

THE UPPER WENSLEYDALE NEWSLETTER

Issue 283

February 2022

Donation please:
50p suggested



Redmire Falls

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

Guest Editorial

Hopefully, as we begin another year of living with Covid there are signs that the worst may be over. All my family have now had it, some twice, despite being fully vaccinated and it was not a pleasant experience, though in my case it felt rather like a bad case of flu with a nasty cough. But what has made the pandemic worse since those early days in 2020 has been what can loosely be described as communication problems that have affected everyone. During the first lockdown we were all told to stay at home and minimise contact with other people, which the majority of the population did, but since then we have lived through months of confusing messages. Nobody I have talked to has seemed clear about the difference between guidelines and legal requirements, and advice, whether legal or not, has been changing constantly. Now we learn that members of the government didn't seem to understand the difference either! Advice on how long to isolate after a positive Covid test has kept changing too, with no coherent explanations provided and some of the regulations made no sense. For example, at one point you could go and cheer at a football match, but singing hymns in church was banned. It's no wonder so many of us have been so confused.

Anyone trying to go abroad has met with all kinds of additional bureaucratic complications, some of which have added hundreds of pounds to the cost of a holiday. True, many of the problems were caused by the variable rules operating in other countries, but by no means all of them. Last summer, for example, I ran into the complex and expensive business of pet passports for Northern Ireland, but not only was the documentation never checked at any ferry port, it has now been abolished altogether. This summer, apparently, the dogs can travel freely, though it would probably be foolish to bet on that happening.

An efficient society needs efficient systems of communication, particularly in times of crisis and right now our systems are in need of serious overhauling. I have had to work from home for nearly two years now, so I depend on electronic communication systems, which are not always reliable, and that unreliability adds an additional level of anxiety. I have had some unfortunate experiences such as power cuts in the middle of an interview and during several lectures which, combined with the painfully slow broadband

here in the Dales adds to the difficulty of trying to work effectively. The major power cut here in the north before Christmas dramatically highlighted the concern many residents already had about future government plans that should see us all switching to electric cars and moving away from fossil fuels in our homes. Some friends had no power for several days which meant no heating, hot water or the possibility of charging an electric car. People improvised as best they could; some friends brought out their old camping stove and kept an open fire going using wood and coal for five days, while another family managed to get an ancient kitchen range working again. We have all heard similar stories and know people who were without power for longer than a week.

For others, the power cuts added to the misery created by the fire last August which destroyed the Bilsdale television mast and left thousands of people with no television signal for months.

The slowness with which repairs to the mast were carried out, combined with the dismally slow speed of internet connections makes one feel that here in the Dales we are not deemed to be anyone's priority. Yet, ironically, there have never been so many programmes on TV with Yorkshire in the title, and beautiful images of the Dales to encourage visitors. Yes, we do live in an exceptionally lovely place but we deserve better systems of communication if we are to avoid becoming an anachronistic theme-park.

Susan Bassnett

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Middleham and The Dales Local History Group

The Murderer Lurking in My Family Tree by Thomas Glover - **Tuesday, February 15th at 2.00pm** at Middleham Key Centre.

1745 is mainly remembered by historians for the failed Jacobite rebellion. But in Knaresborough it saw a murder which was later to become extremely famous. Eugene Aram is the man most closely associated with this notorious crime. Richard Houseman from Grafton was an accomplice and he probably struck the fatal blow.

Whilst researching his own family history and after much work and false lines in searching for great-great-grandmother Bella Glover, Thomas Glover eventually proved she was the daughter of Richard Houseman of Grafton.

He was not the same man nor were they father and son. He was a cousin, or was he? There is much conflicting evidence and many unanswered questions. Discover more of this intriguing conundrum.

Members, new members and visitors are always welcome, membership is still only £10 for 9 meetings and visitors can attend for £3 per meeting.

For further information, please contact Tony Keates **01969 640436**, or email dotandtonyk@btinternet.com.



Eunice the Ewe

Last month I was on the pupil's jumper in the picture on page 35 and the lucky winner of the £10 prize is Cara Harrington of Spennithorne.

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

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

**TUESDAY FEBRUARY 22nd
(Unless we are full earlier)**

PUBLISHED ON MARCH 3rd

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February Competition

The answers are all non-alcoholic drinks, both hot and cold. Some of the clues are anagrams and, some aren't!

1. Drink before a break or party (3)
2. A drink for Strictly Come Dancing (5)
3. Do enamel mixture (8)
4. Drink from an endless platter (5)
5. A warm cool cheat mixture (3,9)
6. Winter coat (5,5)
7. Rejoice a gnu (6,5)
8. Snappy dresser Leo and his associate (9,3,7)
9. Could Zea give you energy? (8)
10. Scarlet bovine that aids flight (3,4)
11. It's a brine mixture (6)
12. Drink gets its name from friars' habits (10)
13. Prime Minister 1830 - 1834 (4,4)
14. Try wearable sort of drink (6,5)
15. The Famous Five's favourite drink? (6,4)

Please send in your answers to arrive by **Tuesday, February 22nd**. Don't forget to nominate your charity which will receive the £20 prize should you win.

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:	Anthony Abraham Hall Garth	663243
West Burton:	Nadine Bell, Margarets Cottage	663559
Aysgarth:	Hamilton's Tearoom	663423
Redmire:	Kevin Davis Westholme	624165
Thoralby:	Neil Piper	663747
West Witton	Christine Barker, Chestnut Garth	624934

December Competition Answers

1. Let It Snow
2. Holly
3. Irving Berlin
4. Westwards
5. Little Drummer Boy
6. Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer
7. St Agnes
8. Figgy pudding
9. Geese a laying and swans a swimming*
10. A button.
11. Sing
12. The snowman
13. Meet Me in St. Louis
14. Galway Bay
15. Coventry Carol
16. Eight
17. The Christmas Song
18. (Bob-tailed) Bay
19. God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen
20. Merry Christmas Everybody
21. Blue
22. Pout
23. Do You Hear What I Hear?
24. Winter Wonderland
25. Two front teeth

* My true love gave me 6 geese for 7 days from days 6 to 12, and 7 swans for 6 days from days 7 to 12.

Questions 9 and 18 were the ones that caused most problems for people. Only one person managed to get all 25 correct. The winner is Stella Swan of West Burton. Her chosen charity to receive £20 is Group Hug.

Tuesday Hawes Fish Market

Also door to door delivery every **Friday**. Pre-order or just turn up on a **Friday** at

Askrigg Stone Cross. **9.30am to 10.45am**
Bainbridge playground. **11.00am to 11.30am**
Thornton Rust W.I. Hall **12.30pm to 1.00pm**

Mobile **07711 989590**

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Yorebridge Sport and Leisure Centre

The Wensleydale Centre,
Askrigg.

Tel. 01969 650060

Our brand new Multi Use Games Area!

The only all-weather playing facility in Wensleydale open to the public.

We are delighted with the brand new surface on our Multi Use Games Area. We are very grateful to funding for this from the Football Foundation, Richmondshire District Council and Yorebridge Education Foundation. We are also very grateful to our volunteers, trustees and staff and the commitment of our charity to provide this fantastic facility. Thanks also to Fosse the contractors who did a great job.



The photo hopefully says it all, showing the pupils and staff of Askrigg Primary School who were great 'testers' of the new surface and demonstrated the wide ranges of activities it can be used for. Thanks to them and also to our photographer Maisy from Purple Creative.

The surface is a cushioned sand based artificial turf. It is suitable for football, netball, hockey, tennis, basketball and other sports. We are really pleased to welcome back the regular football teams who use us during the winter months.

Tennis nets go up for play around Easter time when nights are lighter. We have family and individual tennis membership available or pay as you go. There's also a friendly tennis group which meets on Monday night for all abilities. We have plans to start hockey soon.

Please get in touch (see below for contact details) if you have a sport or group who would

like to hire the MUGA.

We are so pleased that our mission to provide quality facilities all year round has been secured for the lifetime of this surface.

Gym membership available: There is no better time to get your fitness journey going! Don't forget we have a fully equipped gym with brand new equipment thanks to funding from Richmondshire District Council. There are a number of different gym membership packages available. We also have a number of fitness classes running.

Please visit our website for more details www.yorebridgesportandleisure.co.uk; email us at admin@yorebridge-sport.co.uk; or telephone 01969 650060.

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UWNL Children's Story Writing Competition

And the winners are.....

We challenged children aged 7-11 to write a 300-500 word story about a pandemic. It didn't have to be the present one, it could be something imagined that never actually happened, or something that did happen, like The Black Death or The Plague. The competition was set up in memory of our founding editor Alan Watkinson who championed writing in the young. Ann Pilling, local children's author was our judge and was very impressed with the high standard of creative writing and really enjoyed reading the variety of stories we received.

10 - 11 Category – The winner was Alice Metcalfe (BAWB) with her story 'The Most Horrific Futuristic Disaster' and the runner up was Willow Oliver (BAWB) with her story 'The Peril Pandemic'.

7 - 9 Category – The winner was Beatrice Quinton-Bottley, (BAWB) with her story 'Black Death' and the runner up was Grayson Alderson, (BAWB) with his story 'Pandemic Hunt'.

Ann said "Some knew a lot about pandemics and gave me a lot of facts but what I really wanted was to be told a story, and the 4 people who have won, or are runners up, did just that, they told me a story and they told it very well."

Ann has given some great feedback on why their stories stood out and the winners were presented with their book tokens and awards and



Alice Metcalfe (10-11 winner), holding trophies. Runners up Willow Oliver (10-11) and Grayson Alderson (7-9). Pictured at Askrigg School celebration assembly.

also a £100 book token for each age category and the Alan Watkinson Memorial Shield was presented to the Head Teacher of their Primary School. Our thanks go to Bainbridge, Askrigg and West Burton (BAWB) Schools for supporting the competition.

The winning stories in each age group are published below and the stories from the runners-up will be in the March issue of the Newsletter. We hope you enjoy reading them as much as we did.

The Most Horrific Unknown Futuristic Disaster (That Might Happen)

Washing up the most boring activity a human can do! Ava felt the same she loathed it. hated it. Detested it. At this moment in time, she was doing the dishes looking out at the dismal uncut grass, on the dismal plain garden, in a dismal grey uncharacteristic positively boring town. Ava was thinking hard.

Now Ava often thought sometimes about politics or the life cycle of a frog other times she would think about the importance of socks and why her wellies were comfier than her new flip flops. This time her subject was the sound popcorn makes when it pops. Even though the TV was on full volume she could still somehow concentrate she only just heard Pompom a naughty irritating loose lipped liability or her sister of course she was not called Pompom it was Maya and she was only 5. Maya pounced on Ava causing her to face plant the bottom of the sink which was metal and full of crockery. Ava gasped as she brought her head up like when you have your hand stuck in a jar. Her brownish curly hair was now sopping wet.

After just an hour with three towels layered on her back and shoulders. Ava's mum, Gemma, called her into the living room "Ava look at the news it's really interesting." "It won't be" Ava called back and muttered a few words to herself before dragging herself down. What met her was horrific corona virus two "UGGGGGHHHHHH" (Ava had lived through a dreadful thing which I am told was Covid 1)

It had killed thousands hospitalized hundreds and torn economy in bits. Out of the corner of her eye Ava saw a darting form in a black cloak, boots, shirt, hat, and a grey black shimmery mask. Then a piercing scream from Ava's

mouth as a rock from the bowl on the side table dropped on her little toe “Ava do you want an ice pack” asked mum.

Similar things happened on Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday all after seeing the figure. In thought Ava noticed herself putting her hands up against the wall then launched herself into a handstand and using her thumbs turned on the TV. It was Covid, again, but worse over the last week the death total had risen dramatically ...

As Ava sat on her creaky bed playing a game on her iPad one of the little figures turned into a black hooded shape glaring at her through its unintriguing mask until her checked curtains that were only a week-old developed snags before drifting sadly down to rest on Avas bed “What” Ava. Suddenly, her attention was drawn to the radio downstairs all she heard was “Today’s news is” Said Barny the news man until it glitched and said “I’ll spread this disease until there’s no one left to stop me!” Cackled a hollow voice that eventually withered to a slow stop

Alice Metcalfe. (Aged 10)

Judge’s comments: I really liked the way this was written and her description of being bored is wonderful. She eventually meets up with covid in the shape of a nasty little black demon, determined to destroy humankind. The story is full of humour. I liked the way she did a handstand turning the TV on with her thumbs!

It rather ‘peters out’ at the end and I would have liked it to have been longer, for there to have been some kind of ‘resolution’. But I gave it the prize because it was so very well written and I am confident that Alice has many more excellent stories’ up her sleeve’.



Beatrice Quinton-Bottley
(7 - 9 winner)

Black Death

In 1349, the Black Death started. It was horrendous, people were dying everywhere dropping out like dead flies. 50 million were killed during Black Death. The symptoms were fever, extreme exhaustion, breathing problems, seizures and blackening fingers.

I was living in an orphanage alone with my friend Amber. We wanted to escape. One night the moon was big and bright the fire alarm went off - there was a fire in the orphanage somewhere. It was at Amber’s door! I heard a scream and a shout and then I saw the flames.

In the morning, when I was allowed to go in Ambers room there was no Amber. I escaped the orphanage cold and wet I was afraid because I could get the Black death and I thought I was going to starve.

I saw a shadow with long gold hair it came closer I screamed. I saw it, a girl. “I am called Zoe,” said the girl and she led me closer. Zoe took me in to a den then I saw another girl. “This is Beatrice,” said Zoe, “She is my friend.” Then I saw skulls ...

... skulls that were black! “Black death,” I said, “Your gang got Black death!”

“Yep,” said Zoe, “They died 7 weeks ago.”

Zoe gave me some bread and honey to eat and some goat milk. Then I went to sleep in an old sheep food sack. When I woke, Zoe took me to a lower den then Zoe said this is our grave yard for the gang that have died.

So, Zoe led me down the stair to their cellar. It was very dark in there. Zoe lit a candle and she screamed, there was a big fat rat and it had Black death it had a black face. We had a plan to cure it. We gave it a drink of vinegar and cured it so I lived with Zoe and Beatrice in a fancy house forever and ever.

Beatrice Quinton-Bottley. (Aged 8)

Judge’s comments: This was very well written, snappy and it really raced along, the style of writing was colourful. I liked these phrases ‘dropping like dead flies’, ‘blackening fingers’, the moon, big and bright’. The view of all the bodies of her gang of friends is truly horrible. Beatrice is one of them! Very mysterious indeed. But then, just as they see a big black rat that also has the black death, they think of a solution. They dose it with vinegar and it recovers, and they (the speaker and her friends) ‘live in a fancy house for ever and ever’.

I don’t know what a ‘fancy’ house is but I like the sound of it. Just one thing. At the beginning they are woken up by a fire alarm. I don’t think there were any fire alarms in the days of the Black Death!

Prunings

There is an inevitability about the turning of the New Year, as ever, we wish each other well. We did not get snow, but some arrived on Boxing Day just to remind us that we were still in line. I felt that our special rural backwater was a safe and comfortable place, but as I watch the Covid numbers increase I'm not so sure. May I wish you all Health and Prosperity for 2022, and I hope, as does everyone else, that it will be better than 2021.

I have been surprised by how much my attitude has changed. My other half was so keen that I should tell him what I wanted for Christmas - very difficult! We barely turn out except for shopping and necessary appointments, so why would I want new clothes or the like. It all felt like a waste of time and money. I had a sudden inspiration. During the Summer a neighbour's pink Hawthorn had been glorious. Braithwaites said they had some, so off we went. All the potted specimens had gone so my precious tree (not cheap) is now sitting with its bare roots in a black bag waiting for me to put it in a large terracotta pot (also not cheap) which will be its home until I decide on its final resting place.

Almost imperceptibly the light levels increase and, just as if someone had flicked a switch, the little bulbs are starting to poke through last year's weeds in the planters. It won't be long before the Irises and Crocus are waving in the wind. So heartening to anticipate the colour that is to come and even the snowdrops have not yet appeared. We are back to the swan analogy: all is quiet on the surface, but below ground the frenzy of growth has begun.

One of my favourite moments is the arrival of the Sarah Raven Spring catalogue, and what a joy it is. The front is a montage of the Persian

Carpet Dahlia Collection in red, pink, peach and orange. I confess to having pored over it for far too long. As I have not yet ordered my Sweet Peas, that will be the first task. Last year I had ordered them in the Autumn and they arrived in February when we still had snow. Miraculously, they survived weeks of commuting between the garden table and the porch window and we had a lovely show at the end of it all. This year I have waited, and I am fortunate enough to have the remains of a gift voucher to spend, although I can't leave it too long or it will date lapse. If there is anything left the one other item that I covet is a beautiful Pink Argyranthemum which was part of a pot collection at least three years ago. It was paired with an Artemesia in the original combination and the Artemesia has survived. More pink daisies and I can repeat the display. As nothing in this catalogue is inexpensive I shall no doubt have a bill at the end of it all, but with it the promise of glorious colour and scent to come. Plants are so wonderful!

Whatever you grow, take time to enjoy it!

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A Fun Way to Learn About Bell Ringing!

Join a free introductory course on bell ringing organised by the Wensleydale Ringers.

For over five hundred years the church bells of Wensleydale have resounded across our dale. The sound of bells ringing is deeply rooted in



English culture. They provide the grand soundtrack to our historic moments, call out for our celebrations and toll sadly in empathy with our grief.

For the first time since the Second World War, in 2020 the bells fell silent. The Covid lockdown halted ringing in the church towers. But our teams of enthusiastic ringers were not deterred! The Wensleydale Ringers started getting together on-line to practice and learn, and this in turn created an excellent opportunity for those new to ringing to find out all about it and why so many have got the ringing bug.

In 2021 the Wensleydale Ringers held a course of short interactive on-line presentations on the techniques, benefits and fun of bell ringing. The course was enthusiastically participated in and resulted in 9 new recruits to ringing in the towers.

In Spring 2022 we are holding a second course. This time, as Covid restrictions permit, with hands-on training in our local towers interspersed with the on-line presentations.

We invite everyone to join us, from those who have simply wondered about how the bells are rung through to those interested in whether bell ringing is for them.

Bell ringing is a team activity that keeps your brain active and your body agile. Some do it as a social activity, some do it to contribute to



Church life, some to keep the magnificent sound of bells alive, and some do it for the pure pleasure and feeling of well-being it brings.

In the North East Dales we have over 80 active ringers of different ages, male and female. Some of us attend church but others do not: there is no requirement to be a church-goer. Whether your interest is theoretical, or whether you are wondering if bell ringing could be for you, we invite you to join the first of our on-line evening sessions and take it from there.

Bell ringing does not require great strength and we have had children as young as 10 learning in Wensleydale. Many others learn in retirement.

The bell towers participating in the new introductory course are at the churches of Askrigg, Aysgarth, Grinton, Richmond, and Kirkby Malzeard. Those living within reach of those churches are particularly welcome to participate in the course.

The times and dates of sessions will be arranged in agreement with participants. We intend our first session to be in late February. If you are interested in finding out more about what the sessions entail and how to participate, please email David at wensleydaleringers@gmail.com with your name and contact details. Alternatively, you can contact us via Facebook at Wensleydale Ringers.

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Police Report

There was a total of 24 crimes recorded in the area during December. I do not report crimes whereby victims could potentially be identified for example, domestic violence or harassment. 3 crimes were recorded as Fraud whereby people have reported attempted telephone scams. A full breakdown by category is as follows:

- 13 – Violence
- 5 – Criminal Damage
- 3 – Fraud
- 3 – Burglary/Theft

Throughout December there were 12 road traffic collisions on our roads resulting in damage only, and 1 resulting in injuries.

Incidents of note during December;

7th – Report that a number of wildlife traps have been damaged in the Healaugh area over a period of time. Up to 12 traps have been damaged at a cost of £420.

7th – In Askrigg, a number of windows to a residential flat were damaged during a disturbance.

17th – Report of a possible assault outside a public house in Askrigg. No complaints upon police arrival.

18th – Report of an assault after an altercation in Leyburn market place. No complaints made upon police arrival.

19th – A car was damaged overnight parked on Harmby Road, Leyburn. It appears to have been ‘keyed’ down both sides.

22nd – Leyburn – Theft from Co-op, a female entered store and stole bottles of spirits and laundry items. The vehicle she was in was stopped by police, she was interviewed and has been charged to attend court.

Sergeant 1790 Sharon Findlay will be moving to a new role from February 1st. We would like to thank her for her years of service to Richmond and The Dales and wish her well in her new role. We are being joined by Sergeant 375 Lauren Wilkinson who we welcome to our team as she moves from Northallerton community team to take up her new role as Richmond and The Dales Neighbourhood Sergeant.

PC1192 Gary Hankin
Leyburn and the Dales
Safer Neighbourhood Team



We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas with family and friends. What a wonderful start we have had to the New Year at Dalesplay. We have had quite a few new starters who are all settling in really well and made new friends.

Our theme to start the year has been Winter. We have been learning about what to wear and what it feels like in winter. Our role play area was transformed into a winter wonderland and our small world tray has helped us to explore the different animals who live in cooler climates.

The children have been developing becoming independent by practising putting on their own shoes and coats, helping to cut up and prepare snacks, pouring their own drinks and making good choices. We have had lots of proud little people in our care.

Dalesplay has welcomed Betheni Armstrong to our team of staff. Betheni is a level 3 qualified playworker who will be helping us during this very busy period and in Rachel's absence whilst she is on maternity leave. Betheni has also settled in really well and the children love her.

We have limited spaces available in our sunshine's room if you need care over half term. Please do get in touch now to prevent disappointment by emailing dalesplay1@btconnect.com or telephone **01969 667789** and ask for Joanne or Louise.

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A Tradition of Innovation: Gayle Mill's Climate Mission

Gayle Mill is to develop its role in demonstrating decarbonising historic buildings, thanks to a grant from the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and support from Historic England. £6,000 from the Park's Sustainable Development Fund and £1,000 from Historic England will help towards enabling Cultura Trust to undertake an audit of the mill's carbon footprint and identify ways it can be improved. The project will include public talks on how historic buildings around the Dales can contribute to the COP26 response to climate action.

Graham Bell, Director of Cultura, explained that the timing of the initiative couldn't be better: "Concerns about climate change often feel quite remote; we see changes in the weather in the Dales but can't see how we can help make

things better. Historic buildings can be seen as out of date – cold and damp, costly to heat. How can we square the circle of keeping the special character of the Dales but do our bit? By doing a test study on the mill, which has been at the forefront of renewable energy since 1784, we can find out."

Cultura's manager of the mill, Stuart Parsons, is particularly keen to share lessons learned: "successive generations of people have made this mill special in the lives and economy of the upper Dales. Maintaining sustainability with the environment is a tradition we need to keep up more than ever, so where better to show it than here."

The study and talks will take place up to Easter and are part of Cultura's programme of public activities based at Gayle Mill, supported by the Peter Sowerby Foundation.

Gayle Mill dates from 1784, working for over 200 years as an outstanding example of the UK's industrial evolution. It closed in 1988 but re-opened 20 years later, preserved and fully operational, and opened to the public by Cultura Trust.

The charity was founded in 1965, working with communities and volunteers on education and training in traditional skills upon which cultural heritage relies. The Trust's priority is to demonstrate that cultural heritage has a role in society, especially in contributing to the local economy, climate action, employment and wellbeing.

Handy Man John

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Avoiding That Sinking Feeling

If you regularly travel along the A684 from Hawes to Leyburn, you will no doubt have noticed the large new digital signs that have been erected along the roadside, and wondered what on earth merits such significantly large signs.

Well, the answer is flood water! These new signs are all part of the 'Safer Roads' project which brought us all those lovely smart lay-bys and black and white bollards last year. The project is intended to make the A684 a much safer road upon which to travel by alleviating potential hazards.

The new signposts are designed to be large enough not to be missed and are solar powered (hence the large panel on the top). If you are very observant, you will also have noticed some big green boxes that have also popped up along the route and again wondered what these might be. Well, they are a crucial part of this project as they are the triggers for the signs to activate.

As I understand it, the green boxes have been strategically placed to detect the deepest areas of the flood water when the River Ure rises and breaks its banks. The water will enter these boxes and when it reaches the assigned danger level, a message will be sent to the road signs to trigger a flood warning to drivers.

The beauty of these new signs is that, unlike the previous 'flip over' flood warning boards, these do not need to be 'flipped back' when the flood has gone. This was often a

significant problem, leading many local people (in particular) to completely disregard the signs because they were not known for their accuracy. Anyway, with these new high-tech versions, I am informed that in a flood situation, they will only flash a warning when a vehicle approaches them, rather than being permanently illuminated. If the driver of that vehicle is then daft enough to proceed, ignoring the warning, and subsequently find themselves waist-deep in flood water, they are going to have quite a struggle to persuade their insurance company to pay out on their claim!

So, now you know what all this new infrastructure is, I suggest you perhaps take heed. Whilst it has in the past, more often than not, been visitors in fancy cars who have found themselves stuck in the deep flood waters, it is not unheard of for locals to find themselves in the same situation, just because they thought they knew better than the warning boards! Well, you have now been warned ... these signs are apparently very intelligent and could lead to your downfall if you decide to ignore their warning!

K.P.

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Starting from **Wednesday, January 26th**, the mobile service will be located outside Redmire Village Hall on **Wednesdays** from **11.30am to 12.30pm**.



The same mobile service also calls at West Burton on **Wednesdays** from **10.15am to 11.15am**.

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rocking horse, again made by his own hand! We can't wait to see what else one of our newest staff members will contribute. It's testament to how strong our community is that people want to help the school in this way and we feel lucky to be a part of such a generous and supportive community.

Happy New Year everybody! I hope everybody has had an outstanding Christmas and a happy New Year. There has been lots going on in our school recently and there is plenty planned for this year.

Firstly, thanks to the major efforts of Mr Watkins, our newest teaching assistant and parent to two of our students, we are now awaiting a new school flag to represent our beloved school. It will be raised every day by the students who are part of our Combined Cadets Force (CCF).

Mr Watkins decided to raise the money himself after attending the interview for the Teaching Assistant post and noticing that the existing flag was starting to look a bit old and tired. He said first impressions are really important. "The school flag is right at the front and you cannot miss it when you arrive at reception, so it is one of the things that set the standard of the school for visitors and helps the students feel pride," Mr Watkins told us when he came along to our school newspaper to do an interview.

The money was raised by recycling old wood pieces and epoxy resin to create a sleek bowl. It was completely made by hand and was auctioned off for £100. The flag is a hand sewn Yorkshire flower illustration made by one of the country's leading flag makers; Flying Colours Flags in Harrogate, and measures five by three feet.

Mr Watkins tells us his next fundraising project will involve auctioning off a miniature

On the subject of new members of staff, we have welcomed a number of new teachers, including in IT and maths, and teaching assistants this term as we continue to cope with Covid as best we can. Every student was tested on the first day and right now we seem to be coping without too many cases but we are following strict safety guidelines including mask wearing, testing and following a one-way system to keep cases as low as possible.

Our Year 11s are already doing their mock GCSEs so the halls are a bit quieter.

Our enrichment programme is underway again with students writing a school newspaper (and this article!), learning how to build websites, do green screen editing, make bath bombs and loads more. Planning is underway for an outdoor, Covid-safe summer celebration and we are hoping school trips can start again this year.

More from us next month. We hope everyone in the community stays safe from covid.

The School Newspaper Team

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A New Year But The Same Old Problems

Residents of Sycamore Hall in Bainbridge had a busy time in the lead up to Christmas with festive activities to fill their diaries. A Christmas Lunch was served up by Chris and Alice and followed by entertainment from the Marsett Minstrels. There was a Festive Christmas Quiz which was great fun, organised by Brian, and Bainbridge WI hosted a Christmas Coffee Morning with musical entertainment from Paul Sowden, ably assisted by our own Diana Hartley. As always, the raffle, tombola and cake stall proved very popular! The Friends of Sycamore Hall held their own Christmas Coffee Morning which was well attended and enjoyed by all and a Christmas Wreath Workshop, run by Shannon McIntyre proved great fun and very productive for all those who took part.

Unfortunately, after all this fun and festivity, 2022 arrived with a sting in the tail as Covid hit again, leading to a two-week local lockdown. Whilst it is obviously key to protect the residents and staff, lockdowns are very hard to manage when you are isolated from friends and family. Nevertheless, everyone got through it and, thankfully none of the positive cases suffered any symptoms - thank goodness for the vaccines!

Shortly before Christmas, we welcomed our new Court Manager, Nicki Cooper, who is settling in well and getting to know everyone. In the current climate, it isn't easy settling into a

new role in such a setting, as Covid really takes over all thoughts. However, Nikki is getting to grips with all the new systems and where to find things and hopefully she is enjoying being amongst our vibrant community.

Outside of the local lockdowns, the Village Store, Hair Salon, Restaurant and Post Office remain open to all and we hope that you will come along to support those businesses and to enjoy the company of residents.

Our regular Coffee Mornings take place on **Thursdays** between **10.30am and 11.30am**, run by the Friends of Sycamore Hall, and are open to everyone. They are a great opportunity to enjoy refreshments and chat in warm and comfortable surroundings. Why not come along and join us?

Hopefully, if Covid leaves us alone, we will soon be planning some more events to keep everyone busy and hope that members of the wider community will join us in some of those.



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Leyburn u3a Group

The next meeting is on **Friday, February 18th** at **10.00am** at the Arts and Community Centre, Leyburn.

There will be a talk by The Nidderdale Moorland Group about how they manage the local countryside to benefit not only the local flora and fauna, but also which also has a direct effect on the planet.

Meetings are usually held the third Friday of every month. Visitors welcome.

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Thorlaby Post Office Closed

On **Friday, January 14th** the Post Office at Thorlaby closed permanently.

It had been run by Sandy Foley for nearly 15 years and, before that, by families still living in the village. There has been a Post Office in the village for as long as anyone can remember.

It will be a sad loss but there are hopes that a Post Office will open at a nearby alternative venue in the next few weeks. No details yet but watch this space.



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Notes From Thorney Mire - Winter

To me, the start of the new year is not the dying refrains of Auld Lang Syne, or the well intentioned, but soon abandoned resolutions, it's the changes in the natural world. It's the return of the jackdaws and rooks to our top wood, who when disturbed by you walking under "their" trees, battling against the January winds, when the gusts nearly blow "your top-knot off" as the nursery rhyme goes, rise from the branches and make the most raucous sound as though they are scolding you for being there. It's when two robins in the courtyard tolerate each other and one puffs out his chest, throwing his head back as if to say, "Look at me". It's when the daffodils bravely push their leaves through the cold, damp earth to remind you that Spring will eventually come and finding dog's mercury appearing on the verges. Spring maybe some time away, but there are signs of hope.

We have had a good variety of birds to the feeders, blue, great and coal tits, chaffinches, wrens, blackbirds, dunnocks, greater spotted woodpecker, nuthatch, long tailed tits, a lone starling with a very dark head and the two inseparable collared doves. They were perched, squashed together on the top of a telephone pole one morning as if they can't bear to be parted from each other. If anyone is interested, the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch took place from January 28th to 30th.

Considering that blue tits didn't get off to a good start last year, their numbers seem to be back to normal in our garden at least. In the BBC programme Winterwatch 1963, Chris Packham was explaining how the severe winter affected the wildlife. Small birds like tits have to eat a third of their body weight each day and as no food was available, the small birds died in hundreds of thousands, but after a few years if they had a good breeding season their numbers recovered. Lapwing, starlings and thrushes headed south. Birds of prey, magpies and crows ate the smaller birds and some birds had migrated, but after two months of extreme weather half of Britain's birds had died. It was suggested that if we had a similar period of extreme weather now, garden birds would do much better as more people are feeding them than in 1963 and sixty years ago commercial bird food wasn't big business as it is now. If you've not seen this programme, it's really interesting and you can still get it on iPlayer. It

makes you wonder how not only did the wildlife survive but us as well without central heating, but then we were a tough lot in 1963!

Our birds have done well for food this winter, so far. The weather has been relatively mild so there's been no problem finding food in the wild and the feeders have been well stocked. This year they had a seasonal treat. There was a lot of fat to cut off the Christmas gammon, but this was no ordinary gammon, this was a Mary Berry cooked in orange juice, marmalade glazed gammon and the birds loved it as much as we did. We had to ration them and put out a bit each day as it disappeared so quickly. Eventually as they had devoured the last of their Christmas treat, they had to return to their fat balls and mealworms. Probably they didn't mind, it would be a bit like us enjoying beans on toast after all the rich Christmas food.

Sylvia Turner

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WhatsOn Service

Richmond Information Centre has now assumed responsibility for the free WhatsOn service publishing information about events and activities that are open to the public in our area. It is an online service, but it also publishes a printed version 6 times a year.

Users of the service are asked to upload their own events which can be done directly by entering www.whatsonrichmond.co.uk. Then there is a form to fill out for each of the events you want to promote.

If you get stuck, please email info@whatsonrichmond.co.uk or phone the information centre on **01748 826468** for help with it.



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**News From
Dales Countryside Museum**

The Dales Countryside Museum and National Park Centre are open daily from **February 1st.**

February

- 2 Church Coffee Morning. Redmire Village Hall. 10.30am.
- 15 Middleham and the Dales Local History Group meeting. Middleham Key Centre. 2.00pm. See p.3.
- 16 Penhill Ladies - Dales film show. Carperby Institute. 7.30pm. See p. 29.
- 16 Church Afternoon Tea. Redmire Village Hall. 2.00pm.
- 17 Bainbridge WI meeting. Bainbridge Village Hall. 7.30pm. See P.26.
- 17 National Theatre Live - The Book of Dust. LA&CC. 7.00pm. See P.32.
- 18 Leyburn u3a meeting. LA&CC. 10.00am. See p. 16.
- 18 - March 6 Dark skies crafts.DCM. 10.00am
- 18 - March 6 Planet Trail, Aysgarth.
- 18 Musical Cultures - Caribbean Steel Drums. Leyburn Methodist Hall. 6.30pm. See P.33.
- 19 Musical Cultures - Caribbean Steel Drums. Leyburn Methodist Hall. 10.00am. See P.33.
- 19 Jumble sale and coffee morning. Market House, Hawes. 10.00am.
- 20 Hoglets Children's Theatre. LA&CC. 2.00pm. See P.32.
- 21 Dark Skies Festival –Tour of the Night Sky. Wensleydale Ice Cream Parlour. See p. 35.
- 23 Dark Skies Festival – Nature's Night Time Marvels. DCM. See p. 35.
- 24 Dark Skies Festival – Astronomical evening. Aysgarth Falls. See p. 35.
- 24 Dark Skies Festival – Children's activities. DCM. See p. 35.
- 25 Dark skies fell run. Askrigg camping.
- 25 Bike ride and pizza planet party. Stage 1 Cycles Fire Box Café. 3.00pm.
- 25 Musical Cultures - Afro Beats. Leyburn Methodist Hall. 6.00pm. See P.33.
- 25 & 26 Art Sale. LA&CC. 10.00am. See P.32.
- 26 Musical Cultures - Afro Beats. LA&CC. 10.00am. See P.32.
- 28 Swaledale Festival Friends priority booking opens. See P.31.

Yorkshire Dales Young Archaeologists' Club

In January we explored our local dialect and whether we still use words that were in use in the 1950s and 60s. Poppy Oldham the Engagement Officer for 'In Your Words, Dialect and Heritage Project', led the session and the children had fun with word games. They also contributed their words to the national survey.

We meet once a month on a **Saturday morning, 10.00am to noon.** If you know a young person who might be interested, please let them know about the club. They're welcome to come along to try a session. Please email dem@yorkshiredales.org.uk or call **01969 666210** if you'd like to find out more.

Exhibition (included in museum admission)

Love tokens, sittings and song – Knitting sticks from the John Dixon collection. **Until March 27th.**

Don't miss seeing this wonderful collection of over 400 knitting sticks. Private collector, John Dixon, is still keen to discover who made some of the knitting sticks he bought through the Auction House 1818 in Milnthorpe (see the photo below). Please do get in touch if you can help.



We were thrilled last month to receive a donation of Martha Dinsdale's knitting stick, prodder, ledger and two framed photographs. These will be a wonderful addition to Martha's rocking chair which is already on display. Thanks so much to the donors for their generosity.

In Your Words - Dialect and Heritage project

Our small local team of oral history fieldworkers are hoping to get started this month and follow in the steps of the original Survey of English Dialect fieldworkers from the 1950's. Stanley Ellis, Peter Wright and Werner Kissling visited many villages in the Dales including Askrigg, Dent, Burton-in-Lonsdale, Gargrave, Grassington, Melsonby, Muker, Bedale, Horton-in-Ribblesdale and Pateley Bridge.

We're keen to find people with strong roots to the villages above. If you, or someone you know, (with their permission) would like to be considered to contribute to our research, then we would love to hear from you.

There will be events at the Museum and in the community to get involved in over the coming months. Please contact our Engagement Officer Poppy Oldham on p.oldham@leeds.ac.uk.

Family Friendly Project

Over the last few months with the support of Museum Development Yorkshire, we have been working with Kids in Museums to make the Museum even more family friendly. Next month we should have news of our new family mascot. We're looking at things to make visits easier and more fun for all families, including activity backpacks for children with additional needs. If you're a local family and would like to help us test out some of our ideas, we'd love to hear from you. Please get in touch by emailing dcm@yorkshiredales.org.uk.

Events and Activities

All events are included in the museum admission unless stated.

Dark Skies Crafts in the Creation Station: **Friday, February 18th to Sunday, March 6th, 10.00am to 4.00pm.**

The creation station's fun drop-in and self-led activities are associated with exploring our dales skies' life and traditions. Make nocturnal animals, learn about the past and reflect on our stunning dark sky within the National Park. Included in museum admission.

Experiences in Music (tbc): **Friday, February 18th 7.30pm to 9.00pm.**

A talk with distinguished conductor Stan Roocroft MBE. Stan is the conductor of the Wensleydale Chorus and Aysgarth Singers, as

well as Hawes Silver Band. Part of the Friends of the Museum annual lecture programme.

Free - donations welcome.

In your Words, Signs and Symbols: **Tuesday, February 22nd, 10.00am to 4.00pm.**

Inviting families to join us to look at the different ways in which we communicate with each other. As part of our dialect and heritage project, we are delivering this day-long drop in event, which will offer the opportunity to investigate phonetics, body language, sign language and symbols through a series of fun activities. This session is SEND friendly. Included in museum admission.

Natures Night Time Marvels: **Wednesday, February 23rd, 10.00am to 4.00pm.**

Join us for a dark skies extravaganza. It's not only the stars that come out at night! Get ready to explore nature's night-time neighbourhood with Yorkshire Wildlife Trust as your intrepid guide... Discover the curious creatures who seek out midnight feasts, moonlit strolls and twilight temperatures. Get creative and decorate your own bat biscuits with the Firebox Café. Included in museum admission

Rocket Making and Solar System Fun!: **Thursday, February 24th, 1.00pm to 4.00pm.**

Join us at the Dales Countryside Museum for a dark skies extravaganza. Come along on a cosmic adventure through the Solar System with a family friendly talk by expert astronomer Richard Darn. Make your own rocket and launch into space with kids' crafts in the Firebox Café. Included in museum admission.

Bike Ride and Pizza Planets: **Friday, February 25th, 3.00pm to 5.00pm.**

Follow a trail of stars and seek out the planets. Your reward for making it to the sun is to return to the Firebox Cafe for a pizza planet making session.

Suitable for beginner cyclists all activities will be undertaken in a traffic free site. Bikes/helmets available to loan. Places must be booked £10 (includes pizza and ice cream).

Booking to be made through Stage 1 Cycles. Contact ride@stage1cycles.co.uk, telephone **01969 666873.**

Cards for good causes: Thanks to everyone who purchased Christmas cards and in doing so, supported the charities involved.

Letters Received

I am so pleased to read the letter from Mrs Dickinson in your column regarding the alleged 'road safety' measures in Garsdale. I, too, am horrified by the destruction of the roadside through Garsdale which does not appear to have any advantages whatsoever.

The metal barriers have destroyed the natural beauty of the area. The verges have always been a joy with daffodils in Spring and wood anemones later in the year. All have been dug up and replaced with a hard-hitting, continuous grey barrier which gives the impression of a speedway rather than a gentle country road. To what end? I understand from an ambulance paramedic that the barriers are unforgiving if an accident did occur, especially to a motorcyclist. Dangerously, there is no space for walkers or drivers when faced with an oncoming lorry, driving in the centre of the road on one of the many hidden bends.

This seems to me to be have been an exercise in spending the new Government money quickly, without giving time to much thought.

Margaret Townsend

Reading Dave Clark's Guest Editorial reminded me of when (years ago), as playgroup organiser in Hawes Market House, the children were rehearsing a Nativity scene using puppets.

Joseph, knocking on the inn door, asked if there was a spare room. The innkeeper, played by the son of the landlord of the White Hart, replied "Have you not booked? Don't you know it's a Bank Holiday!"

The boy was age 4.

Sue Harpley



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Locals Unite to Discuss Possible Community Purchase

Residents of Redmire are looking at the possibility of buying their local pub.

Following a well-attended public meeting, residents of Redmire have formed a steering group to investigate the potential purchase of the Bolton Arms, which recently came on the market. The purchase would be through a new private limited company, with a view to leasing the property to a suitable tenant.



Villagers say the aim is to secure the long-term future of the village pub and to maintain the property as an important local hub and village asset, which will

also benefit the wider community and visitors to the Dales. To aid the process, Redmire Parish Council has registered the pub as a community asset with the district council.

At the meeting it was discussed how the company would work, with the shareholding made up of like-minded investors looking to own a secure freehold asset which would generate a modest return, while having additional potential for dividends based on performance.

A spokesperson for the steering group said: "At the same time shareholders can expect to enjoy the experience of being involved in a village venture, becoming part of the ownership of this property and contributing towards its future success."

"Initially a survey is being distributed to all residents of Redmire, Castle Bolton and Preston under Scar asking potential investors to indicate their general interest and approximately to what extent they may be prepared to invest. Interest at this stage is on a purely non-committal basis but a clearer indication of what level of support is likely will enable the group to take appropriate advice about potential other methods of funding if necessary and to move things forward."

Expressions of interest forms are available on request from rachelwillis58@gmail.com.

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Jim Sleightholm

Jean, Michael, Gordon and the family of the late Jim Sleightholm would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for the kind expressions of sympathy and for the many letters, cards and messages of condolence and support received following their recent sad bereavement.

Barbara Akroyd

At the Thanksgiving Service for Barbara Akroyd at Gayle Methodist Chapel on January 8th, the sum of £116 was raised on behalf of Alzheimer's Research UK. Barbara's family would like to thank you for your generosity. Any further donations in remembrance of Barbara can be made on the Alzheimer's Research UK website.



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Upper Wensleydale Benefice Services in February

	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
February 6th	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Morning Prayer	
February 13th	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion Ecumenical Service	Holy Communion	Holy Communion
February 20th	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Morning Prayer	
February 27th	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion	8.30am Holy Communion 10.30am Family service -Praise in the Pen	Evening Prayer
Evening Prayer is on Sundays at 4.00pm via our telephone conferencing service - for details go to www.upperwensleydalechurch.org/services .				

February Hope

Isn't it lovely the way a smartphone will suddenly and seemingly quite randomly remind you of an event in the past by 'Pinging' a picture you might have forgotten about. I was reminded of the beauty of the weather last February as pictures emerged of a walk I had taken around Hawes. The frosted snow sparkled on the fields and fells as the sun glittered from a cloudless sky and I remembered the hope that I had (despite the Covid restrictions that were in place) for the future.

The months of January and February can be a challenge for many and so hoping for something better to come is a real desire but frequently a struggle to achieve; that's why I like to have things in my diary to look forward to in these months in particular.

The Bible speaks a great deal about Hope.

In our modern day understanding, hope is often associated with wishful thinking as in, 'I hope that the train arrives on time' but for that to happen depends on human activity and we all know, despite our best intentions, that this is not reliable. Biblical Hope however, carries no doubt because it is based upon the nature and the character of God, and God himself says that he will keep his word: (*Ezekiel 12v25*)

We all need hope; it keeps us going, but as the New Year unfolds with all its uncertainties and blessings before us, it's good to put our hope in something and someone who can be relied upon. 'Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength' (*Isaiah 40:31*).

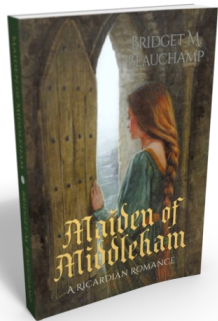
May you know God's blessing and strength walking with you.

Dave Clark: Vicar of Upper Wensleydale
www.upperwensleydalechurch.org

'Maiden of Middleham'

I am a Cumbrian author and have just published my new novel 'Maiden of Middleham', a new historical romance set at Middleham Castle.

Although I live just over the border in Cumbria, I am a frequent visitor to Wensleydale, Hawes and Middleham and my novel tells the story of a young maiden in service with the Earl and Countess of Warwick in 1468, who meets the teenage Richard Duke of Gloucester and falls in love.



The story follows Eleanor's life in parallel with Richard's until he becomes king and eventually falls at the battle of Bosworth in 1485. It is a tale of love and loss, desire, duty and death, set in tranquil Wensleydale. It would appeal to those who love romance but also history, as although Eleanor's story is of Richard's life I

fiction, the events describe are factual.

I am a committed Ricardian dedicated to restoring the reputation of this much maligned young man, who was unjustly vilified by the Tudors and falsely caricatured by Shakespeare. In my novel I hope to portray Richard not only as a brave warrior but as a loyal and just man

whose life was beset by tragedy. Richard was Lord of the North and loved in his time as a fair arbitrator and loyal statesman and his life is very much connected to Yorkshire through his ownership of many local castles including Middleham, Barnard Castle, Richmond and Sheriff Hutton. Richard would have known Wensleydale well, riding and hunting in the woods and on the moors and was well loved in this area.

I am a retired mother and grandmother and have written under the pen name Bridget M. Beauchamp which was my father's family name. I have always been interested in history and in 2012 I was intrigued at the discovery of Richard III's grave in Leicester. In 2015 I stood amongst the crowds to witness his funeral procession and have since read extensively about his life. Although my novel is a work of fiction, I have included factual events of Richard's life.

Maiden of Middleham is available through my publishers Woodfield publishing, booksellers or on Amazon at £9.95.

Bridget M. Beauchamp



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2022 - A Very Special Year

This year may well mark a significant royal milestone when the Queen celebrates her Platinum Jubilee, but Bainbridge WI also has a pretty impressive milestone to mark in 2022. This year will celebrate ninety years of Bainbridge WI, which is quite an achievement, especially given the demise of several local WI's over recent years.

Twenty-four members launched this special year with a 1930s themed meeting in January when everyone was invited to come along dressed in 1930s clothing - a good excuse to trawl the back of the wardrobe! There were some very stylish hats on show!

There was also the opportunity for members to peruse 90 years of archive material, including photographs, programmes and minutes, all documenting the many varied activities of our WI over the last 90 years. A 1930s themed quiz challenged members and some of our members then presented a play called 'The Village Quiz', first performed many years ago, and still proving amusing today. A delicious supper rounded off the evening, with a toast to the 90th year and hopefully many more to come!

Bainbridge WI is not only alive, but it is most

definitely kicking! Come along and join us for our monthly meetings and maybe even join some of our clubs. Perhaps we can tempt you with a Book Club, Craft Club, Garden Club and the very popular Lunch Club! Mind you, most of our clubs and activities involve food of some kind!

Our next meeting takes place on **Thursday, February 17th** at Bainbridge Village Hall when we hope to enjoy a cookery demonstration. The evening starts at **7.30pm** and visitors are always welcome, alongside our members. If you are not sure if you want to join, why not come along as a visitor first to see just what we can offer you? We have a busy programme of events and activities planned to mark our 90th Anniversary and we would love you to join us.

Here's to our very 'Special Year' (and yours too, of course, your Majesty!).

Further details are available from Susan Freer on **01969 663980**.



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Heavens Above

Apart from a proper home-made apple pie, nothing can beat the starry sky on a cold clear February night. The view south is exceptional. All the brilliant winter constellations - Orion, Taurus, Gemini and the two celestial dogs, Canis Major and Minor - are well on view from early evening onwards, sparkling like diamonds in the frosty air. Sirius, the brightest star in the sky, is particularly striking, flashing all the colours of the rainbow low over the horizon. On a moonless night the pale ribbon of the winter Milky Way is an added bonus streaming right across the sky from north to south - a wonderful sight from a dark location.

Over in the north-east the familiar shape of The Plough or Big Dipper stands on its handle, the two 'Pointer Stars' at the end of its blade or bowl showing the way to Polaris, the north star. In the north-west, on the opposite side of Polaris, lie the squashed 'W' of Cassiopeia and the straggling 'K' of Perseus, the mythical Hero of Ancient Greece who rescued Andromeda from the clutches of Cetus the Sea Monster. At his feet you'll find a clump of silvery blue-white stars shaped like a miniature version of the Plough. They're the Pleiades or Seven Sisters, the night-sky's finest open star clusters - well worth exploring with binoculars. High overhead in the constellation of Auriga the Charioteer lies a brilliant yellow star - Capella, the She-goat; the blue-white star, right down on the northern horizon, is Vega the brightest member of the Summer Triangle asterism. As the night wears on golden-orange Arcturus climbs into view in the east - a sure sign to seasoned observers that the warmer days of spring are not too far away.

With the exception of Jupiter, shining brightly low in the south-west at sunset, most of the naked-eye planets are in the early morning sky this month. Dazzling Venus is at its brilliant best, blazing away at magnitude minus 4.7 low in the south-east around **5.00am**, about half-an-hour before sunrise. Mars, much fainter at mag

+1.3, rises about 30 minutes later and lies below Venus during the second half of the month. On **February 26th** the pair are joined by a slim crescent Moon - a lovely sight in the dawn twilight. Mercury, the tiny innermost planet, rises at **6.15am** and sits to the lower left of Venus. Your best chance of spotting it is around the middle of February when it reaches its greatest separation from the Sun. Right at the end of the month you might just be able to glimpse Saturn standing just to the lower left of Mercury. Both planets are very low in the sky so you'll need a clear horizon to catch them.

This year's Dark Sky Festival, organised jointly by the Yorkshire Dales and North York Moors National Parks, runs between **February 18th and March 6th**. There are loads of astronomy themed events and activities on offer so if you want to get involved visit darkskiesnationalparks.org.uk for more details. Have clear skies!

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The Upper Dales Health Watch

The Patient Participation Group for the
Central Dales Practice

Synopsis of the meeting held on January 17th

Covid vaccinations were going well. Richmondshire is in the top 5% nationally. 82.3% of adults had had their first dose and 97% of those had had their 2nd dose. 88.2% of that 97% had had their booster. Children aged 5-12 will be offered 2 doses. Clinics are being arranged for children at risk or living in a household with immune suppressive adults.

Dr Brown has increased her hours to 3 days a week until the end of March. The new Receptionist at Aysgarth is called Davina. Dr Pain works mainly in Hawes.

Patient demand on services has increased by around 25-30% compared to the same months in 2018 and 2019. A patient survey on 'same day access' is planned.

The Practice has to order some items 3 to 4 times before they were actually delivered. Items were always re-ordered immediately. The advice to patients is to order repeat prescriptions a week before needing them.

The Heartbeat Alliance has found funding for an extra GP for Richmondshire to be based in Catterick, but it will be a last resort for Central Dales patients to be sent there (e.g. if all Central Dales GPs succumbed to Covid at the same time).

Consultants have been asked to identify patients who would benefit from a fourth Covid dose and these are currently being given.

The building of the Health Campus in Catterick is now scheduled to start at the end of 2023 and is due to be opened in 2024/25.

The Primary Care Network's plans will hopefully be operational by Easter 2022 and can then be widely publicised and explained.

A new team is being set up to work in Care Homes e.g. Sycamore Hall, that will include an Advanced Nurse Practitioner and a pharmacist.

Concern was expressed about the pay phone in the Step up Step down room in Sycamore Hall in 2025 when land lines are cut off. It was agreed this was a much wider serious problem in a very rural area.

Several different strains of Covid are still around but only a small number of patients are seriously ill in James Cook. The majority of these have refused vaccination. An annual Covid vaccination is likely in the immediate future.

Jane Ritchie, Hon. Secretary

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Please visit <https://wensleydale-railway.co.uk/railway/full-steam-ahead-2022/> to find out more or to donate.

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Mystery Picture

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Where would you find, and what is, this large boulder?



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Sunday, February 6th.

9.30am Morning Prayer, St. Mary's, Redmire.

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

11.00am Morning Prayer, St. Andrew's, Aysgarth.

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

Sunday, February 13th.

10.30am Penhill Together Holy Communion, St. Mary's, Redmire.

Sunday, February 20th.

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

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

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

11.00am Morning Prayer, St. Bartholomew's, West Witton.

Sunday, February 27th.

9.30am Holy Communion, St. Bartholomew's, West Witton.

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

3.00pm Evening Prayer, Thornton Rust Mission Room.

February Mid-Week Services.

Thursday 3rd, and 17th at 9.30am. Holy Communion, at St. Bartholomew's, West Witton.

Church Coffee Morning: Wednesday, February 2nd from **10.30am to noon** at Redmire Village Hall.

Church Afternoon Tea: Wednesday, February 16th from **2.00pm to 4.00pm**, at Redmire Village Hall.

Castle Bolton Print For Sale: If you would like to buy a print of St. Oswald's Church at Castle Bolton priced at £20 which is mounted and cellophane wrapped, please contact the office (**01969 663097**) for further information. The print can be viewed in colour on the website www.penhillbenefice.co.uk.

Memorial Service

A Memorial service is to be held in memory of Michael Mason of Carperby, at St. Andrew's Church, Aysgarth on **Sunday, March 13th at 3.00pm**.

The service is being held two years after his death on March 14th 2020 and will be a reflection of his wishes as a normal funeral service was not allowed due to Covid restrictions. There will be a choir made up of members of the North Yorkshire Chorus, Swale Singers and Spennithorne Church Choir, all of which he was a member.



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Swaledale Festival

Swaledale Festival will be back with a bang in 2022 in what will be a very special year - our 50th anniversary. To celebrate this we have a new look! Check out our updated website at www.swalefest.org.

The 50th Swaledale Festival will run from **May 28th to June 11th**. It will combine the crème de la crème of Festival performers over the last decade with plenty of new faces, plus as many artists as possible who were scheduled to perform in 2020 and 2021 but couldn't due to the pandemic.

Highlights include a 50th anniversary gala concert of Handel's Messiah in the splendour of Ripon Cathedral; flamenco guitar legend Paco Peña; pianists Jeneba Kanneh-Mason, Peter Donohoe and Noriko Ogawa; violinist Alexander Markov; Hallé Cellos; the Sacconi and Brodsky Quartets; Northumbrian pipes star Kathryn Tickell; top vocal group VOCES8; percussionist Dame Evelyn Glennie... and much more.

Become a Festival Friend - Festival Friends get a two-week priority booking period starting on **Monday February 28th** which ensures early access to tickets, and an invitation to an exclusive Friends' Reception. They also provide invaluable support to the Festival, helping it to thrive. Now is the perfect

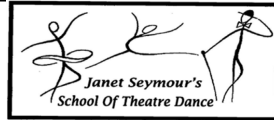
time to take out or renew your membership! Visit www.swalefest.org/Support/Friends.

Key dates

Monday, February 28th to Sunday, March 13th - Friends' Priority Booking Period.

Monday, March 14th - General booking opens.

The full programme will be on our website by the end of January and brochures will be posted in February. Please email enquiries@swalefest.org if you would like to be added to the brochure mailing list.



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Events at Leyburn Arts and Community Centre

The volunteers at the Centre are looking forward to Spring! The Community Shed project is progressing and we are all very excited about the possibilities and opportunities. The Community Shed has developed from a Man's Shed project, way back in 2019, pre-covid, which seems a very long time ago! The plan has now expanded to provide a flexible multi-use, multi-generational space which will benefit more people.... so, as they say - Watch This Space!

In the meantime, we have something for everyone, our usual regular Friday cinema nights, plus a live broadcast of 'The Book of Dust.' We have Children's Theatre and some other events too.

Thursday, February 17th at 7.00pm: National Theatre Live: The Book of Dust - La Belle Sauvage. Directed by Nicholas Hytner. Broadcast live from London's Bridge Theatre.

Eighteen years after his ground breaking production of His Dark Materials at the National Theatre, director Nicholas Hytner returns to Pullman's parallel universe. Set twelve years before the epic His Dark Materials trilogy, this gripping adaptation revisits Phillip Pullman's fantastical world in which waters are rising and storms are brewing. Two young people and their demons, with everything at stake, find themselves at the centre of a terrifying manhunt. In their care

is a tiny child called Lyra Belacqua, and in that child lies the fate of the future.

Sunday, February 20th at 2.00pm: Hoglets Children's Theatre – The Sleeping Pirates.

A magical Play from Hoglets about swashbuckling Pirates, flying ships and what happens when you can't sleep. Suitable for children under 8, Parents and Grandparents. Running time 45 minutes. Supported by "Rural Arts North Yorkshire".

Friday and Saturday, February 25th and 26th from 10.00am to 4.00pm: Art Sale.

Visit our studio where there's a range of artwork for sale at reasonable prices. Free Entry.

Saturday, February 26th at 6.00pm: Musical Cultures. Afro Beats with Cecil Jones: Informal Celebration Concert. Join our young creatives as they share what they have devised with Cecil Jones, an accomplished Musician, Singer-Songwriter, Solo Artist and Multi-Instrumentalist from Sierra Leone. Full workshop details at www.blueboxt.co.uk or **07711 211169**. The celebration is free, but donations would be welcome if you enjoy the concert.

For full information, please visit the website www.leyburnartscentre.com or telephone **01969 624510**.

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Blueboxt Productions - February Update

Musical Cultures - Free workshops and concerts

Our team of young people have been busy planning four world music workshops to take place in February and March for ages 11 to 19 years. Sessions are FREE to attend supported by NYMAZ and Youth Music, using public funding from the National Lottery through Arts Council England. If you play an instrument great, you are welcome to bring it along to the session but it isn't a requirement. Instruments are provided and everyone is welcome to come

and take part and find out about different musical cultures and styles and have fun making music together. PLEASE register your place as we only have a limited number of spaces available.

Caribbean Steel Drums with Melvin Zakers.
Friday, February 18th, 6.30pm - 9.30pm and
Saturday, February 19th, 10.00am - 5.00pm
at Leyburn Methodist Hall.

Afro Beats with Cecil Jones. **Friday, February 25th, 6.00pm - 9.00pm** at Leyburn Methodist Hall, and **Saturday, February 26th, 10.00am - 5.00pm** at Leyburn Arts and Community Centre.

Folk Music with Rebecca and David from Storm Chorus. **Friday, March 18th, 6.30pm - 9.30pm** and **Saturday, March 19th, 10.00am - 5.00pm** at Leyburn Methodist Hall.

Samba Drumming with Jack Drum Arts. **Friday, March 25th, 6.00pm - 9.00pm** and **Saturday, March 26th, 10.00am - 5.00pm** (venue to be confirmed – see website).

Each workshop will finish with an early evening informal celebration concert at **6.00pm**, when our guest music leaders and participants will present what they have created over the two days. See our website and social media for full details. All welcome, pay as you feel donations appreciated.

To book your FREE place or find out more information contact Colin Bailey on **07711 211169**, email info@blueboxt.co.uk or book online at www.blueboxt.co.uk.

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New Collaboration to Scale Up Woodland Creation in the Dales

The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and the Woodland Trust have agreed a landmark collaboration to help increase native woodland in the National Park.

This means working with local farmers and landowners over the next 3 to 4 years to find sites for the creation of at least 240 hectares of new native woodland habitat. Work will involve designing and then overseeing the planting of schemes, and supporting new woodland owners to monitor and maintain sites to ensure the woodlands successfully establish.

The agreement is expected to bring in around £3 million of investment for new woodland creation, a proportion of which will be used to ensure the right sites are selected for planting.

Each new planting site will help to grow the White Rose Forest - the community forest for North and West Yorkshire - as well as the larger Northern Forest that will stretch from Liverpool to the Yorkshire coast, and will be delivered via the Northern Forest Partnership 'Grow Back Greener' funding programme.

These new woodlands will focus on the four key themes of the 'Grow Back Greener' programme: linking existing ancient woodlands; creating riparian woodlands; woodland creation through natural processes; and schemes which contribute to regional carbon sequestration goals.

Ian McPherson, Member Champion for the Natural Environment at the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, said: "These schemes will provide a multitude of benefits, improving wildlife, water quality and flood management, and supporting farm businesses across the Yorkshire Dales National Park."

"Through the concerted efforts of partners in the Dales Woodland Forum working with local farmers and landowners, 2,200ha of new woodland has been created over the last 25 years at over 170 different sites in the Yorkshire Dales. Our new 'Dales Woodland Strategy' has now set an ambition to create a further 6,000ha of woodland habitat in the National Park by 2030."

"Through new partnerships, such as this one with the Woodland Trust, and collaborative working with local farmers and landowners we

can go much further in creating quality woodlands in the right places to help tackle the climate emergency."

Simon Mageean, the Woodland Trust's Programme Director for the Northern Forest, said: "Farmers and landowners in the National Park will be able to apply for up to 100% of the actual costs of woodland creation and aftercare, thanks to this grant funding from the Government's Nature for Climate Fund which is helping to deliver the England Trees Action Plan.

"The Grow Back Greener approach is holistic, flexible and site-specific, with enhanced advisor support at no cost to the landowner or land manager and an emphasis on quality nature outcomes. The National Park Authority will open an application process for interested farmers and landowners shortly".

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Star Bathing Among New Events During Dark Skies Festival

An astrophysicist turned Zen teacher is bringing his star bathing experience to this February's Dark Skies Festival, one of several new events enabling visitors to pause the button on everyday life and let the night sky soothe the soul.

Amid growing awareness of the wellbeing benefits associated with spending time outside under the night skies, this year's Festival from **February 18th to March 6th**, which runs across both International Dark Sky Reserves of the North York Moors and Yorkshire Dales National Parks, will see an expanded range of mindfulness sessions.

These will run alongside perennial Festival favourites such as stargazing safaris, nocturnal wildlife trails, dark sky runs, walks, cycle rides and canoeing evenings, astrophotography skills sessions and art exhibitions.

For the first-time Zen teacher Mark Westmoquette brings his star bathing approach to the Festival, drawing on his astronomy background and showing how people can use the night sky to live 'more in the moment'. Visitors can join Mark at Nethergill Farm or the Dent Meditation Centre for a mindfulness stargazing evening in the beautiful Yorkshire Dales surroundings, or at High Dalby House in the North York Moors for a yoga and mind-body-spirit practice called qigong, held jointly with Adventures for the Soul, before going on a night nature walk in the wooded grounds.

Among other new events, visitors will be able to admire the work of dark skies photographer Pete Collins in an exhibition within the visitor centre of Ribbleshead Station before venturing across to the Station Inn to join an astronomer for a tour of the night sky, with the iconic Ribbleshead Viaduct acting as the backdrop.



Other stargazing safaris include evenings with dark skies hunter Richard Darn at Aysgarth Falls and Gill Garth Farm at Settle where visitors can gaze in awe at the star-lit canopy hovering above one of Yorkshire's highest peaks Pen-y-Ghent. Go Stargazing's Neill Sanders will also be leading a celestial tour of the beautiful sky above Wensleydale ice-cream parlour.

For families with younger children there is an opportunity to learn more about nocturnal animals with the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust at the Dales Countryside Museum and kids can even get creative by making bat biscuits at the Fire Box Café near Hawes.

Following on from last year's lockdown virtual Festival success, families will also be able to log into 'In The Night Sky Live' sessions from the comfort of their home, courtesy of the Space Detectives run by Jo Richardson, who is just one of six UK Space Champions working on behalf of the European Space Education Office.

Helen Dalton, Tourism Officer for the Yorkshire Dales National Park comments: "As well as being fun and enlightening, many of the events at this year's Dark Skies Festival will focus even more on the need to appreciate the value of the night sky: that beyond its beauty it has a vital role in protecting not only our own health and wellbeing but also that of the natural world."

For more Festival programme information, including booking details please visit www.darks skiesnationalparks.org.uk.

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What was the Weather like in 2021?

Rainfall Figures for last six months of 2021 (in mm)								
	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total for first six months	Total for 2021
Hawes	63	63	50	202	109	142	827	1456
Breconbar	82	41	51	153	41	101	707	1175
Thornton Rust	65	48	43	170	55	108	700	1189
Askrigg	81	36	25	107	46	81	501	877
West Burton	95	38	77	156	55	123	738	1282
Carperby	90	44	25	113	45	91	597	1005

I have set out below a short record of the weather for last year as observed from Thorney Mire west of Hawes.

Early January was cold with snow and easterly winds. After a brief milder spell the cold intensified towards the middle of the month with heavy snow at times and moderate overnight frosts. This was followed by somewhat milder weather with heavy rain and westerly winds before cold weather returned but it was drier with only light snow showers.

Max. January Temp. 8.6°C on 21st, Min Temp. -5.5°C on 9th.

Mild, overcast weather with light rain at times returned in February. Towards the middle of the month north easterly winds brought snow showers and fine cold days but, with severe overnight frosts. The last two weeks of the month were very mild with rain which was heavy at times.

Max. February Temp. 10.3°C on 21st, Min. Temp. -6.6°C on 11th.

March began cold with north easterly winds. It was mainly overcast but dry with occasional night frosts. A return to westerly winds brought changeable conditions with spells of heavy rain before things settled down later in the month and it became drier but remained rather cloudy.

Max. March Temp. 12.0°C on 17th, Min. Temp. -2.0°C on 1st.

Early April was cool and cloudy with northerly winds but mainly dry with occasional night frosts under clear skies. Towards the middle of the month it became sunny during the day with rising temperatures but these were followed by some severe overnight frosts.

Max. April Temp. 14.5°C on 21st and 24th, Min. Temp. -5.0°C on 7th.

The dry sunny conditions persisted for a time into May but the weather soon became changeable as the wind turned westerly with a spell of snow on the 4th before turning milder. It became drier from the middle of the month with sunny periods but rather cool. Some frontal troughs brought showers at times.

Max. May Temp. 19.8°C on 30th, Min. Temp. -0.6°C on 6th.

The dry conditions persisted into June with some fine, warm, sunny days. As the wind became north easterly it was cloudy for a time and the nights were quite cool. Warmer weather returned later in the month. As in May, weak weather fronts brought occasional spells of light rain but dry conditions dominated.

Max. June Temp. 21.1°C on 30th, Min. Temp. 5.0°C on 22nd.

A similar weather pattern persisted into July with mainly dry, sunny weather and only brief spells of rain. As the sun was now strong, temperatures rose quickly with some very warm

days. As usual with the climate in this country, all good things come to an end! Thunderstorms broke out on 28th but fortunately the rain wasn't heavy. Temperatures fell as the weather became more changeable.

Max. July Temp. 25.7°C on 18th, Min. Temp. 8.6°C on 3rd.

August (school holidays don't forget!) greeted us with much cooler weather with rain and showers although there were some warmer sunny days. North Easterly winds towards the end of the month brought drier settled conditions with more sun but it remained cool.

Max. August Temp. 21.0°C on 26th, Min. Temp. 5.6°C on 3rd.

September remained mostly settled and dry but cloudy and cool. Occasional changes in wind direction from the continent brought some warm sunny days. All change by the last week of the month as westerly winds blew in with more changeable weather but the rain that fell was mainly light and showery.

Max. September Temp. 23.3°C on 9th, Min. Temp. 5.6°C on 30th.

As autumn set in, temperatures took a tumble at the beginning of October accompanied by spells of rain. There followed a drier period through the middle of the month although quite cloudy at times and cool with some night ground frosts. Changeable weather returned with occasional wet and windy days towards the end of the month.

Max. October Temp. 16.4°C on 8th, Min. Temp. 1.5°C on 16th.

The changeable theme continued into November, being rather cool at first with a mixture of wet and dry days. Higher temperatures mid month brought dull overcast conditions with low cloud on the hills and spells of drizzle. Towards the end of the month it turned much cooler with sunny periods by day and ground frosts by night.

On the 26th the weather deteriorated rapidly as Storm Arwen swept in bringing severe gales across the country overnight with the Met Office issuing an unusual red warning for wind in the north west of England and Scotland. The storm brought winds gusting over 70mph to these areas. It was one of the most powerful and damaging winter storms of the latest decade. There was widespread disruption and over a

million homes experienced a loss of power. As the storm passed south down the North Sea it dragged cold air from the arctic in its wake with a hard overnight frost on the 29th.

Max. November Temp. 12.2°C on 12th. Min. Temp. -3.0°C on 29th.

It remained cold into December with overnight frosts. Rain turned to snow on the 4th leaving a covering on the hills. On the 7th Storm Barra brought strong winds and heavy rain. Quieter weather followed but it was generally overcast and mild with drizzle at times. It was cold but cloudy into Christmas week. Snow overnight on the 25th gave a thin covering on Boxing day. A shame it was a day late! It was very mild again towards the end of the year and mainly overcast with rain at times.

Max. December Temp. 11.4°C on 31st, Min. Temp. -0.7°C on 22nd.

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Youth Volunteers Secure 'Green' Jobs

Two youth volunteers from the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority have secured exciting new 'green' jobs. Lydia Gill (27) from Hawes is joining Dartmoor National Park Authority as a Ranger Apprentice, while Alice Rich (22) from Ilkley is joining the Leeds City Council trees team.

Lydia started volunteering with the 'Up Skill, Down Dale' programme in April 2021. She has volunteered extensively over many projects in the National Park and attended a First Aid course, as well as National Park Awareness and Navigation courses run by Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority Rangers. She also attended monthly 'Up Skill, Down Dale' sessions, which involved a range of activities, including e-DNA river surveying with the Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust, bee and flower identification and surveys, practical tasks such as tree planting with the Tees-Swale: Naturally Connected project, bracken bashing conservation, and drystone walling.

Lydia has volunteered in the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority education team supporting primary and secondary school group visits and activities. She has conducted visitor surveys at the Aysgarth Falls National Park Visitor Centre and tree surveys with the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority Trees & Woodlands team.

More recently Lydia, together with another 'Up Skill, Down Dale' volunteer, met with Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak at YHA Grinton Lodge in his constituency to talk about the programme.



Both Lydia and Alice have been volunteering through the Generation Green 'Up Skill, Down Dale' youth volunteering programme, which aims to provide skills to support a route to employment in the 'green economy' through inspiration, experiences, skills training, and career development.

Nick Cotton, Member Champion for Recreation Management at the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, said: "We're thrilled that Lydia and Alice have secured such great opportunities, which is testament to their hard work and focus, and I'd like to thank officers in the Trees & Woodlands and Ranger teams who mentored them both throughout their time with us.

"When we presented our volunteering strategy last month we said that young people should be the inspiration and catalyst for growing our green economy, and our approach will hopefully support their journey through education and volunteering into employment".

Alison Stevens, Head of Education and Youth at YHA (England & Wales), which is hosting the Generation Green project on behalf of the 15 partners, said: "I am delighted that Generation Green has been able to act as the steppingstone to Lydia and Alice's new careers in the outdoors. At the end of the 16-month project, Generation Green will have provided over 100,000 opportunities throughout England to support young people, like Lydia and Alice, to gain access to routes to employment. This is part of a longer term aim to diversify the workforce of the wider outdoor sector, so that we can build towards a more inclusive and representative future."

The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority currently has 12 youth volunteers as part of the Generation Green 'Up Skill, Down Dale' youth volunteering programme, and recently announced ambitious new education, engagement and volunteering plans aimed at young people and under-represented groups.

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OTHER EVENTS

THU 17 FEB 7pm **The Book of Dust – La Belle Sauvage** £12

In the care of two young people, a child holds the fate of the future. Prequel to the epic His Dark Materials trilogy. Live broadcast from London's Bridge Theatre.

SUN 20 FEB 2pm **The Sleep Pirates** £5 (Children £3)

A magical play about swashbuckling pirates, flying ships, shooting stars and what happens when you can't sleep. Suitable for children under 8 years old.

FRI & SAT 25 & 26 FEB 10am - 4pm **Art Sale** £ Free Entry

SAT 26 FEB 6:30pm **Afro Beats with Cecil Jones** £ Pay as you feel

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