

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Redmire Gift and Craft Fayre

Saturday, June 26th

10.00am to 3.00pm at Redmire Village Hall

Following the success of our Christmas event, we are holding a summer Gift and Craft Fayre with work by artists and crafters from Redmire and surrounding villages, plus craft supplies, cosmetics and other gifts items will be on sale. The Fayre is supporting the charity Marie Curie and the Redmire Village Hall. All appropriate covid regulations will apply.

Artists Dinah Francis and Carole Rutherford have again brought together a rich mix of painters, knitters, crafters, jam-makers and woodworkers from all over the upper Dales to display and sell their work.

Carole produces various styles of fused glass, all of which are hand made by fusing layers of glass in her kiln, this can involve multiple firings to achieve the required end result. Some of the items are then fired again to make bowls, candle holders, etc. As the items are all hand made no two will be exactly the same, which is part of the beauty.

Dinah will be displaying her watercolours inspired by the local landscape and wildlife, especially hares and birds. As well as paintings for sale, many of her subjects are available on her popular range of greetings cards.

Julie Webster is a Neal's Yard Remedies Independent Consultant here in 'The Yorkshire Dales' where she provides Health, Beauty & Skincare solutions for customers. Products are Cruelty Free, accredited by The Soil Association, organic and British! Julie is also a Reiki Master & NLP Practitioner. Ethics, sustainability and traceability are key to Julie.

David Clarke who runs the Old Town Hall bed and breakfast in Redmire will be selling his

home-made jams, marmalade, chopping boards and shelves. David makes bespoke one off items of furniture, fitted furniture, installs kitchen and bedrooms as well as repairing furniture.

Pam Whittaker's "Whitknit's" stall will include bags of bags, character bears, bobble hats, baggy berets, baby booties, baa-lambs, blankets and more.

Julie Forbes will be there selling Flamingo Paperie products - cards for all occasions, tissue paper, tags and wrap, beautiful craft kits and notepads, notelets and writing paper - gorgeous items for all your stationery needs!

The Chocolate Factory in Leyburn have kindly donated a hamper which will be raffled for charity.

For further information contact, Carole Rutherford, email carole@bc-crafts.co.uk, Tel. **07986 699873**, Or Dinah Francis **07771 768183** (Whatsapp only, no mobile signal) or email dinahfrancis307@gmail.com.



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Welcome back to live music! Our programme for 2021 includes six live concerts and we have invited as many musicians as possible who had concerts cancelled last year.

All of our concerts are at St. Andrew's Church, Aysgarth as this is the best venue to ensure we have Covid-safe audiences. All concerts start at **7.30pm** (doors open **7.00pm**), are full length and will have only a brief interval, but will not have refreshments served.

Tickets are now on sale online, by telephone and by post and must be purchased in advance. We aim not to sell tickets at the door. Socially distanced seating will be allocated on arrival. Please wear a mask. If you purchased a season ticket for 2020 your ticket is valid for all of our concerts in 2021. Season tickets for 2021 are available by post only - orders must be received by **July 10th**.

Saturday, July 17th - Schubert - Die schöne Müllerin song cycle. Thomas Guthrie, baritone and Daniel Grimwood, piano.

Saturday, July 24th – Music by Weber, Mendelssohn and Brahms. Daniel Grimwood, piano, Peter Cigleris, clarinet and Gemma Rosefield, cello.

Wednesday, August 11th – Classical guitar recital with Scott Bradley.

Wednesday, August 25th – Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata plus works by Handel, Debussy, Stravinsky and more. Philip Sharp, piano.

Monday, September 6th – Music by Janáček, Dvořák, Martinů and Brahms. Robin Michael, cello, and Daniel Tong, piano

Wednesday, September 22nd – Piano works by Schumann, Chopin, Bacewicz and McLeod. Alicja Fiderkiewicz, piano.

For further details and to buy tickets, visit www.wensleydaleconcertseries.co.uk. For other enquiries call **01969 663026**.



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Askrigg, Bainbridge and West Burton Primary Schools

Proud to be part of the BAWB Federation

We are almost half way through the Summer Term already! All our pupils returned fit and well after the Easter break, raring to go after a long second lockdown. We also welcomed 10 new nursery children since January, who are settling in very nicely.

The children are spending plenty of time outdoors, in their bubbles, having PE and Forest School lessons. The weather does not seem to deter the children at all. We have some new outdoor facilities for the children to enjoy – at Bainbridge they have a great new gazebo, whilst at Askrigg a trim trail is in the process of being installed. Similar facilities will shortly be arriving at West Burton. We have also been able to resume our after school cycling and sports clubs.

Dormouse Project - YDNPA: During the first lockdown, many of our pupils carried out some lovely research into the national park's project to reintroduce dormice to the area. Declan's poster about this has been published in the YDNPA's project report and featured in Richmondshire Today. Well done Declan!

Our EYFS and Year 1 children enjoyed a trip to Freeholder's Wood in Aysgarth at the end of April, where they spotted evidence of Spring, all sorts of plants and evidence of animals, although the highlight of the morning was making clay faces to keep an eye on the

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woodland. If you visit Freeholders Wood you may still be able to see them! Thank you to the YDNP for their assistance with the trip.

Stage 1 Cycles have delivered Bikeability classes for our Year 5 and Year 6 children, following the National Bikeability curriculum. Sessions were on a live road setting and focussed on safe riding, managing traffic and road junctions. This is a great life skill and we are very grateful to Helen and her team at Stage 1 Cycles for delivering this programme. The children had fun whilst learning, despite the dreadful weather they have had to endure. Do we have a budding Bradley Wiggins or Chris Hoy in our midst we wonder?

We are busy planning a good send off for our Year 6 pupils who are moving on at the end of this term and are planning to have a whole BAWB sports day before the end of term – Covid restrictions permitting. It will be lovely to have all our children in one place for a day. Best wishes for a lovely summer.

From all at the BAWB Federation



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your customers because they nearly always come back, as well as a keen eye to spot something different and a knowledge of what else is in the area so if you haven't got it you can point the customer in the right direction; be it up into the market place or down to the other end of town!

Hawes is unique! All shops and local eating and drinking establishments independent, a community bus service, office and petrol station self-sufficient! So well done Hawes, paving the way, business by business to keep this town special (and independent!)

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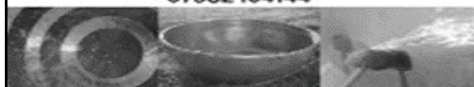
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JUNE WHAT'S ON LISTING;
please add these dates to your Diary

June

- 2 Charity Podcast - Rugby Legends and Farming Friends. 7.30pm. See p.37.
- 10 Partial eclipse of the sun. See p.32.
- 12 Bainbridge WI Addlebrough walk, 1.00pm. See p.26.
- 17 Deadline for submission of photos for Newsletter front cover. See p.3.
- 17 Bainbridge WI Zoom meeting. 7.00pm. See p.26.
- 21 Planned removal of legal limits on social distancing. Reopening of remaining premises and businesses.
- 26 Craft and Gift Fayre, Redmire Village Hall. 10.00am. See p.15.
- 30 Soup and Sweet lunch, Thornton Rust Institute. Noon. See p.26.

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Competition Terms and Conditions

- Images must be of North Yorkshire scenes.
 - The competition is open to young people in school years 7-13.
 - You can submit up to 4 photos as digital images only.
 - Images need to be in "Landscape" orientation.
 - Your images should be no larger than 5mb in file-size. If entering more than one image, we recommend you send them individually, so that they don't get blocked by our mail filters.
 - The closing date for entries is **Friday, October 8th**. Any entries received after this date will not be considered.
 - The photographer of each winning image will receive a calendar, there is no cash alternative.
 - Images will be judged according to the following criteria: Overall impact, composition and arrangement, and originality.
 - Photographs must NOT feature any people in any of the entries.
- Entries should be sent to jayne@nyy.org.uk, unfortunately, we cannot accept postal entries at this time.

DCM What's On

All events and exhibitions are included in the museum admission unless stated.

Exhibition: - Story of Schools

May 17th to July 18th

An exhibition delving into the development of Upper Dales schools in which you can hear stories from those who attended Dales schools from the 1930s onwards. See the giant photo mosaic created by digital artist, Helen Marshall of the People's Picture that celebrates the dynamic youth of the Dales - past and present. Funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund and its players, and the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority's Sustainable Development Fund. For more information, see page 12.

Events:

Drystone Walling Demonstration

Tuesday, June 1st. 11.00am to 3.00pm.

Join our Dales Volunteers as they showcase the traditional craft of drystone walling and explain the construction of this iconic feature of the National Park landscape, from the foundations to the top stones. In 4 drop-in sessions they talk through the process of turning a pile of stones into something that will last for centuries.

Textile Techniques Afternoons

Wednesday, June 2nd. 1.00pm to 4.00pm

In the Museum's textile gallery volunteers will demonstrate a range of different textile techniques.

A Woolly Wander Experience

Thursday, June 17th 10.00am to 3.00pm

Visit a local alpaca farm on Raydaleside, meet the animals and take them for a gentle stroll through the spectacular landscape of the Yorkshire Dales, with stunning views of the Dales' second largest natural lake, Semerwater. Guided by a local crafter, explore the museum textile gallery and learn the techniques and processes to create your own felted picture using wool from the alpacas you have met! Lunch is included, provided by the Firebox Cafe. Booking essential. £50.

In Your Words – Dialect and Heritage Project

Between 1946 and 1978, fieldworkers from the University of Leeds travelled to over 300 locations, including the Yorkshire Dales. They recorded the language and lifestyles of people, taking photographs, making sound recordings and filling notebooks with detailed drawings and notes. Leeds University Library's Special Collections now looks after the rich resources generated by this huge national study and subsequent important work carried out by students and staff at the Leeds Institute of Dialect and Folk Life Studies (1964-1983).

The University is now working with five partners, (Dales Countryside Museum, Ryedale Folk Museum, Avoncroft Museum of Historic Buildings, Museum of East Anglian Life, and Weald and Downland Living Museum), to help share these amazing records.

Community events will be held, a new website is being created and connections with collections are being made to enrich museum displays. New dialect research will also be carried out to capture a snap shot of dialect today and there'll be the chance for people to get involved in all sorts of ways.

Together we hope to celebrate language – past and present – and bring this archive collection, full of our dialect heritage, back to the Yorkshire Dales communities where it truly belongs. Watch out for updates in our e-news, on twitter and on our Facebook page. The project is supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.



*Wallop Nine Pins
(LAVC/PHO/P1740) by Werner Kissling.
Reproduced with the permission of Special Collections,
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Police Report

I know that many people have been asking if we have moved into the Fire Station yet; In a word, no. In the grand tradition of moving house – we are having broadband issues, so we are staying put at the Police Station on the High Street for a little while longer!

This month we welcome the new Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, Philip Allott into office. It has also been announced this month that, yet again, North Yorkshire is the safest place in England and Wales with our crime rate at just 49.9 per 1000 population, which is far below the national average of 80.8.

And, in confirmation of the above, there are only a few incidents to report for May;

Sometime around April 19th, a telecommunications box in West Witton has been broken into and appears to have been deliberately sabotaged as networking equipment had been removed and discarded in a nearby field. The cost has been approximately £800 to repair the damage.

On both May 12th and 13th, an identified suspect (who is now being dealt with accordingly) stole food items from the Co-op in Leyburn. Many thanks to quick acting and vigilant staff in the store.

On the evening of May 12th, youths were seen throwing and smashing bottles around the District Council car park in Leyburn to the rear of the Fire Station – those responsible were identified and reported and subsequent

action has now been taken.

Over the last few weeks there has been some anti-social behaviour occurring in Leyburn Auction Mart (on an evening) by way of some minor damage and littering. We are aware that the Mart has always been a 'traditional' place for young people to congregate but this is unacceptable, and the owners are now reluctantly considering having to install CCTV as a result.

We have now taken another step towards normality by way of pubs, cafes and restaurants opening up fully and visitors being allowed into homes etc. Whilst this is great news, please remember that there are still social distancing rules in place and the wearing of masks still applies etc. Please check the gov.uk website for the latest guidance.

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Please note that as restrictions lift there may be changes to services. Before making any journey please check our website penhillbenefice.co.uk/services for updates.

Every Sunday in June there will be a Telephone Service at **9.30am** and a Zoom Service at **10.30am**.

Phone service - dial **0333 0110 946** and enter room number 61337190# and PIN 7450#. Depending on your provider this is either free or costs a local rate phone call. Zoom links will be found at:- penhillbenefice.co.uk/services.

Sunday, June 6th.

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

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

Sunday, June 13th.

9.30am Holy Communion, St. Margaret's, Preston under Scar.

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

Sunday, June 20th.

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

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

Sunday, June 27th.

9.30am Holy Communion, St. Margaret's, Preston under Scar.

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

June Mid-Week Services.

Thursday 10th and 24th at 9.30am. Holy Communion, at St. Bartholomew's, West Witton.

Leyburn Arts and Community Centre - Cinema Again!

Film screenings have begun and are at **6.00pm on Fridays** with restricted numbers allowed until restrictions are eased.

Other activities are beginning in the Centre, Little Mints for Mums with babies or young children, Tai Chi and Yoga, Slimming World, Janet Seymour's Dance classes for all ages, the walking group, and much more. Please see the website and flyer or contact the centre by email admin@leyburnartscentre.com.

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Swaledale Festival News – Book Now For Events In July!

The following events are taking place:

Lotte Betts Dean (mezzo-soprano) and Sean Shibe (guitar) - **Thursday, July 15th, at 4.00pm and 7.30pm** at St. Andrew's Church, Grinton. A dynamic young Australian mezzo-soprano and an outstanding young guitarist perform Dowland, Schubert and Debussy alongside Spanish and Brazilian songs. Adult £12, Under 25 £3.

The Hut People - **Saturday, July 17th, at 2.00pm and 5.00pm** at Raygill House Farm, near Hawes. Swaledale Festival's favourite duo are back again with their highly entertaining mix of folk music from around the world. Adult £12, Under 25 £3.



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Guided Walk - Barns , Walls and Bridges -
Saturday, July 17th, 10.15am to 3.15pm.
Starting at the National Park Centre at the Dales Countryside Museum. Join the experienced National Park volunteer guides for a 4.5 mile walk in the 'Herriot Country' looking at traditional rural activities and structures. There will be an optional but recommended visit to Hardraw Force (£3.00 entry fee to be paid by each walker upon entry). Bring your lunch. No dogs please. Adult £7, Under 25 £3.

More events are programmed from August to October. For further information and to book tickets, please visit: www.swalefest.org.

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Prunings

By the time this is in print hopefully, the weather will have reverted to something like normal, and if we are very lucky, so may the rest of our lives.

On lovely sunny days the hedgerows sported the most glorious shades of green, the gorse was golden and this year the blackthorn, with its frothy creamy white blossom, was truly magnificent. Unfortunately, the frost at night may have affected its capacity to fruit and it seems likely that juicy sloes will be in short supply come the autumn.

Paul Simons in The Times had some interesting statistics:- There were 22 days of ground frosts in April, the most for 60 years, when there are normally around 12, setting the season back by around two weeks. In central England the average air temperature dropped to 6.42°C, the lowest for 80 years but there was almost record sunshine. In addition, it was one of the driest Aprils on record. It makes me look warily at the grey ghosts of the Ash trees. It may be a late season, but, given the nightmare of Ash Die Back, I wonder how many of them will have come through this time.

There must be many nests in the wild areas around the garden. The feeders are constantly alive with little, and not so little birds. We have dozens of chaffinches and almost as many goldfinches. There is the usual mix of tits and sparrows with robins trying to rule the roost. On the ground are dunnocks and blackbirds, not to

mention the resident pheasant who never seems to go very far. Well, why would he? In addition, I have had visits from siskins, reed-warblers, woodpeckers and for the first time this year – long tailed tits. What a pleasure to see them all. My other half went to check on a mallard nest that he was worried he might have disturbed. It was a relief to find a pile of eggshells and to know that they had made it.

You may not have noticed, but May 9th was national 'Garden Day', and Rachel de Thame was exhorting people to wear flower crowns to celebrate. As everything is so late I declined to make the effort, anyway, who would see it? I don't think it even got a mention on 'Gardener's World'.

I am pleased to report that my new agapanthus are growing nicely and the white lilac is nearly there. I suspect that a purple variety down the garden will beat it into bloom. The tulip 'lasagnes' I put together for last year have been rather underwhelming so later on I will dig them out and start again. I am thankful that we are still free of both box blight and box moth caterpillar, and the hedge is positively glowing. It clearly enjoyed the early cut it received last year so maybe I should do the same again.

Whatever you grow, take time to enjoy it!

Rose Rambler



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Leyburn Arts and Community Centre

The garden volunteers have been busy sorting the remaining plants not sold at the Plant Fayre and preparing the new seedlings ready for sale/donations. Like last year during lockdown periods there will be a selection available at the front of the building, please help yourself. There are envelopes to use for the money, just put it through the letter box, and some bags if you don't bring anything to transport them. Many plants have a description and a name and planting information. They have thought of everything!

We are also venturing into the sale of cards, birthday and blank notelets at the moment. If a success we hope to provide others. These will be available in the Little Shop (our café/bar) and are of our garden, flowers and scenes of the local area. If anyone has photos of Wensleydale that they think will make good cards, please email them to admin@leyburnartscentre.com and a team of volunteers will decide on the best to use next time. Large cards are £2 and the notelets are in packs of 6 for £5. Pop in through the side door and have a look, if locked please ring the bell.

Future Event Screenings:

Details of all four event screenings are up on our website and linked to Ticket Source, and tickets can now be bought on line via our website www.leyburnartscentre.com.

Tuesday, July 6th - The Car Man.

Tuesday, August 3rd - Funny Girl - The Musical.

Tuesday, September 7th - Mick Fleetwood and Friends.

Tuesday, September 21st - La Traviata.

All screenings will start at **7.00pm** and all will be £12. Seating for these screenings is restricted currently to 32 but can be adjusted if we are allowed to increase numbers in due course.

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Bainbridge WI

Now that we have been 'released' back into the world, our diaries are getting busier. We have several events planned for June, details as follows:

Saturday, June 12th - Walk over Addlebrough - Leaving the car park in Thornton Rust (near the ford) at **1.00pm** for a 2 - 2½ hour walk up Addlebrough. If the weather is kind to us, the views from the top are stunning!

Thursday, June 17th - 7.00 pm - Monthly Meeting via 'Zoom'. Eric Scaife will be giving us an entertaining talk about 'Yorkshire Humour'.

Wednesday, June 30th - Re-launch of our popular 'Soup and Sweet' lunches at Thornton Rust Institute between **noon and 2.00pm**. Choice of homemade soup, followed by pudding and tea or coffee. Cost just £5 and everyone is welcome (you don't need to be a WI member!). It is essential that you book in advance as it is a requirement to provide contact details to meet Covid regulations. Please contact Susan Freer by **Monday, June 28th** in order to make a booking.

We hope you will join us but please contact Susan Freer (**01969 663980**) for further details and to book your place or get a link for 'Zoom'.



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New Name, New Service.

Reading my Newsletter, I notice that Carol Moore has made some changes to her regular advertisement. First, she has changed the salon name to Twisted, and secondly, she now offers something called 'Aesthetics'. That's new to me, so I went to visit her and find out about it.

Aesthetics is all about taking care of minor blemishes, often connected with getting, well, less young! Carol has been trained in these techniques by award winning Joseph Lanzante at his training school in Burnley. She now has an Intense Pulse Light machine, and this is used for hair removal, skin tightening, and in the

treatment of rosacea, acne spots and minor birthmarks. She offers removal of spider veins on face and legs, and also skintags, for men as well as women.

Thinning hair can be disguised by the application of fine tattoos, to match the colour of the hair, a less invasive treatment than transplant. Carol's website, Twistedah.com shows before and after pictures.

It's good to see Hawes businesses opening up, after such a hard year for everyone; and to know that the time while the shops were shut down was not wasted, but used to acquire new skills.

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A Crafty Opportunity Grabbed

Some years ago, the Trustees of The Askrigg Foundation began research into a newly-launched Community Housing Project, seeking a solution to the future use of their three-storey building in the centre of Askrigg. The research finally culminated this year in the completion of conversion work to provide two flats and a cottage for local occupancy and, at the same time, the ground floor shop unit was also updated and given a new lease of life.

The shop has had several different occupants over the years - primarily the village Post Office, Newsagent and Gift Shop, but subsequently a florist and then an antiques and curios shop. For a long while, during the planning for the conversion project, the shop remained empty, but then along came a group of very 'crafty' ladies, keen to offer their wares to the wider community.

These ladies had been the Gayle Mill Craft Group, but obviously had to find a new home on the closure of the Mill. They were only too delighted to use the 'pop-up' shop in Askrigg but, when plans were finally in place for the completion of the conversion and the re-launching of a new retail outlet, the ladies decided they did not want the obligations of a formal agreement. However, having worked with the ladies, this was just the opportunity that Rita Cloughton from Bainbridge was looking for.

For as long as she can remember, Rita has been 'crafty', generally making things with

fabric and has often been seen at local craft events and shows, selling her range of goods. The thought of having a shop had often crossed her mind, but there had never been any serious thought that it might become a possibility. So, when the chance came along to take on the lease for the new shop in Askrigg, Rita took a leap of faith and decided the time was right to launch this new business. She admits that it was a scary time, but hopefully it was the right decision that will pay off.



Rita undertook some research by visiting 'Fleece' in Reeth - a very successful co-operative craft venture - where she learned about the pros and cons of such a business. She then decided that the best way forward was to turn the shop in Askrigg into a community co-operative arts and crafts shop. It is a place where like-minded people can have a showcase for their work.

Several months into the planning, excitement grew and Rita was able to apply for grant funding, which she was delighted to receive from the Area Partnership, the Jack Brunton Foundation and the NYCC Locality Grant. All of these grants, together with contributions from

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members, has enabled the shop to be fitted out as everyone would like - and it is very impressive.

Having put the word out about the plans, Rita was thrilled when local artists, designers and makers contacted her to become involved. Some of her family members and friends have been invaluable in helping to set up the shop which now goes by the name of 'Heather & Grouse' - very appropriate for the location in the Dales.

Rita's daughter-in-law, Roxy, and good friend Linda, are the team managing the day-to-day running of the business, but as it is a co-operative, the workload and the benefits will be shared by everyone involved, including stocking and staffing the shop.

'Heather & Grouse' opened quietly but with great excitement on April 12th, after lockdown restrictions were eased, but it is hoped to have an official opening later in the year when everyone can get together and enjoy this new venture.

Having been to check out the wonderful craft created in our own locality, I can tell you there is a fabulous selection of local work including woodwork, pottery, sculpture, paintings, textiles, felt, metalwork, weaving, candles, glass, handmade books and miniature gardens, all created by some very talented artists in and

around our Dale. There is also information about the friendly Alpaca walks available at Semerwater.



The shop is located opposite 'The Bake-well' in Askrigg and is open seven days a week between 10.00am and 4.30pm. The 'crafty folk' look forward to welcoming you there!

So, I would strongly recommend a visit to see what is on offer and enjoy the delights of these talented people. You may even want to make a start on your Christmas shopping! It is certainly wonderful to see that Wensleydale is bucking the national trend of shop closures, with the opening of some truly amazing new businesses after Covid. We are very fortunate!

K.P.

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Dales Peatland - 'A Stirring Scene of Restoration'

An 'enormous' amount of restoration work is taking place at the most damaged blanket bog peatland in the National Park.

Thousands of tonnes of coir, brash and stone have been brought this spring to Fleet Moss, Oughtershaw and Bleaberry – an area of moorland covering 166 hectares, located six kilometres south of the town of Hawes.

The coir logs and stone, brought to site by helicopter, are being used to block erosion channels. Brash – a mixture of cut heather, cotton grass and other peatland plants – is being spread over bare areas of peat to re-seed it and protect it from eroding further.

Much precious peat has been washed off the moor in recent decades. On parts of Fleet Moss, channels four metres deep have appeared. This means four thousand years of history have in effect been swept away, as peat is formed by sphagnum mosses at a rate of one metre depth every thousand years.

Work on the ground has now been paused for the ground nesting bird season but it will begin again in July, before the three-year project comes to an end in December.

The 'LIFE Programme' - through Pennine PeatLIFE, Yorkshire Water and the Environment Agency - combined with Defra funds have provided £1.3 million for the work, which is being carried out by Yorkshire Peat Partnership under the management of Yorkshire Wildlife Trust (YWT). Farmers have been supported through agri-environment schemes to take off livestock from Fleet Moss and Oughtershaw, and graze only limited numbers on Bleaberry.

Jenny Sharman, Peatland Restoration Officer at YWT, said: "Every time I go out to work on the site, I feel immensely encouraged by what I see. The peat bunds are holding water and in places sphagnum is beginning to return to the pools. Sediment is filling behind the coir extremely rapidly and the stone dams are also collecting sediment and slowing the flow. Our latest hydrological interventions are timber dams and they are holding back masses of water, too."

Member Champion for the Natural Environment at the Yorkshire Dales National

Park Authority, Ian McPherson, said: "Fleet Moss is currently a stirring scene of restoration. An enormous amount of work is going on to restore this bog. The National Park Authority has declared a climate emergency and the evidence shows that peatland restoration is the most cost-effective action we can take to tackle the emergency.

"Getting this bog back into good condition will lead to huge amounts of carbon dioxide being pulled from the atmosphere and stored in the peat. Although it will take decades for the benefits of this work to be felt fully, the difference being made can be seen already. Where a couple of years ago there was bare peat, sphagnum moss – our great ally in the battle against global warming – is growing again."

About 102 hectares of Fleet Moss is being restored. The Oughtershaw site to the west of Fleet Moss, next to the roadside, is nearly 16ha. To the east of Fleet Moss there is Bleaberry Moor, which is 48ha. In total, 166ha of peatland is being restored over three years.

So far, a total of 10,657 one metre long coir logs and 2,100 dumpy bags of brash have been taken to Fleet Moss; 1,949 coir logs to Oughtershaw; and 1,400 coir logs (500 of which are two metres long) and 1,000 bags of brash to Bleaberry.

The coir comes from Sri Lanka and is manufactured into logs in the UK. The brash comes from a neighbouring moor and the stone from a local quarry.

There are 51,160 hectares of blanket bog in the Yorkshire Dales National Park. Almost all



of this peatland was degraded when Yorkshire Peat Partnership began its work in 2009. In the past 10 years, YPP has restored 20,240ha, leaving 30,920ha still to restore.

Further restoration works are being planned for other parts of Fleet Moss. In January, YWT announced that the Garfield Weston Foundation was to donate funds to make the next phase of work possible.

The Sri Lanka Coconut Question

‘Coir from Sri Lanka??’ was the question after news providers reported the Fleet Moss peatland restoration. Can coir from Sri Lanka be environmentally-friendly? Why not use wool?

Nearly 15,000 metre-long coir logs (think super-sized grouse droppings) are being used on the peatlands. The logs are manufactured in the UK from bales of coconut husk imported by a company which has built up relationships with small scale Sri Lankan farmers. Husk is to coconut flesh as whey is to curd - a by-product.



A coir log staked across an erosion channel on Fleet Moss

The coir logs are being staked across erosion channels and are having a near instantaneous impact, helping to keep peat and water on the moor. By cutting the amount of sediment (i.e. pollution) being washed into streams and rivers (Ure and Wharfe), the logs are helping cut water companies’ clean-up costs. By helping to slow the flow of water off the moors, they are helping lower flood peaks in villages, towns and cities downstream.

The project to restore Fleet Moss could be seen as ‘carbon negative’. Over time way more carbon will be saved from being emitted from the bog, or sequestered by a restored bog, than

will have been emitted through the importation of the coir and the transportation of the logs (and other materials) to site.

The key point to understand is that doing nothing would result in the Fleet Moss peatland emitting carbon dioxide, which is rather like a bad joke. Any degraded peat bog – and they do not come more degraded than Fleet Moss – releases a great deal of carbon dioxide. The amount of carbon that currently comes off eroded peatland is estimated to be 10 million tonnes per year in the UK.

The coir on Fleet Moss has, on its own, helped areas to revegetate naturally within only a couple of years of being installed. A revegetated Fleet Moss will mean the bog will no longer emit carbon dioxide but will sequester carbon on a grand scale.

All this said, it is accepted that depending on Sri Lankan coconuts to fix a bog in North Yorkshire is not ideal. The Yorkshire Peat Partnership has been working for more than a year on a project that could lead to an alternative to coir being used – and this may well involve wool.

There are issues with using wool. Wool must be untreated or it will pollute the surrounding water courses, yet Animal and Plant Health Agency regulations do not permit the use of untreated wool, on grounds of reducing the risk of spreading diseases. The biggest issue, though, is that early experiments have shown that on its own, wool is not very successful in damming areas or collecting sediment. The Yorkshire Peat Partnership still thinks wool has real potential in peatland restoration. It is working closely with a local organisation to see if a solution can be found, and the aim is very much to support local farmers and use local materials.

Meanwhile, the coconut farmers of Sri Lanka deserve our thanks, for the by-product of the fruit that they are producing is helping us tackle the very serious and urgent problems on peat moorlands in the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

One of the 49 objectives of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Management Plan 2019-2024 is ‘to restore, by 2030, all degraded blanket bog/deep peat habitat to ecologically and hydrologically functioning bog that is actively sequestering and storing carbon, and is being managed sustainably’.

Heavens Above

There's a partial eclipse of the Sun this month on the morning of **Thursday, June 10th**. It's the biggest solar eclipse visible from the UK since 2015, with more than a third of the Sun's disc obscured by the Moon depending on how far north you're located. The further north you are, the larger the area of the Sun's surface that's blotted out. From our latitude it will be around 27 percent.

The Moon take its first bite out of the Sun at about **10.08am**, but you'll get the best view at maximum eclipse around **11.15am**. A word of warning - if you're planning to observe any part of the eclipse **DO NOT LOOK DIRECTLY AT THE SUN** either with your unprotected eyes or using any kind of optical aid such as a pair of binoculars. If you do, you could seriously damage your eyesight. Unless you've access to specialised equipment the only safe way to view the sun is by wearing properly tested eclipse glasses or using binoculars or a telescope eyepiece to project the Sun's image onto a shaded piece of white card - quite easy to do especially if you can get hold of a suitable tripod to hold your binoculars steady.

This month's partial eclipse is only part of a much more spectacular event – an annular or 'Ring of Fire' eclipse. An annular eclipse (annulus is the Latin for 'little ring') occurs when the Moon is too far away from the Earth to completely cover all of the Sun. The result is a brilliant circle of light – the famous Ring of Fire - right around the darkened Moon. Alas, this time round we won't get to see this impressive sight as it's only visible along a very narrow path running from the far north of Canada via Greenland to the extreme eastern part of Russia. If you want to see the next annular eclipse visible from our part of the world I'm afraid you'll have to stick around until July 23rd, 2093. See you then? Have clear skies!

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Hawes School News

We have a lot of outdoor activities planned for the children over the next few weeks. Hopefully the weather will be kind for us.

Class 3 Cycling competition:

All the children in Class 3 will be taking part in a day's cycling training session towards the end of May. The morning session will be run by an ex-Olympic coach – Phil Bateman, followed by a series of races in the afternoon. The top 8 riders from our school will then go on to represent the school in the finals at Michael Syddall School in Catterick.

Skateboard and Scooter workshop in school for all classes:

We have organised 'Sports Dreams' to come into school in June and run scooter and skateboard workshops for all classes.

Bikeability for Year 6:

As part of our PE provision all Year 6 children will be undertaking Bikeability training run by Stage 1 Cycles. The children will be taught how to ride safely on the road.

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Enjoying the Moors and Dales

Springtime brings lambs to the countryside - and new timetables for public transport!

Leeds-Settle-Carlisle train services are back to their normal frequency (not so on all other lines); check for Little White Bus connections to and from Garsdale station, or allow time to use the free parking.

Summer Sunday Buses in Wensleydale

Summer Sunday bus services are now running once again in the Wensleydale area, with some changes for the 2021 season.

Northern DalesBus 830 once again provides a service from Preston, Lancaster, Kirkby Lonsdale, Ingleton and Ribbleshead Station to Hawes (Market Place and DCM). This bus continues to Richmond, running via the Buttertubs Pass, Muker, Gunnerside and Reeth. The bus leaves Hawes National Park Centre at **11.00am every Sunday until October 17th**, returning from Richmond at **4.20pm** and from Reeth at **4.45pm**.

Northern DalesBus 831 provides new links for 2021, running from Hawes to Kirkby Lonsdale, via Ribbleshead and Ingleton. The bus leaves Hawes Market Hall at **12.30pm every Sunday** and Bank Holiday until **October 17th**, returning from Kirkby Lonsdale Booths at **3.30pm** and Ingleton Community Centre at **3.45pm**.

Wensleydale Flyer service 856 continues unchanged linking Gayle, Hawes, Bainbridge, Aysgarth, Leyburn, Bedale.

Leeming Bar and Northallerton every Sunday and Bank Holiday.

On Saturdays and Sundays in July, August and September, Moorsbus will provide services in and around the North York Moors.

At present, face coverings are required on all public transport. There's no need to book for any of these services – tickets are available from the driver. Elderly/disabled bus passes are valid for free travel on the Wensleydale Flyer 856. On Northern DalesBus 830 and 831 passholders pay maximum fares of £3 single and £5 for a day ticket.

A new leaflet with full timetables for all the Sunday buses is available from many local outlets, including Hawes Community Office and Hawes and Aysgarth National Park Centres.

Further information is also available online at www.dalesbus.org/hawes.

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Yorebridge Sport and Leisure Centre

The Wensleydale Centre, Askrigg.
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It's great to be back open again with some brand new equipment through funding from Richmondshire District Council. Fitness classes are continuing - via zoom or live class as indicated:

Bootcamp - **Tuesdays and Thursdays** (live)
6.00am.

Fit for Life - **Mondays** (zoom) **9.30am.**

Daytime Circuit - **Wednesdays** (zoom)
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Evening Circuit - **Wednesdays** (live)
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Costs for fitness classes are £6 per session or £30 in advance for six sessions.

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Our two new classes are going well:

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Cost £3 pay as you go or £10 monthly.

We are also running zoom Conversational French on **Tuesdays from 1.30pm - 2.45pm.** Join us for informal conversation with an emphasis on communication and grammar. Why not try us for a taster session? If you would like to join, please email us for more details. The cost is £5 per session.

New members are very welcome to all our classes. Get in touch - booking is essential for all classes. Don't forget we have a number of different gym membership packages available. Please visit our website for more details www.yorebridgesportandleisure.co.uk/fitness-classes or email us at admin@yorebridgesport.co.uk.

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May 10th to 16th was Mental Health Awareness Week in the UK. During the COVID-19 pandemic, millions of us, more than ever before, have experienced a mental health problem, or seen a loved one struggle.

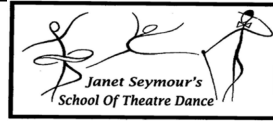
At The Wensleydale School we have a range of support available to students who are finding life tough. We have a MIND counsellor who has weekly appointments slots, we access Early Help and have a range of in-house strategies. However, it is vital that we all feel able to talk about how we are feeling and tutor time often gives students the time to do that.

Our Year 11 BTEC Music students have prepared a performance of 'You Will Be Found' from the musical 'Dear Evan Hansen' to share the message that no matter what struggles you're facing, despite how you may feel alone

in the world, you're not alone. There will be someone who will find you, someone to remind you that you're not alone, and help you through your dark times. 'You Will Be Found' the video, can be accessed via our website <https://www.wensleydale.n-yorks.sch.uk/?p=3385&preview=true>.

Support and advice for mental health is available and more information can be found by following this link - <https://www.nhs.uk/mental-health/nhs-voluntary-charity-services/charity-and-voluntary-services/get-help-from-mental-health-helplines/>.

Julia Polley, Headteacher



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Blueboxt Productions

Volunteering and Work Placements.

So much of our social and community life revolves around the generosity of individual giving. Whether it is a financial contribution or a donation of time – both are a precious and valued gift. We regularly see that the smallest of gestures can often yield the greatest benefits.

Our team of volunteer BlueAngels are amazing and without them we would not be able to provide the activities and mentoring support to individuals interested in the performing arts. This month they have been helping us to embark on two exciting areas of development.

Our Play>Record>Perform project is all about youth voice and participants have been sharing their favourite styles of music and the artists they are currently listening too. It's an eclectic mix! They have also been focussing on what comes next which has resulted in some lively discussions as different ideas and opportunities are discussed. They have given our volunteers a lot to think about as we liaise with potential funders for the year ahead.

Our marketing volunteers are about to launch a recruitment campaign to attract new BlueAngel donors and develop an audience mailing list. This major piece of work has been on hold due to the Pandemic and there is a buzz among the team as they can finally start to put plans in action. More details to follow.

Finally, two quite different pieces of news relating to work placements. Firstly, we have been joined by David Dore who is completing the final modules of his degree studies. David has been helping to lead some of the group sessions and shadow individual mentors and tutors delivering their sessions. It has been great to have an opportunity to share and discuss existing methods and consider new ideas for our session delivery. We wish David the best of luck with his final assignments.

The second piece of news is that we are thrilled to have appointed our first placement on the Kickstart Scheme. Callum Porter joins us in the role of Marketing and Media Assistant and has already made a significant contribution to the way we work as an organisation. We look forward to sharing more details over the coming months.

There are four professional homeworking marketing and music production placements available with mentoring support and opportunities to develop transferrable skills. Full details can be found on the kickstart page of our website www.blueboxt.co.uk/kickstart.

Thank you to all our supporters and volunteers. To find out more about volunteering opportunities or becoming a BlueAngel contact Colin Bailey on 07711 211169 or email info@blueboxt.co.uk.



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Charity Podcast - Rugby Legends and Farming Friends

The farming community has produced more than its fair share of top-quality rugby players over the generations, none more so than Scotland and British Lions star Doddie Weir. It is widely known that Doddie (aged 51), is battling Motor Neurone Disease, a debilitating and incurable muscle-wasting disease.

In order to support Doddies MND charity 'My Name's Doddie', The Farmer Network is to broadcast a podcast entitled "Rugby Legends and Farming Friends".

Chaired by Farmer Network Managing Director Adam Day, the podcast panel will feature three Cumbria rugby legends from the farming community. North Cumbria dairy farmer and cheesemaker Mark Lee is a former Scotland international. Tony Scott, a dairy farmer near Lockerbie was a former Cumbrian Rugby league professional. Malcolm Brown is a former Cumbria and Aspatia captain, current

President of Cumbria RFU and enjoys his time hill farming on the edge of the Lake District. Special guest appearances from other well-known rugby men are also planned.

About the podcast Adam Day says, "The farmers taking part are genuine rugby legends and I expect that there will be a substantial amount of banter between them as they discuss farming and rugby, mindful of the fact that we are trying to raise money to support one of the farming community's top rugby men".

The podcast will be broadcast on **Wednesday, June 2nd at 7.30pm** on the Cumbria Farmer Network Facebook page. A Just Giving page has been set up for donations to the My Name's Doddie charity: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/rugbyfriendsevening>.

Cheques can also be made payable to "My Name's Doddie Foundation" and posted to: The Farmer Network, The Ashness Building, Newton Rigg College, Penrith, CA11 0AH.

A number of farming related businesses and organisations have pledged support for the event which it is hoped both farmers and rugby players will enjoy watching.

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Bat To The Future

The British Science Association (BSA) runs a Community Leaders programme supported by funding from UK Research and Innovation (UKRI). The aim of the programme is to harness the passion and ideas of individuals who work with underserved audiences and to enhance their skills to enable them to become leaders of science engagement in their communities.

Each year, the BSA recruits twelve individuals who had previously received a British Science Week Community Grant to become ambassadors in their regions of the UK. Each Leader has strongly established relationships with their communities, which is why the BSA believe they are the ones best placed to deliver high-quality, impactful science engagement. Through the Community Leaders programme, the BSA helps to upskill the Leaders and support them in developing long-term science engagement projects, and help facilitate collaboration between their community groups and the science communication sector.

Rachael Addison, Youth Project Officer for Leyburn Arts and Community Centre has been chosen to represent the North East of England. To celebrate her appointment as Community Leader for the British Science Association Rachael has launched a long-term science project called 'Bat to the Future' at Leyburn Arts and Community Centre.

The aim of the project is to provide opportunities for young people to discover biodiversity and to take positive action for bats

in their local area. From now until October 31st any one, or any family with a young person, under the age of 26 can hire out bat detector kits to help explore and discover the bats living near them for free. Young people aged 14 to 19 can get their hands on a free bat themed celebration box. Boxes can be collected by appointment.

Then in September, Leyburn Arts and Community Centre Youth Project will be running three nocturnal themed evening sessions with Wild With Nature outside in their garden, free for all 11 to 16 year olds. Places are limited so contact the centre if you are interested.

Rachael Addison, Youth Project Officer said "I am so excited about the Bat to the Future project here at The Old School House, I wanted to create interesting ways for young people to connect with nature, after all how can you care or take action for something that you have not had the opportunity to experience? I hope young people and their families enjoy the project and feel inspired to learn more."



To hire the bat detector kits, collect a bat box or sign up to the nocturnal themed evening sessions, please call **01969 624510** or contact admin@leyburnartscentre.com. The project has been supported by North Yorkshire Youth, The Bat Conservation Trust and Ignite Yorkshire.

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