

THE UPPER WENSLEYDALE NEWSLETTER

Issue 285

April 2022

Donation please:
50p suggested



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

Guest Editorial

In the last two years it has never occurred to me to submit a guest editorial on the coronavirus pandemic. It often seemed impossible to get away from it whether one was reading daily newspapers, watching television, listening to the radio, or talking to friends and family. It all seemed more than enough. More recently it has almost seemed as if the pandemic had never been as Ukraine has understandably taken up almost all the space given to news.

Covid has just forced its way back into the news because of a steep rise in the number of news cases. They are said to have doubled in a month. The fall in the number of patients in hospital with covid has reversed and become an increase. The coverage is still on nothing like the scale of most of the last two years partly because the numbers are well short of the earlier peak and partly because the proportion of people with covid who go on to die has fallen dramatically.

Early in the pandemic, almost two years ago, people began to ask whether there would be a public inquiry into how all those responsible had reacted to the challenge. The answer was that it was too soon to set up an inquiry but that it would certainly be right to appoint one in due course to see what lessons could be learned. The government are now consulting on draft terms of reference for the inquiry. We know that it is to be led by Baroness Hallett, a retired senior judge, and that it is to get under way “in the spring”.

It took seven years for the Iraq inquiry to be published. We still don't have any idea when we will see the report on Grenfell Tower though we are approaching five years since it was set up. In case the next pandemic kicks in before the report on covid emerges it seems worth asking now what we have learned. Anyone reading this will have her or his own ideas. I don't claim that my thoughts are better but they may get you thinking.

We have learned that quite a lot of communication with general practitioners can be done effectively by phone and we also know that it can't all be done without an in-person meeting. Can we get better at defining when the phone won't do and can we help patients to understand what matters in deciding between the phone and a face to face meeting?

There is almost no limit to the list of unwelcome side-effects from giving priority to restricting the spread of the infection and to treating people who had been infected.

They include slower treatment of people with other serious health conditions, isolation of the elderly in care homes, a sharp reduction in social contact for most of us (which some of us handled better than others), gaps in the education of many of our children which are proving difficult to fill, and the impact on the economy which may last for years though it may be hard to sort out the impact of covid from the impact of Ukraine.

My own mild obsession is to doubt the claims that we can all work just as well from home as from the premises we were used to working in before the pandemic. Zoom and other systems have been a revelation and I admire the imagination and flexibility that have kept things going but I am sure that in many cases people built on their already established relationships.

It must have been very difficult for those who took up new jobs in complicated organisations in lockdown. It is not just at office parties where we build relationships that underpin the work we do. More important are a succession of brief exchanges throughout the day such as walking together to a meeting, getting a cup of coffee or even visiting the loo.

We have also learned that when the law changes several times in a year it is hard for even the most law-abiding to be sure what the law is at any one moment. Differences between the law in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have not helped us to be sure what laws we are supposed to be following.

My impression is that most police forces stopped trying very hard to enforce the constantly changing laws at an early stage. I may be wrong but, if I'm not, it is certainly damaging to have laws which can be ignored with impunity.

I suggest that, if you have strong views on anything in this complex area you begin to think about sending them to Baroness Hallett. Her work will only be as good as the evidence she gets.

Joe Pilling

Wensleydale Concert Series

After a really successful 2021 season we return in May 2022 with a series of seven live concerts at St. Andrew's Church, Aysgarth. Concerts are spread between May and September, with two in July and September.

Tickets are £15 (£1 for anyone in full time education) and we have a great value season ticket for £65 for all 7 concerts. Please visit our website www.wensleydaleconcertseries.co.uk for details of how to purchase tickets online, by phone or by post and full details of our programme.

Additionally, if there is demand we will provide free public transport from various points in Wensleydale to make it easier to access concerts. If you are interested in transport please contact us either via the website or by calling **Carol or Liz on 01969 663026** - we can only organise transport if enough people ask long enough in advance to make the arrangements.

This year we have three piano recitals, including the return of the astonishing international virtuoso Mark Viner, a piano duet recital, a piano/violin/cello trio performing stunning music written by female composers, a baroque/early music consort and a violin/piano recital.

Currently we still plan to restrict ticket sales to allow social distancing, which last year resulted in concerts being sold out. We will continue to assess the situation with the pandemic and updates will be posted on our website.

We very much look forward to welcoming you at Aysgarth.

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 APRIL 19th
(Unless we are full earlier)**

PUBLISHED ON APRIL 27th



Eunice the Ewe

Last month I was hiding in the Low Mill advert on page 36 and the lucky winner of the £10 prize is Theo Sunter from Simonstone

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

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April Competition

Look to the west! Here are twelve well known places at the western end of the Dales. Quite a few anagrams!

1. Would you hear the real boom of a train here?
2. Musical notes made by car's part?
3. Leg raised.
4. Where the wide lad resides.
5. Orange kerr butty.
6. Placed all heel here.
7. Batty Moss camp was once here.
8. Get rid (for a price) of the elevation.
9. It's just over 4 miles round.
10. You wouldn't want one in your car door!
11. Dew shiner.
12. Oh hug waters!

Please send in your answers to arrive by **Tuesday, April 19th** Don't forget to nominate your charity which will receive the roll-over prize (see below) of £40 should you win.

March Competition Answers

1. Halifax
2. Beverley
3. Brighouse
4. Batley
5. Heptonstall
6. Bradford
7. Bentham
8. Whitby
9. Richmond
10. Doncaster
11. Sheffield
12. Clapham
13. Keighley
14. Boston Spa
15. Summerbridge
16. Kirkbymoorside
17. Market Weighton
18. Hull

The above list is the answers we were looking for and it proved to be quite a difficult one as there were no correct entries received. So the £20 prize is carried over to next month.

Heavens Above

If you've never glimpsed the innermost planet, Mercury, now's your chance. It puts on its best evening show of the year this month shining brightly low in the west shortly after sunset. Low means very low, so you'll need to find a clear unobstructed horizon to catch a glimpse of this elusive little world. Over the next couple of weeks Mercury gradually rises higher in the sky (fading all the time unfortunately) until it reaches its greatest separation from the Sun on **April 29th**. By then the tiny planet has dimmed to a measly magnitude +0.5 and sets around 10.30pm. On the last two nights of April it sits right next to the Pleiades star cluster – a lovely sight in wide field binoculars.

Of the five planets visible to the naked eye Mercury is the trickiest to spot as it only visible for a few weeks each year - low in the west after sunset or low in the east before dawn. Also it never strays far from the Sun so we never get to see it in a properly dark sky. At its best, however, it shines brighter than any star and is well worth trying to photograph if you can get hold of a tripod to steady your camera.

A word of warning! Binoculars will help you to pick out Mercury in the evening twilight but wait until the Sun is well below the horizon. Never ever look directly at the Sun through a telescope, binoculars or any other optical aid as you could seriously damage your eyesight. On that cheerful note – here's hoping for clear skies.

Al Bireo

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

Notes From Thorney Mire Spring

Well it's official. Spring is here! It's not just the weather, the birds are telling us it is. I heard the first curlew on 26th February, (last year it was the 21st) and saw six lapwings on 6th March in a field along Bands Lane. Two pairs were still practising social distancing but the third pair were chasing around the field, although it was unrequited love for one of them. I have no evidence for this but I'm sure lapwings return to the same area every year. Each Spring four birds appear in the same fields which border our lane. This year they have returned to a field generously sprayed with manure. They sat in the field, looking in disdain, trying to find a dry patch of grass. In their black and white plumage looking not unlike avian Laurel and Hardys you could image their conversation to be, "Here's another fine mess you've gotten me into."

It's that time of year when two nuthatches are seen together, instead of just one, although only coming to the feeder one at a time. The lonesome dunnock has a companion, two robins are seen in close proximity and the normally solitary species of the bird world, when the hormones rise, give up their bachelor life and find a mate. In the R.S.P.B bird count in January we noted ten different species, but the long tailed tits didn't appear in the allotted hour.

Two collared doves are nesting half way up in the tall cypress tree in the front garden and two goldfinches are also home building in the top of the same tree with a long tailed tit hovering about trying to see if there is any space left in this prime real estate. A flock of migrating starlings landed in the ash tree near the barn. Their chattering died down while another group flew in to join them. The chattering started again only to recede while even more birds from the north and west flew in to add to their numbers. This happened several times until one of them must have decide that they were all present and said, "Right folks, we're all here now, let's go." and they all flew off as one body.

Watching six starlings sitting on a wire, tails lifting in unison to keep their balance in the strong wind, I wondered what they were chattering about. Their subject matter must be very limited, they only have three things to worry about. 1) How to find enough food each day to stay alive. 2) Avoid being taken by

predators. 3) Finding a mate and perpetuating the species. (Humans also have a lot to say on topics 1 and 3). They are not likely to be discussing the latest price of a barrel of crude oil, last night's football match or quantitative easing, but their chattering must have some meaning in the starling world which we cannot decipher. A bit like some human conversations really.

It's not only the birds telling us Spring is here. I saw the first coltsfoot on 10th March and the butterbur are revealing their pinky/purple heads down the lane. Celandines, dandelions and daisies are putting in an appearance too. I have not seen any red squirrels for several weeks but as the kits are born in February, they've probably been looking after their young. I did have a walk in the wood a few weeks ago to see if I could find a drey, but I wasn't successful.

Walking along the lane on a relatively still day after Storm Eunice, we remarked that we hadn't seen any fieldfares this winter. Fieldfares can arrive as early as August but most of them come late October and November and it was now February. Walking back down the lane, ten minutes later on our way home, there in front of us, right on cue was a flock of about thirty fieldfares. They are part of the thrush family and can sometimes be seen in groups with redwings. They are often found in open countryside but, if the weather is bad they will resort to going in gardens and orchards and feed on fallen fruit. Of all our winter visitors they are the last to depart and can still be seen here in May.

I found this paragraph on the B.T.O. website referring to fieldfares. "It is assumed that flocks of birds move south as food resources become depleted which may take a Russian fieldfare to Warwickshire one year and Ukraine in another." Let us hope that soon the Russian fieldfare will find as much peace in Ukraine as it would in Warwickshire.

Sylvia Turner

Outside garden help wanted

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some T.L.C.

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Newsletter Annual Report 2022

I ended last year's annual report with a look forward to a new 'normal life' returning over the next twelve months. Well that hasn't quite happened yet and there is still a lot of uncertainty about what the new 'normal life' will actually look like but the Newsletter has continued, we hope, to provide a little bit of stability to our existence here in the Upper Dales.

I also commented on looking forward to a full-page of 'What's on' being printed once again. Well we are still quite a bit short of that target but the list is getting longer as each month goes by, as more and more of our local societies and groups start to function again. We have reduced the print-run by a few hundred copies but hope that it will pick up again this summer.

The concept of myself and Kevin Davis acting as joint editors has worked really well as we have shared the editorial responsibility more or less on an alternate monthly basis in what we hope is a seamless manner in terms of the finished product.

We would like to extend our thanks to our seven Guest Editors who have provided us with some interesting and thought-provoking material over the last twelve months and of course to all of our advertisers and regular contributors who have continued to support us during these troubled times.

Our committee has battled on throughout. Special thanks to Karen Prudden who has taken over responsibility for the postal copies and to Karen Jones for organising the School's Story-writing project (and to Anne Pilling for judging it once again).

Janet Thomson has successfully managed our finances once again, despite HSBC attempts to make life difficult and costly for clubs and societies like ours.

Robin Peters has successfully taken over the responsibility for collecting and distributing the Newsletters every month with help from Alan Cooke and Neil and Liz Piper. Neil is also gradually assuming responsibility for managing the advertisers at the eastern end of the Dale.

We do really hope that things will get back to normal over the next twelve months despite what the pandemic and world politics throw at us.

B.M.C.

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Newsletter Accounts March 2021 to February 2022

Income

Balances b/f	<u>9159.88</u>
Donations & postal subs	1287.50
Collection boxes	3927.00
Adverts	9399.00
Interest (Skipton BS)	<u>2.62</u>
Year's income	<u>14616.12</u>
	23776.00

Expenditure

Production costs	8855.00
Distribution costs	842.85
Donations	420.00
Committee expenses & honoraria	55.00
Room rental	10.00
Prizes	493.05
Book grant scheme for students	400.00
Bank charges	18.41
Computer services & hardware	<u>85.00</u>
Year's expenditure	11179.31
Balance c/f	<u>12596.69</u>
	23776.00

The accounts were audited and approved on 17th March 2022 by Barry Wilcox, MCMI.

The Newsletter's finances have been different again this year in that we are now charged for our banking activities, and also there was only one application for our student book and equipment awards. However, we were delighted to re-instate the UWNL Children's Story Writing Competition once schools reopened after all the Covid-19 lockdowns and prizes have now been awarded to the winners and their schools.

Through our monthly competitions, we donated to several local and national charities on behalf of competition winners: Askrigg Football Club, Children's Cancer & Leukaemia Group, Group Hug, GUTS UK, Hawes Christmas Lights, Herriot Hospice Homecare, Kid's Bike Club at Stage 1 Cycles, Refuge, Swaledale Mountain Rescue Team and the Yorkshire Air Ambulance.

There were no direct requests for donations this year but the Committee decided to support the Great North Air Ambulance Service and the Yorkshire Air Ambulance in lieu of sending Christmas cards.

With our limited reserves at the end of 2020/2021, we reduced the maximum amount we would offer to students applying for our grant scheme, although as it happened, we had

only the one application this year. We end the year with similar reserves to those at the end of 2019/2020 and we look forward to supporting a more normal year of activities in the dale. As always, we are most grateful to our generous readers who send us a little extra with their subscriptions or who put a little more in our collection boxes – thank you.

J.W.T.

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Bainbridge W.I.

Our Community Lunch Hubs started last month when many people came along to enjoy the home-cooked lunch and a talk by local author, Diane Allen - writer of historical novels. Our next Community Lunch Hub takes place on **Monday, April 25th** at Askrigg Village Hall from **12.00 noon**. Everyone is welcome and we hope will feel inclined to make a donation of £5 per person to offset the costs. After lunch, there will be an opportunity to make your own greetings card with the help of Diana Hartley. If you don't feel creative, just come for the lunch and friendship - or if you are not hungry, come along for the craft session.

Our regular WI meeting in April takes place at Bainbridge Village Hall on **Thursday, April 21st, starting at 7.30pm**, when we will have a Fashion Show by 'Puzzle' from Leyburn. Do come along and join us - it is bound to be a fun evening, especially as we are going to model the outfits!! Refreshments available and guests welcome (£4). If you want to enquire about any of our forthcoming events, please contact our President, **Susan Freer on 663980**.



What a busy month we have had at Dalesplay. Spring is appearing as we have observed on our outings. The buds are developing into flowers, the mother sheep are starting to have baby lambs and the weather is much brighter and warmer. We have been making our mums special cards and gifts to thank them for all their love and kindness and we have been sharing lots of our favourite stories as we celebrate world book day. The children have been learning how to stay safe when out and about and remembering what to do when they hear the fire alarm and see the light flashing. All these things help them to prepare for life ahead and it is great to see the older children helping the younger ones and reassuring them when experiencing new things.

We will have spaces available in all our rooms from July so if you need care for your little ones, even if it is just one day a week, to get used to mixing with peers and used to being away from mum, get in touch and we can show you around and discuss your requirements.

Dalesplay cares for children 0-12 years, before and after school. During the holidays, we provide sessional care and funded places for 2,3, and 4 year olds. Dalesplay is a one stop shop for all your needs in a stimulating, safe environment with fully qualified staff to provide the best care for your children. We aim to provide a high quality service at a very reasonable cost thanks to the setting being a non-profit making charity run by a group of voluntary directors. Our directors all contribute different valuable knowledge to help provide the service for families in the dales and we are very grateful for all their hard work. Please call **Joanne or Louise on 01969 667789** or email us at dalesplay1@btconnect.com for more information.



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Prunings

It is the time of year when you can turn a corner and suddenly be presented with a tree or bush covered in blossom. On dull days they stand out amongst the grey, and on sunny days they are glorious. If you look closely at these early flowering marvels you can see the stems. Smooth stems are usually fruit specimens, either Malus (probably crab apples) or Prunus, cherry blossom, so popular in Japan. They are unlikely to produce edible fruit. If the stems are rough they are probably some type of Hawthorn which will produce "Haws" later in the year.

The earliest of the flowering hawthorns is *Crataegus monogynus biflora*, although several other names are often linked with it. It is notable for flowering twice. It can flower around Christmas or very early spring and then again in the summer. Its main claim to fame is that it is also known as the Glastonbury Thorn.



The legend goes that Joseph of Arimathea came to England during the first century and was granted some land near Glastonbury. He is said to have planted his staff on a hillside where it took root. During the Civil War, because it had mythical/religious significance, the puritan soldiers tried to find and destroy it. It is still common around Glastonbury, although the ones we see are possibly hybrids.

Most of us are aware of certain plants being harmful. I am careful to wear gloves when handling *Primula obconica* or Euphorbias but, apart from knowing that lilies are harmful to cats, I had not known that lots of species carry some risk to both humans and animals. The Horticultural Trades Association have recently published an online guide to plants that are potentially harmful to both people and pets. (Garden News – March 12th). The plants are divided into three categories according to the level of known toxicity and it covers 222

genera. For example, the Allium group (onions) are all dangerous to dogs as they can cause serious anaemia and garlic is particularly nasty for them. Cats are not only at risk from lilies, but also from *hemerocallis* or day lilies, which many of us grow.

The previous edition published in 2000 listed only 114 genera and the increase in numbers reflects more recent cases and poisoning statistics. Except for those in category A, plants in the lists are safe to buy as long as warnings are taken into account. The HTA hopes to persuade retailers to adopt the three bands when labelling to provide some warning to allow the public to make informed decisions. For more details visit www.hta.org.uk/poisonousplants. There is also information available from www.rhs.org.uk.

I must get all the hedge trimming gear sharpened, and/or charged up. If I am to try and even up the width of my box hedge by giving it a serious haircut, now, or soon will be the best time to do it. I shall approach it with some trepidation as it has been there for more than 100 years and it would be a major disaster if I managed to finish it off.

Whatever you grow, take time to enjoy it!

Rose Rambler

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Upper Wensleydale Benefice Services in April

	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
April 3rd	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Morning Prayer	
April 10th Palm Sunday	Morning Prayer	Ecumenical Service	Holy Communion	Holy Communion
April 11th - 17th			Visit our Passiontide Prayer Stations available to view until Easter	
April 14th Maundy Thursday			6.30pm Maundy Thursday Supper 7.15pm short service	
April 15th Good Friday		10.30am Walk of Witness from Gayle Chapel to St Margaret's 11.30am short service of reflection around the cross		2.00pm walk from Semerwater to cross at ruined church, Stalling Busk and on to St Matthew's for hot cross buns from 3.00pm
April 17th Easter Sunday	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	6.00am Benefice Daybreak Easter Celebration with BBQ fish inc Baptism at Semerwater Lakeside
April 24th	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	

Evening Prayer is on Sundays at **4.00pm** via our telephone conferencing service -for details go to www.upperwensleydalechurch.org/services.

Truth

I was recently reminded of a conversation between a father and his son:-
Father: I want an explanation and I want the truth. **Son:** Make up your mind Dad; you can't have both!

The issue of truth has been in the news a great deal over the past few weeks with particular regard towards the situation between Ukraine and Russia. Our media outlets display one perspective whilst the state controlled news in Russia is presenting a very different version of events. We are called to examine the details and make a decision. As we approach the celebration of Easter, the words of the Roman Governor Pontius Pilate at the trial of Jesus come to mind: *'Truth? What is truth?'* ^{Jn18v38}.

Truth matters, because without it we have no basis on which to build or lead our lives and relationships begin to falter and breakdown. For two millennia, the words of the Bible have

presented a narrative that billions alive today and countless others before them have boldly proclaimed as a real and life changing truth. I have had many conversations lately on this very subject as world events draw us to question the bigger issues in life.

For Christians, the events of Easter speak of God's *involvement* with us. Of a love that took Jesus to experience the very worst of human behaviour and the very depths of human experience, but which culminated in events that have changed the history of the world and countless number of lives since. The invitation remains to examine the details and make a decision.

It would be lovely to share the Joy, the Hope and the Life of Easter with you in any of the churches across Upper Wensleydale. We all need Hope ... 'ain't that the truth'.

Happy Easter!



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Wensleydale School News

We're half way through the school year and life at school hasn't changed all that much, our teachers are cracking down on uniform, behaviour and making sure we have disruption free learning. Covid restrictions are over, however testing continues.

On a brighter note our school is putting on the Disney hit "High School Musical" and you can buy tickets to performances every evening from **Tuesday, April 5th to Friday, April 8th**. Check out our social media for updates and links. Directed by our amazing drama department: Mr Bennison, Mrs Lewis, Miss Wallis and Mr Hadfield, our brilliant and experienced cast includes students from Years 7 - 10 who are all working extremely hard to put on this production. Many of the crew have already sung in the school choir and have taken dance and music classes. We are increasing the rehearsal time for our cast, with 1 hour 40 minutes in the enrichment on Wednesdays then 2 hours of rehearsals will continue that evening. Including additional rehearsals on Saturday.

The set build is also underway. We're very lucky that the play is set in a school, so we'll be 'borrowing' as much set as possible. Whiteboards, chairs and basketballs all feature

heavily. You may also find the bench outside the hall goes missing soon! We're also investing in new moving lights to better illuminate the faces of our brilliant cast! We also need to give a big shout out to JT Atkinsons who kindly donated the wood for the stage.

A lot of thought went behind the choice of "High School Musical". Our teachers said, 'We all felt the message of the play was really important. Students are encouraged to celebrate their talents, overcome pressure from their friends, and do what's right for them no matter what others think. The "status quo" was meant to be broken!'

This summer our school is also planning a tropical themed festival called Holidales fest. With the help of Ms Hewitt and Ms Coupland - Buckley, our festival team has been working hard since January to pull this off. We are hoping to open the festival site to the community this July so the public can enjoy a variety of activities along with cool drinks and food all organised by us, the students. Updates will follow in the upcoming newsletters.

That's all for now, We hope to see you this month at our "High School Musical" production.

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“Go West Young Man?”

It's many years since there was a Golf Course at Hawes. Nowadays visitors and locals might head east to Catterick, Richmond, Bedale, Masham or Ripon. Some local golfers in the know will however head west across the Pennine watershed to Sedbergh. On the Dent Road a mile or so outside Sedbergh is a scenic and well-kept Golf Course which welcomes members and visitors alike.

A vibrant seniors section meets every Monday and Thursday and it enjoys the opportunity of some non-aerobic exercise which now seems proven to have significant health and fitness benefits and some wonderful camaraderie. The group has players of every standard and warmly welcomes new members. Sedbergh Golf Club also has a friendly group of younger players and a strong Ladies' section. The Club is a friendly and non-stuffy place with good catering facilities and its members consider it a wonderful local resource.

On **Thursday, May 12th**, Sedbergh Golf Club is hosting an “Open Evening” to give individuals who may be attracted to the idea of golf the opportunity to meet members; hit some balls on the practice ground and perhaps even play a hole or two. These golfing activities will be at no cost. Clubs and balls will be provided and coaching available for the inexperienced.

Although often frustrating, the game of golf can be played by people of any age. It provides exercise in the fresh air amidst our beautiful local scenery and at Sedbergh the friendly competition and fellowship of the type we all welcome.

Further details are available from Steve Gardner on 015396 21551 or regarding the 50 to 80 plus Seniors' Group from Adrian Braddon 0330 113 8850.

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Best Foot Forward: Exploring the Howgills

The hills north of Sedbergh, known as The Howgills, have their own distinctive character. Geographically they don't really belong to either the Yorkshire Dales or to the Lake District. Geologically they are largely composed of Silurian Mudstones, which have weathered into rounded hills. They have none of the craggy tops of the Lakeland peaks; nor do they have the characteristic staircase terraces of the Dales. Because of their bulging roundness they are sometimes known as the Sleeping Elephants. They have other differences too: compared with the Dales they have relatively few walls or fences. This makes wandering at will in the Open Access areas a good deal easier, because there is little fear of having to clamber over a boundary; but on the other hand it makes navigation a lot harder, especially in mist or at night, because there is a shortage of landmarks or, as orienteers would say, handrails to follow. If conditions deteriorate you really do need to know how to navigate.

The walk described here was done in fine weather, so there were no such problems. We chose a popular starting place by the Cross Keys Inn at Cautley. After crossing the footbridge over the River Lune, there is a well worn path which heads towards the obvious attraction of Cautley Spout, a cascade waterfall of nearly 200 metres (over 600 feet). The main fall of 76 metres is visible from the road and can be very impressive. It is higher than Hardraw Force, although not quite a single drop, which allows Hardraw to retain its premier title as the highest single drop above ground in England. (Gaping Gill has a much longer underground drop.). Our route is fairly gentle at first with bluffs of eroded glacial debris edging the valley on both sides. A substantial laid back corrie lies up to the left, backed by significant crags, which were, on this occasion, streaked with remnants of winter snow.

As we approached the waterfall, the slope became much steeper. In addition to useful waymarking, we came across an unusual national park sign, requesting walkers to spread out or zigzag up the hillside, in order to reduce the amount of erosion. We have been more accustomed to seeing signs encouraging us to stick to the path, as on the Three Peaks, for instance, the idea being to stop erosion spreading over a wide area. The different advice

here might relate to the relatively light footfall, at least compared with the Three Peaks.

After a little while the path became a constructed stone staircase. The park authority must have decided that the slope was too steep for turf steps. It now became possible to see the upper reaches of the falls which, tucked away in a deepening gorge, are not visible from the road: so the effort of the climb receives its just reward. Young ash trees cling to the side of the gorge, largely self-seeded it seems. We bore left towards the topmost of the falls and then followed the stream, now called Red Gill Beck, up a narrow valley. The intention was to swing up onto the ridge overlooking the aforementioned crags, but there was too much water in the beck to cross for several hundred metres. Once across, we then angled our way up the slope to the ridge crest, a route which rewarded us with fine views eastwards to Mallerstang and Wensleydale, as well as down into the corrie below us.

The slope eased and we found ourselves on the summit plateau of the massif. This particular top was called Great Dummacks. It is one of several tops over 2,000 feet (600 metres) with very little drop between most of the summits and good walking paths to link them. The highest of all is The Calf at 2219 feet (676 metres) which we reached in about half an hour's walking. The views from the top were not especially sharp but they included the Lake District (Scafell range particularly prominent),

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Morecambe Bay and the snaking M6. Being the highest top, we began to see other walkers but not many. If we saw a dozen all day that might be an overestimate. It was a weekday, of course; it might be different at the weekend.

Because of the radial nature of the drainage hereabouts, it is quite difficult to plan a circular route, so the path north and westward was terminated at a summit called Breaks Head, and then it was back almost to The Calf. Here we varied the return by following a bridleway across and down to the head of Bowderdale. This was an ancient packhorse route south-west to north-east across the Howgills. The return to Cautley Spout involved a steep descent but it soon levelled off at the path returning to the car.

It wasn't possible to quench our thirst with a pint at the Cross Keys: firstly, because it is a 400-year old temperance hotel and doesn't serve alcohol; and secondly, because it was closed. According to its website it only opens Friday, Saturday and Sunday daytime. Light bites are served during the day and full meals on Friday evening only. It sounds an interesting place.

Cautley is only twenty miles from Hawes and it makes for a different walking experience from the Dales. The Howgills have steep sides but smooth and easy walking otherwise, with short grass and good drainage, so fewer boggy sections to deal with. In general, wildlife seems to be less abundant here than in Wensleydale but don't let that put you off: there is some really good walking over there.

N.P.

Dales Business Women Meeting

Dales Business Women is a network of professional and entrepreneurial women running businesses in and around the Yorkshire Dales. The group is hosting an open house meeting in Hawes in April. The event at the Chapel Gallery in Hawes runs from **6.30pm to 8.30pm on April 5th.**

They are inviting any women who are running businesses of any shape and size, to come along to the event to discover what goes on inside the network. "We're providing refreshments and nibbles and a chance to meet and chat with members," said Paula Richardson, who runs the network.

"During the course of the evening we'll be explaining how Dales Business Women supports those running businesses across the Dales, where our regular network meetings are held and how they are structured. There will be lots of opportunity to ask questions about all the other benefits of membership and get a real feel for the network from our members. We are relaxed, friendly and also very business focused and we'd love local business to come along and meet us."

The meeting is free to attend, however Paula has asked that you book a ticket so that the venue has a good idea of numbers for the evening. All the information including map and ticket links for both meetings can be found on the events page of the website dalesbusinesswomen.com/events.



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Gayle Ladies - April 28th

Gayle Ladies is a friendly group meeting on the fourth Thursday of the month at 7.00pm in the chapel room, Gayle. We have a variety of meetings, speakers, outings and meals out. Recently we had an afternoon tea at the Pantry, Hawes. The group started over 55 years ago for young women with a creche for children, but then moved to evening meetings. There was a 50th anniversary dinner a few years ago. Now that life is returning to normal, the weather improving and the nights are lighter, come along and join us on **April 28th**.



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Imogen Corrigan will be speaking on **The Bayeux Tapestry**. Who made it, where and why. It is a narrative of the most famous battle in English history and also the build-up to it. A story of kings, chivalry and ambition. The lecture looks at many scenes in detail and explores what might be learned from this depiction of a turning point in our history.

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Middleham and the Dales Local History Group

Middleham Key Centre,
Tuesday, April 19th at 2.00pm

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Members, new members and visitors are always welcome. Annual 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.



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Police Report – February 22

Incidents of note over the last month include two reported thefts from the Co-op in Leyburn which have resulted in three arrests.

For the last two months we have had reports of people receiving messages purporting to be from family members which are fake. These messages claim to be in some trouble and need financial assistance. Whoever sends the message appears to have knowledge of the family make up and can come across as genuine. If you receive any such message, please report it to us on 101 or online.

There were a total of 29 crimes recorded in the area during February. I do not report crimes whereby victims could potentially be identified for example, domestic violence or harassment, although they are included in the totals below. Five crimes were recorded as fraud whereby people have reported telephone scams. These include ebay and Amazon scams.

A full breakdown by category is as follows:

- 13 – Violence
- 5 – Criminal Damage
- 5 – Fraud
- 1 – Burglary
- 5 - Theft

Throughout January there were 17 road traffic collisions reported on our roads, nine resulting in damage only, and eight resulting in injuries. Two persons were arrested for drink driving as a result of collisions.

PC1192 Gary Hankin

PCSO 5232 Don Watson

PSCO 5550 Tracie Taylor-Page

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Events at Leyburn Arts and Community Centre

Saturday, April 2nd at 7.30pm.

Katie Spencer.

An evening of her own music and songs from her latest CD 'Weather Beaten'. Katie is a progressive folk singer, songwriter and guitarist. Influences include James Taylor, Joni Mitchell and John Martyn. For more information see her website at katie Spencer.net. Tickets £10 (includes a light supper).

For more information and to book tickets for all events, please visit our website www.leyburnartscentre.com or phone **01969 624510**.

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APRIL WHAT'S ON LISTING;
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April

- 2 Folk Concert at Leyburn Arts Centre. 7.30pm. See p.18.
- 5 Lent lunch. 12noon. Gayle Chapel.
- 5 Dales Business Women meeting. Hawes. 6.30pm. See p.15.
- 5 to 8 'High School Musical' at Wensleydale School. See p.12.
- 17,18 West Burton Art Group Exhibition. See this page.
- 19 Local History Group Lecture. 2.00pm Middleham Key Centre. See p.17.
- 20 Line Dancing. Penhill Ladies. Carperby. See p.21.
- 21 Little White Bus trip to Harrogate Spring Flower Show. See p. 33.
- 21 Bainbridge W.I. Fashion Show. 7.30pm. Bainbridge Village Hall. See p.8.
- 22 Leyburn u3a Group meeting. See this page.
- 23 Quiz night & Pie & Peas supper £8. 6.30pm. Thoraby Village Hall. Ring 663747.
- 25 Bainbridge W.I. Lunch Hub . 12noon. Askrigg Village Hall. See p.8.
- 26 Arts Society Lecture. Tennants. 2.00pm. See p.16.
- 28 Gayle Ladies. 7.00pm. Gayle Chapel See p.16.
- 29 Askrigg Card's Night. 7.30pm. Askrigg Village Hall. See p.35.
- 30 'Simply Tina' concert at Reeth Memorial Hall. See p.34.

Easter Exhibition by West Burton Art Group

**Sunday 17th and Monday, April 18th.
 10.00am to 4.00pm.**



Entrance is free but donations are welcome and proceeds go to the Herriot Hospice. Refreshments will be provided.

This talented group of artists from the Dales produces some amazing art work. All members of the group are amateurs but the quality of their work in watercolour, oils and acrylics is well worth seeing,

The group meets every Wednesday in the hall where they exhibit, West Burton Village Hall DL8 4JL. You are cordially invited to visit this exhibition and to take home an original artwork at a bargain price.

Leyburn U3A

The April meeting is on **Friday, April 22nd at 10.00am** at the Arts & Community Centre, Leyburn. The Speaker is Anthony Poulton Smith, published author, who will be talking about the origins and meanings of Place Names.

Meetings are usually held the third Friday of every month, however please note due to Easter, April's meeting is the fourth Friday. Visitors always welcome.



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Penhill Ladies.

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Mystery Picture

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Soft Play

Great news, Soft Play is returning. We have secured funding from North Yorkshire County Council to buy essential equipment to start this session again.

It will run on **Friday afternoons 1.30pm - 3.00pm**. Get in touch for more details via email admin@yorebridge-sport.co.uk telephone **01969 650060** or via facebook Yorebridge Sports and Leisure Centre. This is a social, active session for all families with children from birth to starting school age. Sessions will be available to book/pay online via our website www.yorebridgesportandleisure.co.uk.

Gym facility and membership.

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 to suit your needs. Contact us to find out more or visit our website.

We also have a number of fitness classes on offer - via zoom or live class as indicated:

Fit for Life - Mondays (zoom) 9.15am - 10.15am. Building and Maintaining Strength.

Bootcamp - Tuesdays and Thursdays (live) 6.00am - 7.00am. High Intensity exercise to build strength and give a good workout to counteract a more sedentary lifestyle or work role.

Walking Circuit - Wednesdays (zoom) 9.15am - 10.15am. Exercises to keep active people, active.

Strong and Steady - Wednesdays (live) 11.00am - noon. This is geared towards those who have had a fall or are worried about their balance and ability to get out and about. Exercises are based on building strength, stability and mobility to manage everyday life and get back out to social activities. Mostly chair based exercise.

Bums and Tums 6.50pm - 7.35pm and Step class **7.40pm - 8.25pm - Thursdays (live).** Work out to your own level. Come along and

improve your fitness. (cost £5 one class or £8 two classes).

Strong and Able - Fridays (live) 11.00am. Exercises to help to maintain your ability to get out and enjoy life, build muscle tone, stability around movement and keep flexible and mobile around joints. Standing and chair based exercise.

Costs for fitness classes are £6 per session.

We are also offering:

Conversational French - Tuesdays 1.30 - 2.45pm (zoom). Cost is £5 per session.

Multi Use Games Area

Don't forget our newly refurbished Multi Use Games Area is open for hire for outdoor sports. The tennis nets will also be going up soon for the season so get in touch if you want to play.

Booking is essential for all classes. Contact us on **01969 650060** or admin@yorebridge-sport.co.uk or visit our website www.yorebridgesportandleisure.com.



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Hawes Resurfacing Scheme Postponed Following Public Meeting

Residents and businesses in Hawes have had their voices heard as a resurfacing scheme to improve safety in the town has been postponed until later in the year. The work, which involves a full resurfacing of the A684 through Hawes, is essential in extending the life of the road and preventing the need for repairs in the future. This well-used route is in a poor condition and resurfacing will improve its safety for all users.

A public meeting was held last week with representatives from North Yorkshire CC, the designers and contractors.

“We listened to the views raised at the public meeting about the works, originally scheduled for spring,” said Highways Area Manager Jayne Charlton. “We acknowledge the concerns that this sits at the start of the peak tourist season so we have decided to push the work back until later in the year. We hope the community can appreciate that there is no ideal time to carry out such extensive works. We have been able to extend the funding until the end of 2022 but we must balance public opinion with the risks that carrying out this type of work in the winter may bring. Resurfacing during the winter months can be very problematic and we want to ensure we avoid any unforeseen delays to the overall programme.”

“We are now in talks with our contractors to confirm a new start date, which we anticipate will be late September, to avoid the major sheep sales at the auction mart. Once a revised date has been confirmed we will update the public. We always listen to the views of those most affected by our highways schemes and would like to thank everybody who came forward to make their voices heard.”

The work is financed by the Department for Transport’s Safer Roads Fund which seeks to address issues on the 50 A-roads identified as being the most dangerous in the country.

The funding has already been used to install a new flood detection system at flooding hotspots on the A684 – the first of its kind in North Yorkshire. The County Council were awarded £7.06m to fund a series of safety improvement projects on the A684, one of the major routes East to West through the Yorkshire Dales, from Leeming Bar through to Junction 37 of the M6. It was one of four successful bids to the Safer Roads Fund.

Blueboxt Productions – April Update

‘Decades – A Musical Celebration’

Calling interested young people and volunteers who would like to take part. Spring is in the air and our young creatives are hard at work planning for a very special summer presentation. They have spent January and February consulting and considering a range of great ideas and suggestions as to how they can be involved in the Platinum Jubilee celebrations. They concluded that they would like to create a fully staged concert incorporating imagery and video projection, scripted narration, sound and lighting, set and costumes. The chosen programme will be performed in community venues across North Yorkshire and celebrate popular music and key moments that form the backdrop to the Queen’s historic seventy-year reign.

We would like to hear from young people, and the young at heart, who would like to be part of this special production. There are a range of front and backstage roles which includes everything from performing to design, film and video editing, programming, marketing, finance, event management and logistics. If you are not quite sure how you would like to be involved that’s fine too, simply get in touch and we can explore the possibilities together (see below for contact details).

Decades – a musical celebrations is an exciting and ambitious youth led project and we look forward to sharing their progress.

Kickstart – Over the last year we have provided mentoring and support to twelve young people aged from 16 to 24 years old and provided six remote working placements in administration, marketing, music and sound production. As a small voluntary run organisation, our involvement in the Government initiative was made possible by Richmondshire District Council who acted as a gateway organisation. Together, we have been able to provide young people with a range of opportunities to experience life working in the creative industries and gain a better understanding of the vast range of employment opportunities the sector has to offer.

To book tickets, find out more information or to support our activities please contact **Colin Bailey** on **07711 211169**, email info@blueboxt.co.uk or book online at www.blueboxt.co.uk.

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Barbecue essentials, charcoal, firelighters, instant barbecues logs and kindling. Dog food, Cat food and bird food with a selection of pet toys and treats. Tools, hardware, and garden implements.

We are open 7 days a week from 7.30am to 6.00pm.

Twilight Years

Sycamore Hall has recently welcomed some new residents who we hope are settling into their new homes and getting to know people.

Residents, staff and visitors have recently undertaken a collection to assist the people of Ukraine . A huge 'THANK YOU' to anyone who helped with this appeal.

The weekly Coffee Mornings continue on Thursdays at 10.30am and we look forward to welcoming members of the local community to join us for tea/coffee and a chat.

Following the success of last year's event, Karen and Sonja are busy planning another Vintage Afternoon Tea for residents over Easter when there will be one or two little surprises!

We look forward to welcoming you to Sycamore Hall, whether you are considering a permanent move, using the facilities (Village Shop, Post Office, Hair Salon and Restaurant), coming to visit friends and family, or joining in one of our events. A warm welcome is always waiting!

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News from Dales Countryside Museum

The Dales Countryside Museum and National Park Centre are open daily **10.00am to 5.00pm**.

Yorkshire Dales Young Archaeologists' Club.

In March we continued our experimental archaeology relating to Roundhouses. We added more wattle and daub where needed and then began trying out roof designs. The end results were pretty fantastic!

The second half of the session gave members the chance to make their own bowls and there were some very different designs created.

We meet once a month on a Saturday morning from **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.

Email dcm@yorkshiredales.org.uk or call **01969 666210** if you'd like to find out more.

Exhibition. (included in museum admission)

April 9th to July 10th

Dales, Land and Sky – contemporary textiles by The Small Group, inspired by the Yorkshire Dales.

A vibrant and varied textile exhibition exploring different aspects of this beautiful Dales landscape. Landforms and dwellings, plants in the wild or cultivated in gardens, living creatures which make their home here and the words found in dialect poetry have all provided a source of inspiration. Each member of this North Yorkshire based group has focused upon their own area of interest, producing work using various techniques ranging from printing and machine appliqué to hand embroidery.

Projects.

In Your Words - Dialect and Heritage project.

Poppy, our Project Engagement Officer has been busy giving talks, arranging training and packs for our oral history volunteers, and putting together a programme of events for the next six months. The Museum's Creation Station is also now set up as a Dialect Station where you can play with words and contribute your own family words through the survey.

We've now carried out eight oral history

recordings, three of whom are descendants of the original interviewees, which is wonderful. If you know of someone who has strong links with the villages of Askrigg, Dent, Burton-in-Lonsdale, Gargrave, Grassington, Melsonby, Muker, Bedale, Horton-in-Ribblesdale and Pateley Bridge who would like to be considered to contribute to our research, then we would love to hear from you. We are fortunate to have John Bentley as our volunteer photographer, taking photos of the interviewees.

As we write, we're preparing for our event celebrating all things cloth and craft with demonstrations of different techniques, including rag rugging, crochet, Yorkshire button making, English paper piecing and spinning. We hope everyone will have a go and get involved in our community textile artwork. We'll share the results of this next month, but there will be lots more ways to get involved over the spring and summer, leading up to our autumn dialect exhibition.

The Dialect and Heritage website will be live towards the end of April, so watch out for this via our social media. Please contact our Engagement Officer Poppy Oldham on p.oldham@leeds.ac.uk.

Family Friendly Project.

Over half term we trialled new activities for three different age groups together with backpacks and activities for children with additional needs. We received some really useful feedback and will be tweaking things in the next few weeks. More hands-on activities have been added into the galleries and we now have our pick and mix activity station for families. We're also adding extra information onto our website to make sure families feel welcome from the start.

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.

Dales Inspired Lino Printing Workshop.
Saturday, April 9th. 10.00am – 2.00pm.

Explore the process involved in making a relief print in lino in this day workshop, creating a design inspired by the beautiful landscape of the dales and the woodblock prints from our museum founder Marie Hartley.

This session is suitable for everyone. This

method of relief printmaking is accessible and, once understood, can be practised within the home. Your design will be drawn, transferred onto a linoleum surface, and cut using a knife, V-shaped chisel/gouge. Ink will be applied onto your remaining un-carved areas to reveal a mirrored relief print. Expect to make several prints from your lino, approximately A5/A6 in size. Bring own packed lunch. Booking Essential. Adults £40.

Drystone Walling Demonstration. Tuesday, April 12th. 11.00am – 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, find out how a pile of stones can be turned into something that will last for centuries.

In the Kitchen - Bread making. Thursday, April 14th. 1.00pm – 4.00pm.

Join Mrs H in our traditional Dales Farmhouse Kitchen, discover the history of bread making, pick up a recipe and some tips to take home.

Hands-on History – Weaving. Friday, April 15th. 1.00pm – 4.00pm.

Let's get hands-on with history! Drop-in craft activities for families. Look at the history of weaving and make your own small woven panel.

In the Kitchen – Sausages. Thursday, April 21st. 1.00pm – 4.00pm.

Join Mrs H in our traditional Dales Farmhouse Kitchen and discover the history of sausages and how they have changed from the Roman times to now.

Friends of Dales Countryside Museum talk. Friday, April 22nd. CANCELLED.

Apologies for any inconvenience the cancellation of this talk may cause. Talks will begin again on Friday, May 20th.

Hands-on History – Candles. Friday, April 22nd. 1.00pm – 4.00pm.

Let's get hands-on with history! Drop-in craft activities for families. Look at candles and lanterns through the ages and have a go at making a candle.

Earth Day Weekend. Saturday 23rd and Sunday, April 24th. 10.00am – 4.00pm.

Help celebrate international Earth Day at our drop-in family activities all weekend. Earth Day, celebrated on 22nd April each year, is the annual event dedicated to raising awareness about the various environmental challenges that face our planet. Included in museum admission.

Hawes Town Trail. Tuesday April 26th. 2.00pm – 4.00pm.

Join our experienced Dales Volunteers on this short 2.5 mile (3.5km) guided walk and explore the history of Hawes and the village of Gayle. Walking through this lovely market town, discover the origins of Wensleydale cheese, see where the railway once went and follow a section of the Pennine Way. Starts at the Dales Countryside Museum. Booking Essential. Cost £3. No dogs allowed.

Drawing from the Archives Workshop. Saturday April 30th. 10.00am – 1.00pm.

Experiment with a wide range of mediums, including charcoal, chalk, oil pastels and ink, in the study of monograph photographs taken from our museum archive and the Dales held in Leeds Special Collections in this morning workshop. This session is suitable for everyone, including those new to drawing or those looking to practice their skills. Techniques such as shading, composition using the grid technique, mark making and building up tone and highlights will be demonstrated, so you have the opportunity to improve on your drawing skills. Booking Essential. Adults £35.

Basic Navigation Skills Walk. Sunday May 1st. 2.00pm – 5.00pm.

Join our expert map readers on this 3 mile (4.8 km) walk to learn basic navigation skills. Using an Ordnance Survey map, learn how to orientate a map, identify features, locate exact positions, and estimate distance and times to take you on your own voyages of discovery. Starts at the Dales Countryside Museum. Booking Essential. £5. No dogs allowed.

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Hawes School News

Archery Competition

On Thursday, March 10th we went to West Burton to take part in an archery competition. We travelled on the Little White bus, driven by Harriet's Mum (Abbie).

Before the competition began, we practised our aims. To get points for our team, we tried our best to hit the higher numbers (4 and 5). We were delighted to bring back the trophy and Skyler got a medal for being a good role model.



Thank you to Mrs Rhodes for transporting us, Mrs Metcalfe and Miss Elsey for coming with us and Mr B for organising a lovely morning.

By Christa and Harriet

Red Nose Day

On Friday 18th March we asked all the children to wear red and bring a donation. We raised £66.00 for Comic Relief – 'Remember, whatever you do, no matter how small, you can help people live free from poverty, violence and



discrimination. This includes funding organisations that are supporting people right now in Ukraine, and those attempting to cross the border. Because you have the power to change lives.'

Book Share Day

We held a 'book share' event, on Thursday, March 22nd after school, which we used to carry out regularly pre-covid times. This entailed parents coming into school with their child and they would show the parents their work and their classroom so they could see all that they have been doing.

Class 1 Visit to the Dales Countryside Museum

On the afternoon of Wednesday, March 23rd children in Reception, Years 1 and 2 went to the Dales Countryside Museum. We are working on outdoor Forest Schools type activities and hopefully this will be the start of a number of visits to use the outdoor areas at the museum. We will also be helping to plant a tree for the Queen's Jubilee.

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The BAWB Federation

What a busy term we have had since returning after Christmas – and here we are approaching Easter already! It is lovely to see a bit of brighter weather and the lambs gambolling in the fields.

Now that we are getting back to bit more normality we have been able to resume sporting activities. Swimming lessons for Years 1 and 5 are taking place this term, the other year groups will get their opportunity next term. Pupils from KS2 have taken part in an archery competition and the Y2 girls had experience of playing football at Richmond School. Netball is next on the agenda.

World Book Day: As always our children and staff were invited to come into school dressed as their favourite character from a book. We had everything from Harry Potter to The Stick Man.

Our PTFA hosted a Hot Chocolate and Story Telling event on World Book Day, where sixty children from all year groups came back to school in the evening dressed in their pyjamas, with blankets and teddies, to snuggle down and listen to stories being read to them, followed by hot chocolate and biscuits. What could be better?

As part of British Science Week, on 11 March we had some very special visitors to Bainbridge school, from Oscar the snake to Rosie the Guinea pig. The Owls Class (Y1) were keen (and brave!) to stroke and hold them! We were very impressed by their recall of their learning in science, naming animal groups and their features.

A Day for Ukraine – 16 March. The whole Federation came to school dressed in yellow and blue to show solidarity with Ukraine. The children have sent well wishes to people of Ukraine. A huge thank you goes out to the children and their families, plus members of the wider community, for all their very generous donations to the Aid appeal.

Red Nose Day – The Federation raised money for Comic Relief and the children had great fun whilst doing so. They came to school in pyjamas, decorated buns and made hats. But the real icing on the cake was, for a donation, being able to throw cream pies at members of the School Council and teachers. All who took part were great sports. Plans are afoot to do the

same next year!

Our pupils are busy rehearsing for the Wensleydale Tournament of Song with great gusto! It is two years since they have been able to take part. We look forward to sharing the results in the next issue of the UWNL. Our Year 5 and 6 pupils are also taking part in the Spring Concert being held at the Wensleydale School. It is really delightful to hear singing in school.

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Hodgson to our EYFS team. She will be covering whilst Mrs Middleton is on maternity leave. We wish them both well and look forward to meeting the imminent new arrival.

Best wishes from all at the BAWB Federation.

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Dales farmers' Voices Heard in ELM 'Test'

Ten neighbouring Dales farmers or landowners have participated in a year-long 'test', which has been carried out by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). The farmers, from Raydaleside, have met several times to discuss ways they could collaborate and what would incentivise them to do so. The findings will help to inform the design of Defra's forthcoming 'Local Nature Recovery' and 'Landscape Recovery' schemes, which are two of the three components of Environment Land Management (ELM). ELM will replace existing farm payment schemes in England by 2027.

Jane le Cocq, Farm Conservation Adviser at the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, said: "Farmers are used to helping their neighbours with jobs, but it's a big step to go from that to working collaboratively on a large scale environment scheme. What we've been doing is listening to farmers from one small dale and exploring the ways they could work together across their holdings. The aim is to help Defra make sure that the new ELM schemes, when introduced, will work in practice for upland farmers."

One of the participating farmers was Andrew Sowerby, from Carr End Farm, one of the three remaining dairy farms in the dale. He said he took part because he knew that for the sake of the farm business, he needed to engage with the Government's agricultural transition plan. "At the end of the day I went to the meetings because we need to know where the next source of funding is coming from, after the Basic Payment goes. I need to find out what we can do to keep going," he said. "Collaboration with other farmers is difficult. We are in competition and not all neighbours get along. But the mapping that was shared with us was quite good. We could see different fields and it could tell you everything about what you could get on that field."

Potential collaborative ideas generated through the meetings have included carrying out 'farm carbon audits'; tree planting using guards made from wool; and surveys of non-native invasive species and heritage features. One of the main objectives of the test was to develop an online interactive map to help farmers see the different types of habitats they had on their

holdings and how those habitats could provide an income from the new schemes whilst still producing good quality local food.

Member Champion for the Natural Environment at the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, Ian McPherson, said: "We know that there are real challenges for farmers to collaborate in this way, but working together on nature recovery schemes is the way farmers in the National Park could earn good money in the near future. From what we've been led to expect, places such as Raydaleside would be strong contenders for Local Nature Recovery or Landscape Recovery payments, as there are significant environmental gains to be had there. Many people know the dale because of Semerwater but perhaps few people will know that the lake has been in a poor condition for many years. By all making some changes to the way their land is farmed, farmers could restore it to good health, boost nature and create more resilient farm businesses that will be here for years to come. The one-year test has enabled Dales farmers' views to be fed directly in to Defra as it finalises the design of the new schemes. It has also put those farmers in a strong position to put together an application to one of the two new schemes if they want. From what we've learned, it looks like having a local 'convenor' who understands the issues, pressures and needs of the farmers and landowners will be crucial to helping farmers put together these types of 'landscape-scale' proposals."

Many of the farmers have already expressed a wish to participate in the latest Defra test which is being run in partnership between the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and Palladium, as part of the Revere initiative. This test will look at how private finance could be used to supplement funding provided through the ELM schemes, and how that can work for tenant farmers as well as landowners. A formal report on the Raydaleside test will be submitted to Defra's Test and Trials team by the end of this month.



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Sunday, April 3rd.

- 9.30am** Morning Prayer, St. Mary's, Redmire.
- 9.30am** Holy Communion, St. Margaret's, Preston under Scar.
- 11.00am** Holy Communion, St. Andrew's, Aysgarth.
- 11.00am** Holy Communion, St. Bartholomew's, West Witton.

Sunday, April 10th. Palm Sunday.

- 9.00am** Breakfast in Redmire village hall and procession to church.
- 10.30am** Penhill Together Celebration and Reading of the Passion, St. Mary's, Redmire.

Good Friday The Witness of the Cross:

- 9.00am** Preston outside church. The Cross is blessed prior to the Journey.
- 9.25am** Redmire High Green.
- 9.55am** Castle Bolton Millennium Seat.
- 10.25am** Carperby Cross.
- 11.00am** Thornton Rust Village Hall.
- 11.30am** Thoraby Upper Green.
- 11.55am** Newbiggin Waterfall.
- 12.20pm** West Burton Market Cross.
- 12.55pm** Wensley Bolton Hall Gates.
- 1.25pm** West Witton opposite Wensleydale Heifer.
- 2:00pm** Aysgarth Village Green.

Good Friday Services In Church

- 9.00am** St. Margaret's, Preston under Scar.
- 2.00pm** St. Bartholomew's, West Witton.
- 2.30pm** St. Andrew's, Aysgarth.

Sunday, April 17th Easter Sunday.

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

- 9.30am** Holy Communion, St. Mary's, Redmire.
- 11.00am** Holy Communion and two Baptisms, St. Bartholomew's, West Witton.
- 11.00am** Family Communion with activities, St. Andrew's, Aysgarth.

Sunday, April 24th

- 9.30am** Holy Communion and a Baptism, St. Bartholomew's, West Witton.
- 11.00am** Morning Prayer, St. Andrew's, Aysgarth.
- 6.00pm** Evening Prayer, Thornton Rust Mission Room.

April Mid-Week Services;

Thursday 14th and 28th at 9.30am. Holy Communion, at St. Bartholomew's, West Witton.

Church Coffee Morning: Wednesday, April 6th from 10.30am to noon at Redmire Village Hall.

Church Afternoon Tea: Wednesday, April 20th from 2.00pm to 4.00pm at Redmire Village Hall.

VaCo Easter Concert

Wednesday, April 13th. 7.30pm.

St. Andrew's Church, Aysgarth

Programme: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart: Horn Quintet in E-flat major, K.407/386c Franz Schubert: Octet in F major, D. 803.

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Hawes Youth Club has had a busy time over the winter. The young people were asked to be involved in a project called 'Human Traces in the

Natural World' with Chrysalis Arts and North Yorkshire County Records.

The young people were encouraged to create their own story, creating a modern archive about how they feel about living in Hawes. The project started in November and the young people made films, had interviews and took loads of photos of Hawes and the surrounding area. and it is now exhibited at The Dales Countryside Museum. It is hoped that the Youth Club will host an evening showcasing the young people's work in the Market Hall.

Youth Club is a great place for young people to grow and learn having new experiences and lots of fun. We are looking for volunteers so if you would like to be involved please contact Edwina at North Yorkshire Youth for further details edwina@nyy.org.uk Mobile **07584 263978**.

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Little White Bus Trips

On **Thursday, April 21st** we will be going to the Harrogate spring flower show. It is a really good day out and a treat to see such colourful displays after the grey days of the long winter months.

For those who may be a little apprehensive about too much walking I can say that there is a free shuttle bus service to and from the car park where I will park our bus. There are also places to eat and sit and watch the world go by when you feel the need of a rest on the show ground.

There is always a good opportunity to purchase plants and other gardening related items and we always seem to find enough room in the bus to bring them back.

As I write there still seats available so why not treat yourself to a day out? The Community Office will give you any further details or they will contact me if you need any further information.

Please note that this trip will be on a Thursday and not the usual Friday we now have as our trip day. Also, just a reminder that it is not possible to leave the show to go in to Harrogate town itself.

Looking forward to welcoming you aboard !

Richard Noble.



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Reeth Memorial Hall

Please note that the Maddy Prior concert scheduled for **Friday, April 8th** has been cancelled, due to circumstances beyond our (or Maddy's) control. If you have purchased tickets from Reeth PO, please return for a full refund.

Saturday, April 30th – Simply Tina – A Tribute to Tina Turner performed by Miss Julia Martin. Tickets **£15** (£17 door). PO or Box Office **077896 42806**.

Tuesday Hawes Fish Market

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

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Askrigg and District Produce Show 2022

Happy Springtide! With lambing season well underway and the sun having some real warmth in it, it's time to start planting for the season ahead. It's also time to start looking ahead to the summer and the thought of being able to enjoy together some of the things that have been denied us during recent times.

So, after two years of on-line shows, we are very pleased to announce that Askrigg and District Produce Show will be back in Askrigg Village Hall this year on **Sunday, August 28th**.

The response to our on-line shows was tremendous and we were so pleased to welcome new exhibitors along with our regular contributors. Well done to everyone who made the additional effort to photograph and send in their entries. It would be lovely to build on our success as we return to the Village Hall this year.

The schedule for the show should be ready very soon. It will be available on our website at www.askriggproduceshow.weebly.com, it will be displayed locally and delivered door to door in the parish area.

Please take some time to have a look at the categories to see if there's something you might enjoy entering. The committee are always happy to help if you have any questions about the different classes.

We have been very grateful to our local MP, Rishi Sunak, for his support during the last two years and I'm sure many of you will have seen the very enthusiastic promotional video he made for our show last year with which we were very impressed.

We are hoping to go one step further this year and we have invited Mr Sunak to open our 2022 show. We are very excited to announce that, unless he has important commitments elsewhere, he will accept our invitation. I can't think what could be more important than opening our show but I might be a little biased!

If anyone would like to be involved in the running of the show, please get in touch by phone, **01969 650424** or through Instagram / Facebook.

Mike Dechezeaux

Askrigg Card's Night

The monthly card night in March was another enjoyable evening with light refreshments and cream eggs to be won. We play the popular family card game of 'Oh! Well' or as we call it 'Contract Whist'.

All are welcome to join us for our next event on **Friday, April 29th at 7.30pm** in the back room of Askrigg Village Hall. There is a £2.50 entry fee which includes refreshments and a raffle ticket (if the cards don't go your way you always have a chance in the raffle!). All profits go to Askrigg Village Hall.

Any questions? Please contact **Ian Sunter on 01969 650667**.



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Wensleydale Chorus

Wensleydale Chorus has announced it is making a comeback after being forced to abandon its singing ambitions due to the coronavirus pandemic. The choir has been at the forefront of the region's summer singing tradition since the 1980s and is to resume its recitals in July with events in Bedale and East Witton.

"It's been a bleak, music-free two years for us in Wensleydale but the worst of the pandemic appears to be behind us so now is the right time to start singing again", said the Chorus's conductor Stan Roorcroft MBE.

The summer programme will include Puccini's *Messa di Gloria* and Faure's *Requiem*, which will be performed at Bedale Methodist Church and St John's Church, East Witton in July. First though the 40-plus strong choir will have to rehearse. Tenor Richard Wells senses trepidation among some. "We have not sung together since the summer of 2019 and will probably sound like a bunch of ailing bullfrogs at first but hopefully we will improve as the weeks go by. We'll have to".

Rehearsals will take place every Wednesday from the beginning of May at Leyburn Methodist Hall and the choir is always on the lookout for new members. You don't have to have had any formal musical training, just a love of choral music and a willingness to get stuck in.

It'll be particularly poignant for Mr Roorcroft. As a boy he sang at the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II at Westminster Abbey in 1953. Almost 70 years on he'll be making music once again in this platinum jubilee year.

Anyone keen to join the Wensleydale Chorus can find out more by contacting **Julie Greenslade on 07817 711227** or by email to wenschor@gmail.com.

Wensleydale Bridge Club

Meets every Wednesday at 6.45pm

At Wensley Village Hall

Phone **01969 663243** for info

Next Stop for Former Railway Line

The future of a six-mile stretch of disused railway in Upper Wensleydale was discussed by Members of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority on Tuesday, March 29th. A report on a possible ‘Hawes-Garsdale Multi-User Route’ recommended Members support the principle of creating a bridleway – which would be suitable for horse riders, cyclists, walkers and those with limited mobility – along the scenic former railway line.

The report also recommends carrying out a survey to determine the level of public support for the proposal. The railway closed in 1959 and there is currently no public access along it between Hawes and Garsdale. The current Yorkshire Dales National Park Local Plan supports the reinstatement of a railway along the route, as well as a parallel recreational path. However, a feasibility study carried out on behalf of the National Park Authority and Richmondshire District Council has concluded there is room only for a railway or multi-user route, not both.

FAQs:

What is a multi-user route? A multi-user route in this instance is a bridleway, suitable for horse riders, cyclists, walkers and those with limited mobility. Three new multi-user routes have already been established at Malham Tarn, Greenfield Forest, and the Swale Trail in Swaledale.

Why is this being proposed? The current and previous National Park Management Plans (B9) have included a commitment to create family-friendly cycling routes. Upper Wensleydale has the obvious potential to develop further as a cycle hub, with the Buttertubs and the Pennine Bridleway National Trail close by. The area would also benefit from a family-friendly route and enhance the offer for mixed ability parties.

But you’ve previously supported the reinstatement of the Wensleydale Railway and protected it from development for many years. Why this and not the railway? The current Yorkshire Dales National Park Local Plan policy states:

Development that would prejudice the reinstatement of the Wensleydale Railway, including operational land and station facilities, will not be permitted. Reinstatement of the line in stages will be permissible, if it is capable of

being made reversible in the event that it is not successful. If the reconstruction of the line could also deliver a parallel recreational trail, then the joint infrastructure benefits would be much greater. The National Park Authority will therefore want to safeguard and investigate this possibility in parallel to the Wensleydale line.

In November 2019, the National Park Authority and Richmondshire District Council awarded a contract to consultants Arup to investigate the feasibility, likely cost and economic impact of developing a family-friendly multi-user route **alongside** the Wensleydale Railway line from Hawes to Garsdale.

The feasibility study was completed in July 2020. However, it was not made public at this time because in the same month the Upper Wensleydale Railway (UWR), a separate ‘breakaway body’ from the Wensleydale Railway Association, applied to the Department of Transport’s ‘Restoring Your Railway Ideas Fund’ to reinstate the section of the railway line from Hawes to Garsdale Station. The UWR’s bid was unsuccessful. In November 2021, the UWR learnt that a re-bid had also been unsuccessful.

From the feasibility study it’s clear the options for the former railway line between Hawes and Garsdale Station are now either to continue with the effort to re-instate the railway or to look at the possibility of developing a multi-user bridleway route. Sadly, with the recent failure of two successive bids, the chance of reinstating the railway now seems very unlikely. We are therefore seeking views from the public to understand their demand for a multi-user bridleway route.

Why can’t a multi-user route sit alongside the existing railway? The original railway line was single track between Hawes and Garsdale and is approximately 4.5 metres wide. The feasibility study found that this is not wide enough to accommodate both a railway and a multi-user route in future. Widening the route would be expensive due to the structures along the route, as well as the route being in a cutting or on an embankment at various points along its length.

What happens if your survey reveals widespread support for a multi-user route between Hawes and Garsdale? Assuming support from the public, we would begin

discussion with local and regional partners to look at ways to develop the scheme.

What happens if your survey reveals a lack of support for a multi-user route between Hawes and Garsdale? In the event there is a lack of support for a multi-user route between Hawes and Garsdale, we will not do any further work on this scheme. We are already working with partners elsewhere on possible routes in and on the edge of the National Park.

Will you have to introduce compulsory purchase orders to enable the development of a multi-user route between Hawes and Garsdale?

No – compulsory purchase orders do not relate to the creation of a public right of way because landownership remains unchanged. Instead, a legal right of way would be established over the land, either by completion of a Creation Agreement or a Creation Order. It is likely that several Creation Orders will be required to establish the route as a bridleway. Compensation is payable to a landowner if the Order is confirmed and the landowner can establish that the value of their interest in the land is depreciated, or that they have suffered damage by being disturbed in their enjoyment of the land as a consequence of the Creation Order.

How much will this cost, and where will the money come from? The high-level budget estimate for re-opening the route as a bridleway is between £4.6 million and £5.13 million, with the economic benefits forecast to be in the region of £1.02 million per annum. Funding options will be explored with local and regional partners, if there is public support for the scheme.

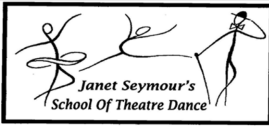
Can I download a copy of the feasibility study findings? Yes, you can download that here. <https://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/13/2022/03/Hawes-Garsdale-Report-FINAL-130720.pdf>

What happens next?

If Members indicated their support, in principle, for the multi-user route, then public views will be sought via an online survey which will be live from March 29th to May 10th 2022. A summary report of the responses will be prepared and presented to the Chair and Chief Executive of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and subsequently made public.



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Tickets sales have now opened for Swaledale Festival 2022 – our 50th anniversary year.

With fifty music, arts and walking events taking place over a fortnight from **Saturday, May 28th** you may be wondering where to start, so we've picked out some highlights for you to consider. You can browse the full programme and book tickets at www.swalefest.org. Under 25s can get tickets for just £3. Do jump in while tickets are available!

Two gems from our young artists platform.

Bammental School Symphony Orchestra

Tuesday, May 31st. 4.00pm - St. Andrew's Church, Aysgarth.

50+ youngsters aged 11 to 18, with their inspirational teacher and conductor Ingo Schlüchtermann, are travelling from southern Germany to play a concert for us. We'll hear orchestral classics by Brahms, Tchaikovsky and Grieg alongside tangos, themes from musicals and Irish folk tunes. Prepare to be charmed!

Richard Uttley, Callum Smart and Ben Goldscheider

Thursday, June 2nd. 4.00pm - St. Andrew's Church, Aysgarth.

Pianist Richard Uttley played in the Festival's Young Artists Platform in the early days of what is now a stellar career. He is joined here by two more fast-rising stars - violinist Callum Smart and French horn player Ben Goldscheider - for stirring trios by Brahms and Ethel Smyth.

Two joyous folk events.

Niamh Ni Charra Quartet

Saturday, June 4th. 7.30pm - St. Andrew's Church, Grinton.

A warm welcome back to the Killarney-born fiddle and concertina virtuoso who is always a huge hit with Swaledale audiences. A great band, beautiful ballads, foot-tapping jigs, reels and slides, and stories of old Ireland.

Folk Day at Raygill House Farm

Sunday, June 5th. 12.00noon to 5.00pm - Raygill House Farm, near Hawes.

A mini folk fest on a picturesque Dales farm, featuring two sensational folk groups - The Rheingans Sisters and Steel Rhyme - as well as



The Rheingans sisters. Courtesy James Fagan

the entertaining performance poet and occasional ukulele player Paul Cookson. There is plenty of car parking. Food and drinks will be available, or you can bring a picnic, and handmade wooden items will be sold for charity.

Two world-class classical concerts.

Alexander Markov (violin)

Friday, June 10th. 7.30pm - St. Andrew's Church, Grinton.

The great New York-based Russian violinist makes his second appearance at the Festival. You'll hear his sublime solo Bach in the first half, including the Partita in D minor, and in the second half a selection of Paganini's Caprices of which Markov is the acknowledged master. Not to be missed!

Lotte Betts-Dean and Brett Dean

Saturday, June 11th, 4.00pm - St. Michael and All Angels Church, Spennithorne.

The talented young Australian mezzo-soprano and her violist and composer father perform a selection of songs by Vaughan Williams, Hindemith, Kaija Saariaho and Sally Beamish, as well as the world premiere of a Swaledale Festival commission which Brett Dean has composed especially for this concert.



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Live music. Progressive folk singer, songwriter and guitarist. Influenced by James Taylor, Joni Mitchell and John Martyn.

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

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