

THE UPPER WENSLEYDALE NEWSLETTER

Issue 306

March 2024

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Dinah Francis

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

Guest Editorial

What do the Wharfe, the Nidd and the Swale have that our Ure doesn't? The first three have groups of volunteers who are monitoring those rivers with the aim of reducing pollution. Surely it is time we also had such a group.

I would love to see the headwaters and upper reaches of our rivers truly representing the objectives of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (YDNPA). These include conserving and enhancing the natural beauty and wildlife of the National Park, and promoting opportunities for the enjoyment of the special qualities of the area by the public.

As a member of the YDNPA's planning committee pointed out in October 2023 – a polluted river does not attract visitors. Nor, indeed, does it protect and conserve wildlife.

A Wensleydale angler told me: "The state of the river is very worrying. We have noticed a significant fall in insect life and also a big fall in fish numbers. For the latter, part of this has been due to legislation regarding re-stocking but [it's] mostly due to the fall in insect life. It appears to us, that the Environment Agency has little interest in the river."

In its annual report the Angling Trust stated in January that the Ure, Nidd, Swale and Upper Ouse were among the rivers with mapped catchments having the highest phosphate site averages. It said that the main sources of phosphorus in rivers were sewage effluent and losses from agricultural land, and added: 'Frustration has mounted as essential testing by the Environmental Agency and water regulators has been reduced, and information about pollution remains elusive.'

Alastair Dinsdale, Wensleydale farmer and chairman of the Association of Rural Communities, told the YDNPA's planning committee in October 2023: "A lot of work has been undertaken by various agencies and landowners to reduce pollution into the River Ure. According to the Environment Agency the Upper Dales Yore Catchment has a problem with phosphate pollution, the cause of algae blooms. Phosphates are a major ingredient of cleaning products and probably responsible for 90% of the problem in the catchment due to outdated and ineffective sewerage plants."

He was concerned that the two sewerage treatment plants at Aysgarth were almost or even already at full capacity and that those

bathing and paddling at Aysgarth Falls could become ill.

So what do we do about it? Can we not learn from the Ilkley Clean River Group, the Nidd Action Group and Save Our Swale (SOS)? One of first steps is to obtain firm scientific evidence about water quality and that will involve volunteers being trained so that they can regularly collect samples for testing. The Yorkshire Dales River Trust is willing to provide guidance and support.

Once we have firm evidence we can campaign on such issues as stricter regulations on when Water Companies can discharge raw sewage into rivers and for sewerage treatment works to be upgraded.

Maybe our government can learn about cleaning up rivers from Singapore which is closely linked to one of the shareholders in Kelda Holdings which owns Yorkshire Water. GIC Special Investments, a sovereign wealth fund owned by the government of Singapore, has a 26 per cent interest in Kelda Holdings.

Singapore is proud of the way its river has been cleaned up and is now attracting more wildlife. The Association of Rural Communities wants Wensleydale to have the same pride in a cleaned-up river.

The Association will sponsor a public meeting in April, probably in Leyburn, to see if we can set up a group to monitor and help take care of our river. If you are interested in joining a working group prior to that please do contact me at pipspatch@gmail.com and write River Ure in the subject.

Our aim is very simple: We do want our river to be safe and clean, where both we and visitors can enjoy it without being afraid of the consequences. And where wildlife will thrive.

Pip Pointon

(Administrative officer for the Association of Rural Communities)



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School Governors Wanted

Hawes Primary School is looking for two new members to join the Governing Body - no experience is necessary as training is given, we just ask that you have an interest in making sure our children get the best possible start in life during their journey at our school.

We have room for one Parent Governor, which means you could be a parent, grandparent, or full-time carer of a pupil at Hawes Primary, whether they be in Nursery or Year 6!

Our other vacancy is for a Co-Opted Governor - a co-opted Governor does not generally have a prior connection to the school, but has the skills and experience required to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school, and act in the best interests of the school and the wider community.

Involvement consists of 6 meetings per school year, one per half term, and a school visit each half term - more if you would like of course!

If you are interested in the role, please get in touch with our Head of School, **Andrea Caygill** via email, hawes@ycatschools.co.uk, or phone on **01969 667308**.

Abbie Rhodes - Chair of Governors
arhodes.hawes@ycatschools.co.uk

Stalling Busk Schoolroom

Pie and Pea Supper

Friday, March 15th at 7.30pm

Presentation by Bryan Peacock

" My travels home and away"

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 MARCH 19th

PUBLISHED ON MARCH 28th



Eunice the Ewe

Last month I was hiding in the Wensleydale Vets advert on page 23 and the lucky winner of the £10 prize is Lorcan Moriarty of Mytholmroyd, West Yorkshire.

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

Penhill Ladies

We are delighted to have Ian Short with us for our meeting on **March 20th at 7.30pm**, giving a talk entitled 'A Year in Photography'.

This is an open meeting, visitors are particularly welcome, £5 to include refreshments.

Penhill Ladies meet in Carperby Village Institute at **7.30pm on the third Wednesday in the month**. New members and visitors are warmly welcomed. For more details it's **Shelagh 01969 663958** or **Rosie 01969 662691**.

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March Competition

All the answers are indoor games such as board games.

1. Scratch frantically (8)
2. A hunt of little consequence (7,7)
3. To build in Swahili (5)
4. 1960s Dancer (7)
5. Ambuscade for a computer device (9)
6. Schoolmaster back with potassium symbol takes a chance (4)
7. Sole control (8)
8. The poor eat in while this is seen at the theatre (9)
9. A tacit rule is muddled (10)
10. Ophidia with tight tears (6,3,7)
11. A1 might be a hit or miss (10)
12. Thudding sound (8)
13. Unite with a golfer's warning (7,1) (or sometimes 7,4)
14. No thanks to big bad wolf's quarry (4,3,4)
15. A sort of loud board game (4)
16. Vexation from muddle of no starfruit (11)
17. He could confusingly be a murderer - but not with an H (6)
18. Amount of boats below water (8)

Please send in your answers (as many as you can solve) to arrive by **Tuesday, March 19th**. Don't forget to include details of your nominated charity which will receive the £50 prize should you win.

Bellerby Study Group

Meetings are on **Wednesday at 7.30pm** in the Memorial Hall, Church Street, Bellerby, DL8 5QL.

March 6th. Claire Gibbons - Auckland Project.

March 13th. Stephen Clarke - Marske.

March 20th. Brenda Leese - There She Grows - Women in plant names.

The cost is £3 for a single visit. The talks are followed by refreshments and a chance to chat. Any queries can be directed to **Chris Akrill** on **07983 300336**.

February Quiz Answers

1. Ouch, Touch
2. Fair, Fairy
3. Ure, Pure
4. Corn, Acorn
5. Steam, Stream
6. Amble, Ramble
7. Case, Cease
8. Rouble, Trouble
9. Eat, Beat
10. Ramp, Cramp
11. Bolder, Boulder
12. Panting, Painting
13. Rifle, Trifle
14. Best, Beast
15. Bard, Board

Only a couple of correct entries this month and the winning entry was sent in by David Liddell of Askrigg. His chosen charity to receive the £50 prize is Low Mill Outdoor Education Centre.

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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
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

Leyburn and District u3a

Photographing Wildlife

The speaker on **Friday, March 15th** is Len Shepherd who will give an illustrated presentation on 'Photographing Wildlife'.

Everyone is welcome to attend, we meet on the third **Friday of the month** at Leyburn Arts and Community Centre, Richmond Road, Leyburn DL8 5DL. Doors open at **10.00am for 10.30am**.

Annual membership is £12 or £20 for two people at the same address. For details contact **Sue Mellish 01748 850471**, susiemellish148@g.mail.com.



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UWNL Children's Story Writing Competition 2023

And the runners-up are.....

As promised in last month's newsletter here are the two runners-up in the annual story-writing competition.

Years 5 - 6 Category - **Caleb Tooley** from the BAWB Federation of Primary Schools.

Years 3 - 4 Category - **Aaron Dinsdale** from the BAWB Federation of Primary Schools.

Space Race By Caleb Tooley



“What are you doing here exclaimed Jimmy to Bobby, “you were supposed to guard the ship.” Woah let’s rewind a bit to how we got here. Jimmy had always dreamed of going to space. One day he went to the beach, not knowing this was going to change his life forever. On his way he saw a poster saying “Tour of NASA! The winner will be announced 18th of December” so Jimmy entered. A month later the winners were being announced the man spun the wheel and read out “Jimmy Johnson” Jimmy was overjoyed. The next day a car picked him up. When they arrived at NASA Headquarters Jimmy was measured and was regulation height and weight. He noticed another boy. He was glad to see he would have a friend. “My name’s

Bobby,” said the boy. “Hi I’m Jimmy.”

Their first activity was to climb inside white spherical balls that spin to create G-force. Bobby went first and did well. When Jimmy took his turn and the sphere started spinning it was okay but sped up quickly, till it got too much. Bobby was watching but when Jimmy shouted, “tell the conductor to stop” Bobby just laughed. When it finally stopped Jimmy angrily stumbled out.

Next, they were clipped to bungee ropes to practice floating, which was super fun, Jimmy was a natural until Bobby swung towards him and unclipped him sending him falling onto the crash mat. After that they had a look at the labs where the scientists were and, to finish, they had a quiz, both getting every question right.

Jimmy had had a wonderful day, even if Bobby had tried to ruin it.

Three days later, as life was getting back to normal, the post arrived. It was a letter informing Jimmy that NASA had a place for him on a mission going to the moon tomorrow, asking if he would like to go, he took the offer.

The next day at NASA the ship was ready. All they had to do was run tests and they would be off. When everything was good to go Jimmy put on his suit and noticed someone else getting into theirs, it was Bobby! They boarded the ship, strapping in. The countdown began “...5....4....3....2....1 BLAST OFF!”. They quickly exited the atmosphere, “the earth looks like a marble,” said Bobby. The next thing they knew they’d landed.

Jimmy went out to explore, with Bobby in charge of the craft. As Jimmy collected space rock, out of the corner of his eye, he spotted Bobby and shouted “what are you doing here?”

“I wasn’t letting you have all the fun.” This made Jimmy furious, and they started to fight. Suddenly Bobby lost his balance, drifting up, about to be lost into outer space when Jimmy just managed to grip hold of Bobby’s boot. Bobby was so grateful that Jimmy saved him, they realised how foolish they had been and decided to be friends.

Judge’s comments: An ambitious storyline to choose, handled confidently with good vocabulary. The boys' rivalry gives a sound structure to the story, with a neat ending. Good work.

**The Magic Door
By Aaron Dinsdale**



“What are you doing here?” asked the angry hobbit in the medieval house. “We are looking for someone to come with us on a journey!” they replied.

The next morning, they set off they walked through the village, the cornfield and across the stream until they got to the woods and then... they were ambushed by some barbarians, but the hobbit snuck away and stole the keys and when the users were in the cells and unlocked them. After they ran up to the gates and then snuck out into the florist it was dark in the florist and very spooky. It is known that there are woofs in the woods, but they are not small. They were attacked a lot of times, but they reached the end alive. They ran across the meadow, up the muddy sopped bank up to the grass they walked up to the path and then the barbarian's attacked again. They slayed most of them and then carried on. They worked for hours until night “We need to set up for camp, now fires!” said bill.

In the night, a trap door opened and then they fell in they went down a dark tunnel of rock it ended on a rock platform with stone bricks. Some trolls lumbered over the bridge “What are you doing here!” they shouted. “Take them away to the master unarmed!” one of the trolls said.

The other trolls took them along the bridge to the king. And ran and stabbed the king in the stomach and then they ran along the mace of bridges to the gates. At the gates there were goblin guards they killed most of them and ran out of the gates to the path again and went on with their journey along the path to the valley where they set up camp.

The next day they set of again to the mountain Castle “The Castle is fifty miles away hurry up!” said Bill. They worked for hours until they got to the mountain. “Now we need to climb it,” said Bob. “How do we climb it?” asked Sam, “Up the stairs!” said Bill, “Where are the stairs?” said Brine, “Up there!” said the hobbit.

They went to the stairs and clamed up them at the top a bunch a of giant cilia bats attacked them Bob nearly fell of the edge of the mountain Brine ran to grab him welts the overs were fighting the bats. They scared the bats of and went to the gaits “I might be able to open to door if I can remember spell!” said bill. Open let the lite shine upon you, he said. And it opened and to hobbit went home.

THE END

Judge’s comments: Tells a successful adventure story with a range of characters and some good details. A neat and satisfying ending .

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Heavens Above

The Vernal Equinox marking the official start of Spring in the Northern Hemisphere falls on **March 20th** this year. It's the day when the Sun heads north again across the equator, the days get longer than the nights and there's the promise of warmer times to come. More than welcome after such a dreary old winter. There's the start of a major changeover in our view of the night sky too. Orion and his retinue are still on show in the south soon after dark at the beginning of March, but by the end of the month they'll have almost disappeared into the western twilight.

By the middle of March, the main springtime constellations – Leo, Virgo, and Bootes are well up in the south. Leo is one of the few star patterns that looks a bit like what it's meant to be – a fearsome, crouching lion. It's fairly easy to recognise with a distinct curve of stars (often called The Sickle) outlining the creature's head and mane. It looks like a large, backward-facing '?' with Regulus, Leo's main star forming the dot. Another famous object of the springtime sky lies to the right of Leo in the constellation of Cancer the Crab. It's a beautiful open star cluster called Praesepe (the Beehive). Four bright central stars make up the 'Hive' with

hundreds of others swarming around it forming the bees. It's a terrific sight in binoculars or a small telescope.

There's still a scarcity of bright planets on show this month apart from the largest, Jupiter, low in the west, and the smallest, Mercury, which puts on its best evening show of the year between **13th and 27th** of the month. If you've a flat unobstructed horizon you should be able to catch it just after sunset very low in the west below and to the right of Jupiter. Venus, Mars, Saturn and Neptune are lost in the Sun's glare this month so not visible at all.

With a bit of luck we might be treated to a reasonably bright comet this March with the return of Comet Pons-Brooks. Discovered in 1812 it orbits the Sun every 71 years and was last seen in 1954. Its normally a fairly dim object but sometimes flares up spectacularly to become easily visible to the naked eye.

NB Don't confuse the Equinox with British Summertime which begins at **1.00am on March 31st** this year when you need to put your clocks forwards an hour.

Have clear skies!

Al Birio

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Hawes Operatic Society 'Mother Goose'

Well what a great pantomime again. We always enjoy them but this year seems to have been one of the best. It was a brilliant cast. The youngsters were well trained in both song and dance. Congratulations to everyone who was involved and a special thanks to Amy Cockett for the planning of another success.

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New Owners at West Witton Pub

The last four years have been difficult times for pubs in this country, and the Dales has been no exception. Nationally 14 pubs closed every week in 2023. Admittedly, pubs had been closing before the Covid pandemic but the closure rate has accelerated. Until recently, however, hardly a single pub has closed permanently in Wensleydale in the last twenty years, although we now have one or two whose doors have not been open for a year or two: the Victoria Arms at Worton and the George at Thorlby are examples.

Fortunately, the Fox at West Witton does not fall into this category. After only two and a half years John Walker has sold the pub to Lisa and her son Ayrton. Many of you will know them from their six year tenancy of the Kings Arms in Askrigg, which is owned by the Holiday Property Bond. Towards the end of that time it became very difficult to find staff to help run the pub. Lisa said that there were just not the people, especially young people, living in the area, so they ended up working flat out for six days a week. This made them start looking for a pub of their own. When the Fox came on the market they bought the pub outright in the autumn of 2023.

The original name of the pub was the Fox and Hounds. John Walker changed it to The Fox to avoid confusion with the Fox and Hounds at West Burton, but Lisa has indicated that they intend to reinstate the original name Fox and Hounds.

So far everything seems to be going well. Lisa felt that it was important to get the pub established first before opening up the residential side of the business (but that may happen next year). What goes on in the bar is the main focus and they really want it to be a drinkers' pub, not a diners. Already there have been Christmas parties, including one for the regulars from Askrigg, and the West Witton locals seem to have taken to the new owners, so trade is fairly brisk. There are plans for beer and music festivals and trips out to Ripon or Thirsk races, so the future sounds quite exciting. Watch out for relevant adverts.

The pub is in Ayrton's name and he actually lives there. Lisa and husband Keith have just moved from Askrigg to a house in Carperby. Keith is the chef at the pub, along with a young apprentice called James. The menu looks

inviting and prices are certainly affordable. Sensibly there is no attempt to compete with the Wensleydale Heifer and there is much emphasis on good pub grub, albeit with one or two special touches here and there.

The opening hours are very accommodating. **Mondays and Tuesdays start at 3.00pm** and stay open right through into the evening. Although food is not served at present it will be in the evenings after Easter. **Wednesdays to Saturdays start at noon** and serve food from **12.00 till 2.00pm** and from **6.00pm till 8.00pm**. On **Sundays** food is served from **noon till 4.00pm** for an extended Sunday lunch.

There is certainly a very warm welcome when you walk into the bar. It feels like a proper village pub and it doesn't pretend to be anything else. There is the enthusiasm to make a success of the business and we wish them well in their new venture. The more pubs we can keep open the better. The best way to do that is to make use of them, so another visit to this pub beckons, perhaps sampling the menu next time.

N. P.

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Penhill Benefice

Church Services: In case of bad weather please check our website at penhillbenefice.co.uk/services for updates. There will be a Telephone Service each **Sunday** at **9.30am**. Dial **0333 0110 946** and enter room number 61337190# and PIN 7450#.

Sunday, March 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, March 10th Mothering Sunday:

- 10.30am** Holy Communion Mothering
Sunday Service.
St. Bartholomew's, West Witton.
- 10.45am** Ecumenical Service. At West Burton
Chapel.

Sunday, March 17:

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

Sunday, March 24th Palm Sunday:

- 10.30am** Penhill Together Family Service for
all ages, St. Mary's, Redmire.
(**9.00am** - Breakfast served in the
Village Hall followed by a
procession to church)
- 3.00pm** Evening Prayer,
Thornton Rust Mission Room..

Holy Week Lent Reflections in Church at 7.00pm:

- Mon 25th** St. Margaret's, Preston under Scar.
Tues 26th St. Bartholomew's, West Witton.
Wed 27th St. Mary's, Redmire.

March 28th Maundy Thursday:

- 7.00pm** Holy Communion,
Thornton Rust Mission Room.

March 29th Good Friday - Witness of the Cross:

- 8.55am:** Preston, The Cross is Blessed and
service outside the Church.
- 9.25am** Redmire, High Green.
- 9.55am** Castle Bolton, Millennium seat.
- 10.25am** Carperby, Cross.
- 11.05am** Thornton Rust, Outside Village Hall.
- 11.35am** Thoraby, Upper Green.
- 12 noon** Newbiggin, Waterfall.
- 12.30pm** West Burton, Market Cross.
- 1.25pm** West Witton, opp. Wensleydale Heifer.
- 2.00pm** Aysgarth Village, on the Green.
Please think of joining for some or all of the
round.

Good Friday Church Services:

- 9.30am** St. Margaret's, Preston under Scar.
- 2.00pm** St. Bartholomew's, West Witton.
- 2.00pm** St. Andrew's, Aysgarth

Easter Day, Sunday, March 31st:

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

March Mid-Week Services:

Thursday 14th (not 28th) at 9.30am
Holy Communion, at St. Bartholomew's, West
Witton.

Church Coffee Morning:

Wednesday, March 6th from **10.30am to noon**
at Redmire Village Hall.

Aysgarth Church Coffee Morning:

Thursday, March 14th from **10.00am to noon**
at The Priory, Worton.

Church Afternoon Tea:

Wednesday, March 20th from **2.00pm to**
4.00pm at Redmire Village Hall.

Food for Thought in Lent - Fairhursts at
Berry's, Swinithwaite, **Thursday, March 7th -**
6.30pm for 7.00pm.

Speakers - Richard and Liz Thomas from
Flourishing Families, a charity based in
Leeds. They have been given the King's Award
for working alongside communities to transform
futures and equip families with the skills to

flourish. Their projects focus on healthy eating, literacy, parent support and mentoring. See more information on the website: <https://flourishingfamiliesleeds.com/>.

Meal: Beef Bourguignon. Home-made desserts will be available and donations raised from the sale of these will be given to a charity chosen by the speaker. Tickets £18 each. For tickets please Tel: **01969 625503** or contact penhill.benefice@btconnect.com.

Easter Lilies: If you wish to buy a lily for £5 in memory of a loved one, please give your details to **Dayle Williams (01969 625094)** for West Witton) or **Liz Piper (01969 663747)** for Aysgarth) by **March 15th**. The lilies will be used in Easter floral displays in St. Bartholomew's and St. Andrew's Church.

Coffee, Art and Craft Day:

Saturday, March 23rd, 10.00am to 3.00pm at Spindrift, Preston under Scar, DL8 4AH.

There will be pictures, jewellery, textiles and craft items for sale, contributed by residents of the village and others. There will be tea, coffee, cake and a cake stall. People selling art and craft will make a donation to Mary's Meals, and all the money from the refreshments will also go to Mary's Meals. Please come and support this event, and bring your friends. All contributions of cakes, preserves, etc. will be very welcome, and we hope to see you! Spindrift is the first bungalow on the right at the far west end of the village. Contact **01969 625287** for more information.

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From Little Acorns...

Years ago, I had a rush of blood, I remember it well, and planted a Wellingtonia in an Askrigg back garden. I'd seen a couple growing opposite West Burton road end, just below Temple Farm, and wondered if one would thrive five cooler miles up dale. No worries as this giant Sierra redwood has adapted very well to the Dales seasonal weather shenanigans and has now reached a modest 25 feet - still babyhood for this Goliath, as it's a true cloud scraper and quite capable of 200 feet plus. Thankfully it was sited in a spacious allotment and has quietly set about establishing itself as a future landmark (or major headache). This and a monkey puzzle tree are the only larger conifers I've been tempted to plant: tree surgeons wake up in a cold sweat from Araucaria nightmares: rigid and spikey, the monkey puzzle's a true hostile and fights back. As always, consider your neighbours before an adrenalin fuelled specimen tree planting, as that tiny bairn can soon become an insatiable bully, shading and draining all surroundings and testing your very foundations. Both trees were pot grown, planted in early March, a fine month for introduction, and staked for the first three years.

More retiring and well behaved is the Portuguese laurel, a choice for all seasons. Usually bought as a multi - stemmed shrub, choose a sheltered position and simply cut out all lateral branches down to the main stem, growing on as a standard tree. What a versatile plant this is: the glossy evergreen leaves in late spring perfectly set off trusses of scented white flowers. Then follow dark purple berries, as big as marbles but no good for pie filling, yuk. Sun or shade so very easy.

For all who are back to basics or on a budget then why not try our native hawthorn? The red

flowering ones, such as Paul's Scarlet, are very showy but the berries are a disappointment. I've gone for our common hawthorn or May. It's awesome in spring to see the explosions of white flowering thorn dotted along the field edges or clinging to an escarpment. Check out the solitary specimen halfway up the Roman road near Bainbridge. 'Old sentinel' as I call him, heroically takes all mother nature can dish out in such an exposed spot, defiantly sprouting into life as temperatures pick up. Often grown as a stout impenetrable hedge, it's as a singleton like this when thorn comes into its own. Prune out crossing, cluttering branches in infancy, aiming for an open, narrow habit. What you'll soon have here is a tree shouting from the rooftops that spring has arrived, and in autumn providing a larder of succulent, crimson berries. I can't wait for when the first fieldfares arrive to fill their bellies.

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Leyburn Arts and Community Centre

Leyburn Arts and Community Centre has its usual variety of events going on during March but we are especially pleased to mention that we are hosting a screening relevant to our area. It is the new documentary film, 'Six Inches of Soil'.

The film tells the inspiring story of young British farmers transforming the way they produce food - to heal the soil, our health and provide for local communities. The screening will take place at the Centre in Leyburn on **Tuesday, April 2nd at 7.00pm** with a ticket

price of £8 which will include a local sausage buttie prior to the film. Following the screening there will be a Q and A session with a panel representing our local farming, food production and retail community.

We are excited to host this screening, to discuss the positive messages in the film and also to hear the ideas and thoughts that come from the meaningful discussions that we are sure will follow the screening.

To book: **Tel 01969 624510** or see the website, Leyburnartscentre.com for this and other events.

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Sycamore Hall News

Keeping Busy

Well, here we are ... hopefully on the cusp of spring and some better weather. We have all been thoroughly fed up with the grey, wet and windy days of January and February!

Our renovation project has come to an end with the last of our new windows and doors being fitted. That did prove a bit of a challenge for the contractors in all the miserable weather but fortunately there were no mishaps! We are now all toasty warm and quiet.

We have welcomed some new residents recently who we hope will settle quickly and enjoy their new home. It has been lovely to see our residents enjoying their new lounge facilities to meet up with each other and chat over a cuppa. Why not drop in and join them?

Our new cinema has been putting on showings for residents who have enjoyed some good films lately - not to mention popcorn! We hope to develop this offering further shortly and will keep you updated.

We have just held another fun quiz and supper evening for residents and the local community. Karen and Tim have set the questions and Chris and Alice have produced the food - this time, an Italian theme with a delicious lasagne. Look out for details of our next date shortly.

Chris is now doing a light breakfast option in the restaurant between **9.00am and 10.30am on Mondays and Tuesdays** when he is offering a bacon or sausage sandwich with a cuppa for just £3.50. Come along and soak up the delicious smells, tempting you to try a sandwich!

Don't forget that our small businesses are here to serve the local community as well as our residents, so please do come along to see what we have on offer. Your daily grocery needs can be met at Sycamore Country Store; gifts and treats are available from Mabel & Maisy's Mini Emporium; you can get your hair styled at Sonja's Hair Salon; Sycamore Restaurant can offer you a hot meal at lunchtime or refreshment during the morning and the Post Office is there for your postal and banking needs on **Mondays and Wednesdays between 9.00am and 11.00am**. We also have the Library which is open all day, every day and we have rooms that can be hired. We are very fortunate to have so many facilities on our doorstep so please come along and make good use of them.

For more information about our facilities and the availability of apartments, please contact **Nicky Cooper**, Housing Manager on **0370-192-4055**.

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**
West Burton **12noon to 12.30pm**
Thornton Rust W.I. Hall **12.45pm to 1.00pm**
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News from Hawes Primary

We held our Mental Health Week before half term and it was a super success again. The focus for the week being 'My Voice Matters.'



We carried out our whole school mental health walks and took part in an 'Express Yourself' day during the Wednesday of that week. We

were lucky to be supported by parents who donated buns for the children to enjoy. We went on our successful wellbeing walks; observing a different season around us and comparing this to last time we went on our walks. Break time was extra special as everyone was able to enjoy a delicious bun or biscuit, kindly donated by parents.

All children and staff during the week benefited from the mental health focus. A big thank you has to go to Mrs. Metcalfe for her organisation and enthusiasm in championing mental health across our school.

We raised £75.35 for our mental health resources to support all children across school in the coming months.

Internet Safety Day - As part of Safer Internet Day, Mrs Marwood delivered an assembly about how to stay safe online to the whole school. The theme of this year's safer internet

day was "Inspiring Change." In the assembly, the children discussed how to stay safe online, how to report an issue and ways to protect themselves online.

In the afternoon, Class 3 took part in the BBC's Live Lesson. The lesson involved becoming digital detectives, exploring the exciting world of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and how to stay safe online. The children discussed different scenarios and questions. They also created a poster on how to use AI safely.

Police visit KS2 - Key Stage 2 really enjoyed their Police Investigation workshop before half term which was led by two of our local Police officers. Billy the Fish had been caught red handed at the Easter Bunny's Egg warehouse. The children's jobs were to search for items that may have been used in the crime, devise questions that could be used when interviewing the suspects and to learn how the Police take fingerprints of suspects - they particularly enjoyed this! We hopefully will have some budding detectives amongst our pupils.



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Upper Wensleydale Benefice Services in March				
	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
March 1st	Communion at Sycamore Hall			
March 3rd	The Gathering - St Oswald's 10.30am - Family Communion			
March 10th	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion	Café Style	12.30pm Soup Lunch followed by Family Communion
March 17th	Holy Communion	Jubilate Family Service	Morning Prayer	
March 24th	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Afternoon Prayer and Pathfinders
March 28th Maundy Thursday			6.15pm Benefice Supper followed by 7.15pm Communion	
March 29th Good Friday		10.30am Walk of Witness from Gayle Chapel to Hawes. 11.30am Service at St Margaret's		2.00pm Walk from Semerwater to Stalling Busk. 3.00pm Hot Cross Buns
March 31st Easter Sunday	6.30am Daybreak Service at Semerwater			
	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	
Evening Prayer by telephone is held at 4.00pm every Sunday. For details see our website www.upperwensleydalechurch.org/services				





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Community Fun

I love and look forward to the annual Shrove Tuesday celebrations in the small church of St Matthew's, Stalling Busk in Raydale. The sound of laughter and lively conversation could be heard some distance away, and as I entered the building numerous pancakes were being cooked and served to the happy and the hungry as they sought shelter from the cold and the rain.

Various fillings are always made available and each year we seem to extend the range: homemade cherry chocolate spread seemed to be doing very well this time. With over 150 pancakes served in less than 90 minutes and our usual competition of the longest toss and catch, a good time was had by all. In this secluded and special place there's a real sense of connecting with history and maintaining the traditions that help to create community.

Shrove Tuesday heralds the start of Lent – a period of 40 days in the Christian calendar that recalls the time Jesus spent in the wilderness as he prepared himself for the start of his earthly ministry. As Jesus went without food during these days, the call to a Lenten fast is still observed by many in preparation for the festivities of Easter.

A period of abstinence, whether it be associated with food or any other pleasure, can really help us develop an attitude of gratitude and, as my mother would always say, 'to count our blessings'. At a time when there seems to be so much need in our world and where community cohesion is under stress, it's good to celebrate and to enjoy life together in the time we have 'lent' to us. Perhaps next year you'll join in the fun, but in the meantime, why not consider celebrating Easter Sunday morning with a short daybreak service on the shore of Semerwater with BBQ fish? More fun; more community!

With every blessing.



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A Date for Your Diary

Wednesday, March 20th at 4.00pm

SYCAMORE HALL, BAINBRIDGE
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
THE NEWSLETTER

All readers are welcome to attend.

West Burton Art Group Easter Exhibition

**Saturday and Sunday, March 30th and 31st,
10.00am to 4.00pm.**

This talented group from the Dales produces some amazing art work. All the artists are amateurs, most are retired and painting is their hobby. The prices reflect this, but the quality of the work does not. The artists meet every Wednesday in the hall where they exhibit, West Burton Village Hall, DL8 4JY.

You are cordially invited to visit this exhibition and to take home an original artwork that won't break the bank. Entrance is free but donations are welcome and proceeds go to The Herriot Hospice.

The image on the front cover was kindly provided by a member of the group.



Easter Activity Afternoon
"Egg-cellent fun for the holidays"

Themed Crafts *Easter Egg Hunt*
Egg and Spoon Race
Creative Play *Giant Games*

Tuesday 26th March 2024
1.00-4.00pm
The Oak Room, Thornborough Hall, DL8 5AB

£15 per child
Includes healthy snacks and Easter Egg Hunt

Limited places - Early booking advisable at
www.wensleydale.org
email: info@wensleydale.org
call/message Jennifer Siggers 07815 679897
or Colin Bailey 07711 211169

Churches Together in Upper Wensleydale

Lent Lunches 2024

All are welcome to our Lent Lunches being held at Gayle Methodist church on **Mondays, March 4th and 11th at noon**. Each lunch is followed by a short reflection. A wonderful way to prepare for Easter. Please note, this year the lunches will be 'bring and share'. So, please bring a contribution to the table if you are able.

Good Friday Walk of Witness

The annual Churches Together in Upper Wensleydale Walk of Witness will start from Gayle Methodist Church at **10.30am on Good Friday, March 29th**.

We will process into Hawes to conclude with an **11.30am** service at St Margaret's Church. If you can't make the walk, you are still welcome at the service. We hope you will join us.

Hawes Junction Chapel

**Easter Sunday, March 31st
at 2.30pm**

Lead by Andrew Fagg

Light refreshments at the close.

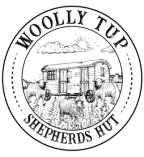
Quiz and Pie and Pea Supper

Thoraby Village Hall

**Saturday, March 16th at 7.00pm -
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Here are the latest FREE online events from the environmental campaigning charity, Friends of the Dales:

New - Friends 4 Friends - If you've ever wanted to know more about Friends of the Dales and its environmental campaigning work now is your chance to find out! It is hosting a social event for non-members and supporters wanting to learn more. Existing members are welcome too as long as they bring a 'non member' friend with them! Taking place at Gargrave Village Hall on **Wednesday, March 6th (11.00am – 3.00pm)** there will be welcome refreshments, a short presentation, light complimentary lunch (donations welcome) followed by a guided, leisurely three mile circular walk.

There is absolutely no obligation to subscribe as a member at the event – it just offers an opportunity for anyone with a passion and interest in building a sustainable future for the Yorkshire Dales to get to know the charity

better! To book your place email: victoria.benn@friendsofthedales.org.uk.

Online Talk: Connecting Young People to the Yorkshire Dales - **Wednesday, March 20th, 4.30pm.**

Meet one of Friends of the Dales Creative Campaigners – its group of passionate environmentalists aged 20-30. In this online talk Ruth Garrett will share the issues close to her heart as well as providing insight into the challenges faced by young people wanting to connect with or live in a National Park. In addition to supporting the charity's work, Ruth runs her own film production company, Kittiwake Productions and is an Ambassador for Campaign for National Parks (CNP). Ruth also created a short documentary on sustainable farming featuring former Friends of the Dales trustee, farmer Anthony Bradley, made possible with a CNP New Perspectives Bursary in 2022.

To book visit: www.friendsofthedales.org.uk/ events.

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**MARCH WHATS ON LISTING;
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March

- 1 Dominoes 7.30pm. Carperby Institute.
- 2 Craft Workshop. 10.30am. Sycamore Hall, Bainbridge. See p.24.
- 3 Richmond Chamber Orchestra Concert. 2.30pm. Georgian Theatre Royal.
- 6 Hawes Drama Club meeting. 7.00pm. Gayle Institute.
- 6 Friends of the Dales Social . 11.00am. Gargrave Village Hall. See p.19.
- 6 Bellerby Study Group Meeting. 7.30pm. Bellerby Memorial Hall. See p.4.
- 9 Concert. 8.00pm. Reeth Memorial Hall. See p.29.
- 9 Jumble Sale. 9.30am. Hawes Market House. See p.22.
- 11 Swaledale Festival booking opens. See p.28.
- 11 Wensleydale Tournament of Song. 1.00pm. Leyburn Methodist Hall. See p.35.
- 12 Wensleydale Tournament of Song. 10.00am and 6.00pm. Leyburn Methodist Hall. See p.35.
- 13 Bellerby Study Group Meeting. 7.30pm. Bellerby Memorial Hall. See p.4.
- 15 u3a Talk. 10.00am. LA&CC. See p.5.
- 15 Pie and Pea Supper. 7.30pm. Stalling Busk Schoolroom. See p.3.
- 16 Quiz. 7.00pm Thoralby Village Hall. See p.18.
- 19 Charity Coffee Afternoon. 2.00pm. Kirkwood Hall, Leyburn. See p.25.
- 19 Wensleydale Tournament of Song. 10.00am. Leyburn Methodist Hall. See p.35.
- 20 Wensleydale Tournament of Song. 10.00am (and 6.00pm 20th). Tennants Garden Rooms. See p.35.
- 20 Local History Group Talk. 2.00pm. Harmby Village Hall. See p.23.
- 20 Friends of the Dales online talk. 4.30pm. See p.19.
- 20 Bellerby Study Group Meeting. 7.30pm. Bellerby Memorial Hall. See p.4.
- 20 Penhill Ladies Meeting. 7.30pm. Carperby Village Institute. See p.3.
- 20 Newsletter AGM. Sycamore Hall, Bainbridge. 4.00pm. See p.11.
- 20 Bainbridge WI Meeting. 7.30pm. Sycamore Hall, Bainbridge. See p.24.
- 22 Concert. 7.30pm. Reeth Memorial Hall. See p.29.
- 23 Swale Singers Come and Sing Day. 10.00am. Concert 4.00pm. St Mary's Arkengarthdale See p.31.
- 23 Art and Craft Day. 10.00am. Spindrif, Preston under Scar. See p.11.
- 23 - April 7 Crazy Golf. Askrigg, See p.25.
- 27 Easter Activity Afternoon. 1.00pm. Thornborough Hall, Leyburn. See p.32.
- 30 Easter Fun Day. 10.00am. Bainbridge Village Hall. See p.35.
- 30/31 Art Group Exhibition. 10.00am. West Burton Village Hall. See p.18 .

Casual Badminton

Do you want to stay fit and active? Why not join our group of casual badminton players? We meet in Hawes Market Hall at **9.30am** on a **Thursday morning** and play for about an hour. No previous experience necessary (although a badminton racquet would be useful!)



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News from Dales Countryside Museum

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February to October, **10.00am to 4.00pm**
November and December. Closed Christmas
Eve to Boxing Day and January 6th to 31st. Last
entry one hour before closing.

Contact: hawes@yorkshiredales.org.uk or call
01969 666210.

Cry of the Curlew Exhibition – running until
April 10th.

As we wait for the Curlew to return this year,
it's an appropriate time to raise awareness of the
fact that their survival is increasingly
challenged. The 'Cry of the Curlew' exhibition
highlights the plight of the Curlew and shares
the work that is taking place to try to support
this at-risk bird which is such a key part of the
Yorkshire Dales. Our Meet the Artist event for
the exhibition was a great success with over 60
people coming along to share their enthusiasm
for this special bird and to appreciate the work
of the artists and the children who have
contributed to the exhibition. We've received
some fantastic comments about the amazing
photography of Paco Valera, the poetry and
prose by Barbara Murray, and beautiful artwork
by Sally Zaranko, Hester Cox, Judith Bromley
and Robert Nicholls and characterful paintings
of Curlew by children from Settle and Kirkby
Malham schools.

**Yorkshire Dales Young Archaeologists'
Club:**

The club meets once a month on a
Saturday morning, 10.00am to noon. Please
call **01969 666210** if you'd like to join in
or email dcn@yorkshiredales.org.uk. Young
people age 8 – 17 years are welcome to come
along to try a session from February onwards.

Scurry Club Pass:

We've a full events programme for this year
so if you'd like your child to be able to visit all
year round, why not think about a Scurry Club
Pass. Your child and an accompanying adult
carer can visit all year round and kids can start
collecting their squirrel badge and first stamp as
soon as they visit.

We're looking forward to seeing you in
2024 – here are our events coming up in March.
Events are included in the Museum admission
unless otherwise stated.

Curlew Calling:

**Friday, March 8th and Wednesday, March
13th, 10.00am - 3.00pm.**

Come and chat, draw and write about your
curlew memories and experiences, with Sally
one of the contributors to the exhibition.

**Friends of Dales Countryside Museum
Lecture:**

Friday, March 15th, 7.30pm – 9.00pm.

Pip Pointon: Quaker Heritage in Wensleydale.

Monotype Workshop with Hester Cox:

Sunday, March 17th, 10.00am – 4.00pm.

Spend the day exploring different monotype
techniques with printmaker Hester Cox. Taking
ground nesting birds and their habitats as your
inspiration, you will learn three different
methods of making one-off prints. Monotyping
is a direct and spontaneous way of making
images and you will experiment with
monochrome line work and tonal methods in the
morning followed by colour, collage and
stencils in the afternoon. At the end of the day
you will have a folder full of lovely prints
inspired by the wildlife of our beautiful Dales.
£50 - Lunch included. Booking essential.

Drystone Walling demos:

Tuesday, March 26th, 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.

Print a curlew family activity:

Thursday, March 28th, 1.00pm – 4.00pm
(Times slots)

**Hands on History - Viking and Roman
Games:**

Friday, March 29th, 1.00pm – 4.00pm.

Come and play the Roman strategy game of
Terni Lapilli and the Viking game of defenders
and attackers, Hnefatafl. Then make your own
set to take home.

Curlew Calling:

Tuesday, April 2nd, 10.00am – 3.00pm

Come and chat, draw and write about your
curlew memories and experiences, with artist
and printmaker Sally, one of the contributors to
the exhibition.

Almond Paste 'Eggs'


In medieval times Lent meant giving up meat, eggs, butter and milk. Essentially, it was a vegan diet which led to the invention of some creative fake substitutes. To replace the milk, large amounts of almond milk was made by pounding vast quantities of almonds by hand.

The following 15th century recipe imitates eggs replacing them with something else.

Take eggs and blow out the insides, then wash the shell clean in warm water. Take good almond milk and set it on the fire. Take a piece of muslin (or any fine cloth) and then pour the milk through it and let the excess liquid run out. Then put it on the cloth and gather it together on a platter and mix with sugar. Take half of the mixture and colour it with saffron and add a little cinnamon and put the white mix at the far end of the egg shell and put the yolk in the middle and then fill the rest up with the white mix, but not too full in case it spills out. Then set it on the fire and roast it and serve forth.

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OPHTHALMOLOGIST

Jumble Sale

Saturday, March 9th

9.30am - 2.00pm

at Hawes Market House.

Donations of jumble can be dropped off on **Friday, March 8th.**

Hawes Christmas Lights are serving refreshments and would appreciate any donation of cakes or tray bakes.

If you can help please let Laura Dunn at the Market House, or Liz, from Wensleydale Press know.

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Middleham and the Dales Local History Group

Recent Archaeological Discoveries at Fountains Abbey by Mark Newman

Wednesday, March 20th, 2.00pm
at Harmby Village Hall

For much of the 20th century the general view was that the archaeology of Fountains Abbey had been investigated and that there was little left to learn. Now, following excavations and detailed recording by Historic England and more recently National Trust, and research including an extraordinary array of geophysical surveys, we are realising how very much more Fountains still has to tell us, just under our feet. These discoveries don't just alter the story of the abbey itself, but also potentially our understanding of the whole of the north of England in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries.

Mark Newman has been the National Trust's Archaeologist for Fountains Abbey (and a whole lot of its other northern places) since 1988. He is a graduate of the University of Birmingham, member of the Chartered Institute of Archaeologists and Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London. He lives in Wensleydale and advises National Trust properties from Berwick upon Tweed in the north east to the boundaries of Greater Manchester in the south-west. Amongst his principal specialisms is the archaeology of gardens, parks and designed landscapes. He is the author of the comprehensive history of Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal – The Wonder of the North. He has also worked and lectured in Europe, Australia, the United States and Guyana.

Members, new members and visitors are always welcome, annual membership is £12 for nine meetings and visitors can attend for £3 per meeting. For more information contact **Tony Keates** 01969 640436, dotandtonyk@btinternet.com.

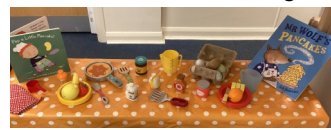


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We have been enjoying celebrating many events this month; Lunar New Year, Shrove Tuesday and Valentines Day. The children have been dancing to traditional Chinese music, we made our own dragons and instruments to dance with and we learnt all about the 12 animals of the zodiac and how they celebrate the new Year.

We have enjoyed making and eating pancakes, some of the children had a go at flipping them and we talked about where the ingredients come from and why we have Shrove Tuesday.



The children have made valentines gifts for loved ones at home and we started to discuss the different emotions we experience and how to display them.



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Bainbridge W.I.

Back in the Swing

We have made it through January which has been a relatively quiet month for us.

Some of our ladies have enjoyed a two-part patchwork quilting workshop where they learned this new skill and produced some lovely items of which they are rightly proud.

Our February meeting saw members of the Yorkshire Dales Moorland Group come along to talk to us about the management of our moorlands. This was a really fascinating talk, busting the myths and explaining how important the management of our moorland is to conservation, climate and ecology. It was interesting to learn of the wide and varied role of local gamekeepers and just how important the shooting season is to very many of our local businesses who rely on its income to keep them viable.

Naturally, a bit of miserable weather has not prevented the ladies of our Lunch Club from venturing out to enjoy a delicious meal! In January we were well and truly fed at The Pantry in Hawes. You never go home from there hungry and we certainly didn't! Our February lunch was at The Middle House in Askrigg where we sampled the offerings under the new owners.

The Book Club is still busy reading and the Garden Club has enjoyed a slide show of wonderful gardens but the Walking Group has wisely taken a bit on a break in the hope of avoiding the worst of the winter weather.

On **Saturday, March 2nd** we are holding an Easter Craft Workshop at Sycamore Hall, Bainbridge between **10.30am and 1.00pm**. Everyone is welcome to join us (members and non-members) for some Easter-themed crafting. Children are also welcome to come along (accompanied please). There is no charge unless you wish to purchase what you make, and refreshments will be served. Come along for some fun!

For the time being, we have cancelled our Soup and Sweet lunches - in part due to poor weather affecting attendance, but also as we have run a bit short of volunteers to help. This is disappointing as we know how much these events are enjoyed by members of our community so we hope that we can encourage more help in the future.

Our March meeting is an Open Meeting where we welcome anyone to join us for the evening, not just WI members. This meeting will take place on **Wednesday, March 20th at 7.30pm** at Sycamore Hall, Bainbridge. We will be entertained by a spring flower arranging demonstration from Shannon McIntyre of Feather & Fern in Hawes. This will be a really enjoyable evening so please come along and join us - everyone welcome!

We are now about to launch into a new membership year with subscriptions due now. Our committee has decided to subsidise these subscription fees for all our members, bringing the annual subscription down to £39 per person.

For this, all members will get a monthly meeting, a copy of WI Life monthly magazine, the opportunity to attend events, courses and activities arranged by our WI and the North Yorkshire West Federation as well as access to all our busy groups (Book, Bridge, Craft, Garden, IT, Lunch and Walking). We also organise numerous trips throughout the year which you can choose to join and we are already looking forward to 'Afternoon Tea on a Canal Boat' from Skipton in the summer.

A real positive addition to the membership offering this year is the new WI Learning Hub to which all members have FREE access. This allows you to join all manner of interesting and educational sessions via the internet. Some of our members have already tried this out and are really impressed with the offering. You can even join exercise classes from the comfort of your own home - and all for FREE!

If you thought the WI was just a boring monthly meeting about tea towels or spinach, think again! We are so much more - and are busy all month long (if you have the time to fit it all in!). So, do consider joining us as we launch this new year of membership. We are a very welcoming, fun group of ladies who can offer you all sorts of interesting activities along with friendship and support. Come and try us!

If you would like more information about our busy and friendly WI or any of our events and activities, please contact our President, **Nicola Robinson on 01969 650801**. We would be delighted to welcome you to our merry throng and can assure you of a warm welcome, lots of fun and plenty of opportunities.

Crazy Golf Meets the Movies!

Following the tremendous success of last year's enthralling pop up Halloween event, Crazy Golf is making an exciting comeback in Askrigg this Easter holiday season. This time around, guests can look forward to facing an engaging, Movies-themed 18-hole golf course.

This much-anticipated event will be hosted at Uredale Mill in Askrigg daily, from **noon to 8.00pm**, between **March 23rd and April 7th**. To add to the excitement, early bird bookers will be gifted with a special discount by utilising the code 'Earlybird10' at the checkout. Act quickly, as this code will remain valid only until the end of February.

Groups / clubs and associations (over 10 people) are invited to apply for a group discount by emailing tickets@incredibleartists.uk, giving preferred date and time and number of guests. Bookings now open at www.buytickets.at/incredibleartists.



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Charity Coffee Afternoon

You are invited to join us for a Coffee
Afternoon in aid of the Diabetic Research and
Wellness Foundation on

Tuesday, March 19th at 2.00pm
at Kirkwood Hall Care Home in Leyburn.

Cleaner Wanted

The Quaker Meeting House in Bainbridge is
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News from The Wensleydale School

A group of 38 students from China recently completed a memorable two-day visit to The Wensleydale School and Sixth Form as part of a cultural exchange programme. The Chinese students stayed at the Low Mill Outdoor Centre while exploring the Yorkshire Dales.

In January, eighteen Wensleydale School students joined the visiting delegation at Low Mill for a day of cross-cultural activities. Students from both schools rotated between outdoor adventure activities, while also participating in Chinese-learning-related indoor activities. The next day, the Chinese students, who are aged between 11 and 14, toured Aysgarth Falls before spending a day immersed in British culture at Wensleydale School. Activities included a PE session and a walk into Leyburn for an iconic fish and chips lunch.



“It was brilliant to make new friends from across the world and discover more about how they live,” said Millie Gilbey, a Year 10 student from Wensleydale School.

The visit was organised by Victoria McArthur, a teacher who worked in China for some time, having studied Mandarin at university. She also recently started a Chinese enrichment activity at Wensleydale School, teaching students the language and the culture, which she sees as a gateway to experiencing the wider world.

She said, “This has been such an amazing experience for students on both sides, helping to broaden their horizons, and providing opportunities for our rural students to engage with different cultures like this is a vital part of learning about the world.”

The Chinese students’ memorable 10 day trip also included visits to renowned destinations like Oxford and Cambridge Universities, Manchester United Football Club, the Natural History Museum in London, and a football match at Charlton Athletic Football Club.

Wensleydale organises foreign trips for its students whenever possible, and after the success of this visit it hopes one day to be able to add China to the list of countries they can experience. To find out more about the Wensleydale School, visit www.wensleydale.n-yorks.sch.uk/.



Stone House Hotel

Join us this Mother’s Day to celebrate all the mums who do so much! On Sunday 10 March we will be serving a special Stone House Sunday roast between 12-3pm, drinks in our newly refurbished bar throughout the day, and a superb 3-course menu in the evening.

Plus, our beautiful private dining room is available for up to 10 people – perfect for getting the family together and celebrating in style!

At least 10% of the proceeds will be donated to Dalesplay Nursery, to acknowledge the support they provide to the local community.

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Mystery Picture

The 'lonely' stile in last month's Mystery Picture can be found on the footpath between Aysgarth Falls and Carperby

This month, where can you find these two?



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Booking for Swaledale Festival 2024 opens on **Monday, March 11th**.

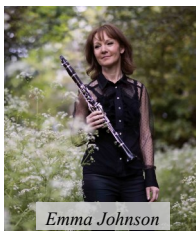
Swaledale Festival, the award-winning annual celebration of music, arts and walking across Swaledale, Wensleydale and Arkengarthdale, returns on **May 25th** for a fabulous fortnight.

There will be fifty-five world-class events in the area's chapels, churches, halls and outstanding outdoor spaces, and five free art exhibitions.

This year there is a focus on participation. An upbeat singing workshop for all abilities will be led by the UK-based Ugandan vocal duo The Ganda Boys, renowned for their thrilling African-fusion music. Stevie Wonder is a fan! Glorious Teesside folk trio, The Young'uns, loved for their rousing harmonies and witty banter, will lead a vocal workshop in Leyburn. Full-time forager and wild food expert Jim Parums will take walkers on a foraging expedition in and around Hudswell Woods near Richmond, and Dales artist Katharine Holmes will teach an outdoor 'ink and stick' drawing session in Swaledale. Other opportunities to participate include a dry-stone walling workshop and a creative walk with poet Mary-Jane Holmes (back by popular demand!).

If comedy is your bag, US-star comedian Rich Hall will perform his one-man show 'Shot from Cannons' at Tennants in Leyburn. Expect rants, knife-edge observations and musical interludes - as well as laughs!

Virtuoso jazz guitarist Martin Taylor MBE will dazzle the audience with a solo performance. London Tango Quintet will perform a foot-tapping and energising feast of Argentinian music. Folk will feature in the form of the uber-talented Carrivick Sisters and traditional Irish supergroup The Jeremiahs, amongst others.



Emma Johnson

The Festival attracts a host of big classical names to Dales' stages. Britain's most famous clarinetist and former BBC young musician of the year Emma Johnson will perform a musical response to the climate emergency with

her thirteen-strong Orchestra for the Environment. Julian Lloyd-Webber will narrate the fascinating story behind Bach's iconic Cello Suites, with performances of the Suites by his wife and fellow cellist, Jiaxin. There will be a performance by Graffiti Classics, the wickedly funny comedy string quartet. The heroine of the 2023 Festival violinist Mathilde Milwidsky will return with her trio to perform Mozart, Beethoven and Ravel, and there will be performances by the internationally renowned Brodsky and Villiers Quartets.



Villiers Quartet

We can also look forward to flagship evening performances from The Young'uns, The Ganda Boys and AKA Trio, featuring superstar virtuosos from three continents - Antonio Forcione (guitars), Seckou Keita (kora) and Adriano Adewale (percussion).

Not everyone is lucky enough to experience the thrill of live, professional music. For this reason, Swaledale Festival takes a selection of performances into schools and care homes each year free of charge. In 2024, musicians will perform in four care homes and four schools in the local area, enabling pupils and residents to experience concerts first-hand. The Festival is also taking eleven world-class musicians into a prison for the first time, to inspire and improve the lives of prisoners and staff. Look out for the Wandering Minstrels logo in the brochure and on the website that shows which artists are taking part in this important strand of the Festival's community and education work.

Artistic Director Malcolm Creese says: "There will, of course, be a feast of top-drawer performers of classical, folk, jazz and world music, as well as a good selection of films, talks and guided walks. Following requests from our audience for more hands-on events, we're delighted to be offering plenty of opportunities for creative participation this year, so whether you're a music or arts lover, a walker, or you fancy trying something new, there is plenty to enjoy!"

Booking opens on **March 11th**, with a Friends Priority Period running for two weeks from **February 26th**. For more information, and tickets, please visit: www.swalefest.org.

Events at Reeth Memorial Hall

A full programme of concerts are already booked in for 2024. Please see the website for further details of all concerts. There are some links to videos by some of the performers on there. If you are a Facebook user it would be helpful if you are able to like our page.

Saturday, March 9th - Urban Folk Quartet. For over a decade UFQ have ignited audiences with their contemporary take on folk music, rooted in Celtic tune forms and traditional song, influenced by Afrobeat, Indian classical, funk and rock. Tickets £17 (£19 door).

Friday, March 22nd - Kiki Dee and Carmelo Luggeri. For over 25 years, Kiki and Carmelo have toured their spellbinding acoustic live show across the UK and Europe. Performing in this stripped back fashion allows each of their exceptional talents to shine through and create a wonderful and warm sense of intimacy for the audience. Tickets £22 (£24 door). **7.30pm** Start

A few to look forward to:

Leveret – **April 19th;**

Rant – **May 17th;**

John Tams – **October 12th;**

Bruce Molsky – **November 15th.**

Tickets for concerts are available by phoning **Glen Steward 01748 884989**, or visit www.reethmemorialhall.co.uk. Tickets are half-price for u16s. All concerts **8.00pm** unless otherwise stated.

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Sessions funded by Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust

Now is a great time to get down to the gym and join as a member or get going with your journey to healthy activity.

Warm and Well - **Mondays, 11.00am:** 45 minutes of health related exercise followed by a social hot drink and snack. This is a free class until the end of March.

The return of Soft Play - **Fridays, 1.30pm - 3.00pm:** Come down with your pre-school child (babies welcome) for social fun and play. £1 per family.

Free induction or 1-1 - With our gym instructor to get the most from sessions at the gym, tailored to your needs, this can be a free induction or continued 1-1 sessions (up to 4 sessions). Get in touch to book.

Couch to 5k - **Sundays, 7.00pm – 8.00pm.** Start your journey to running or re-start and join our running community. Get in touch to book. (£7 a time payable upfront).

Yoga classes with Michelle - **Tuesdays, 2.00pm – 3.00pm;** Costs are £8.50 pay as you go. Michelle is an advanced yoga teacher, teacher trainer and yoga therapist. Please contact her directly for more details at: yogamichelle@ymail.com.

Find it hard to get out in the darker months? Try gym membership or our morning Bootcamp or Millie's Classes. Booking is essential for all classes.

With Millie;

Move & Tone – **Wednesday (live) 7.00pm.** Aerobics session to music followed by core strength exercises for toning. (£7)

Circuits – **Sunday (live) 4.00pm.** High intensity workout. (£7)

Or try our High Intensity Bootcamp with Kirsten - **Tuesday and Thursday (live) 6.00am - 7.00am** - get that morning metabolism boost that lasts throughout the day.

Gym facility and membership - We have a number of gym memberships that allow you to use the gym and have a great workout to meet your needs. Come down to a well-equipped gym with a variety of kit to suit everyone's workout needs. There are several different gym membership packages including 6-month memberships; monthly pay as you go; couples, student, and junior memberships as well as guest day passes.

Soft Play - Remember we have a dedicated room which is available for hire - £5 per family for 2 hours or why not try our monthly subscription £15 unlimited use? For social, active play with your babies & pre-school child. Book and pay online.

Booking and enquiries can be made via our website www.yorebridgesportandleisure.co.uk or email admin@yorebridge-sport.co.uk or telephone **01969 650060**.

Our other classes are:

Fit for Life - **Mondays (zoom) 9.15am - 10.15am.** Building and Maintaining Strength to live life your way.

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

Strong and Able – **Fridays (live) 11.00am.** 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.

We also offer Conversational French – **Tuesdays (live) 9.30am - 10.45am.** Cost is £5 per session.



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**Come Along and Sing
Stainer's Crucifixion**

Conductor: Peter Stallworthy



Join with The Swale Singers for a 'Come and Sing Day' on **Saturday, March 23rd** in St Mary's Church Arkengarthdale.

Registration **10.00am** for a **10.30am** start. £20 per person which includes hire of the score and tea/coffee. Bring a packed lunch.

Concert performance at **4.00pm** open to the public. Donations in aid of choir funds. Contact: **Jackie Pope** on **07885 498676**.

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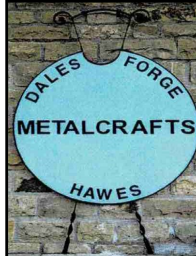
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Bluebox – March Update

Workshops and Regular Activities:

Get Musical Junior Jam Band - We will be running eight jam band sessions on **Friday evenings** in Leyburn from **4.30pm to 6.00pm**. The free sessions for children aged 6 to 11 years old will be led by Bee Darcey and Jennifer Sagers. Experience doesn't matter, come along, have fun, make new friends and play music together. Children who play an instrument are encouraged to bring them along. There will be instruments available to try as well. We are delighted to be working with AMP (formerly NYMAZ), a development charity connecting young people with sound opportunities across the region, supported by funding from Youth Music and Arts Council England.

Easter Activity Afternoon:

If you are looking for a fun-filled afternoon of activities during the Easter Holidays, then look no further. We are inviting primary school aged children to take part in an afternoon of themed crafts and games activities on **Tuesday, March 27th from 1.00pm - 4.00pm** at Thornborough Hall, Leyburn. Registration costs £15 per child which includes healthy snacks and Easter Egg Hunt. See website for full details.

Play, Record, Perform:

Our Youth Voice Steering group arranged their Christmas social in January with a trip to Teeside Park for bowling and pizza. For some participants, it was their first-time bowling and everyone had a great afternoon, so much so that we forgot to take any photos!

Sessions for young people aged 11 to 19 years old take place on **Sundays, 2.00pm - 5.00pm** at Thorlby Village Hall. See website for full details.

We are also welcoming new members to join:

Wensleydale Community Gospel Choir - **Mondays, 7.00pm to 8.30pm** (16yrs and over).

Leyburn Jazz Collective - **Tuesdays, 7.00pm to 9.30pm** (16yrs and over).

Fund-raising Events:

Our first Coffee Morning at Leyburn

Methodist Church Hall will be on **Friday, April 12th from 10.00am**. We look forward to welcoming you for a cuppa and a chat.

Spring Lunch: Join us in the Oak Room at Thornborough Hall for our Annual Spring Lunch on **Sunday, April 21st from 12.30pm**. Enjoy a two course Lunch (main and dessert), welcome drink and entertainment. Tickets £15 – early booking is advisable.

Remembering D-Day 80 years on: Join us for afternoon tea and a nostalgic wartime sing-along with guest vocalist Rebekah Austin on **Sunday, June 9th at 2.30pm** in Leyburn Methodist Church Hall. Tickets £15 – early booking is advisable.

Music competitions: We have our biggest number of entrants taking part in The Wensleydale Tournament of Song in March. This includes the Wensleydale Community Gospel Choir which will be the first time we have entered an adult class. We wish everyone taking part the best of luck! Next month, we will also be able to report on our progress in the District heat of the Rotary Club's National Young Musician competition.

Instrument exchange. We never quite know when the next donation of musical instruments or request for support will happen. Just before Christmas, Simon Eastwood got in touch from the Colburn Community Trust offering the gift of an electronic drum kit. This coincided with a request from a family of a young person who needed a short-term loan of instruments and record equipment over the Christmas break so



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they could record parts for their GCSE music compositions. Jump forward to January, and the day we collected the equipment, the drum kit was delivered to another family who had children taking lessons but no means to practise at home. Our team is happy to offer advice and support. If you have musical instruments you would like to donate, please contact us. We are also interested to hear from anyone who can give their time to help service and repair instruments.

We have some new faces joining the BlueBoxt team. Firstly, a welcome return to Jennifer Siggers as Event Coordinator working on fundraising and performance events. Secondly, welcome to Tony, Bee, Brendon and Will who join us as Freelance Creatives as part of our Raising Creative Aspirations project for 18 to 25 year olds backed by Youth Music, a national charity, thanks to the players of the People's Postcode Lottery. We held our first team meeting in January and look forward to sharing their achievements over the coming months.

To find out more or register your interest please contact **Colin Bailey** on **07711 21169** or email admin@blueboxt.org or visit www.blueboxt.org.



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Easter Fun in Bainbridge

Easter family fun morning with a coffee morning on **Saturday, March 30th** at Bainbridge Village Hall from **10.00am to 1.00pm**.

A fun-filled morning for all ages raising funds for Bainbridge Christmas Lights including

- Coffee morning with cakes
- Toy sale stall
- 'Decorate a boiled egg' competition
- Chocolate tombola
- Bottle stall
- Village Easter trail
- Name the Easter teddy
- How many biscuits in a jar

For more information visit our facebook page 'Bainbridge Christmas Lights -England'.

Wensleydale Tournament of Song

Come along and enjoy the wonderful talent in this year's Tournament.

Adult speech classes will take place on **Monday, March 11th** from **1.00pm to 9.00pm** and **Tuesday, March 12th** from **6.00pm to 9.00pm** at Leyburn Methodist Hall.

Junior speech classes are on **Tuesday, March 12th, 10.00am to 3.00pm** at the Methodist Hall, Leyburn.

Junior music classes are on **Tuesday, March 19th, 10.00am to 3.00pm** at the Methodist Hall, Leyburn and on **Wednesday, March 20th, 10.00am to 3.00pm** at Tennants Garden Rooms. The adult music classes will be held at Tennants Garden Rooms on **Wednesday, March 20th** between **6.00pm and 9.00pm**.

A full programme of events is available from Hewsons of Leyburn.

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C I N E M A		(£6, or £5 for 60+ / U14. Unless otherwise stated)
FRI 1 MAR	6pm	In the Valley of Elah (2007)
TUE 5 MAR	7pm	Past Lives (12A) 1h 45 (Exploring Film)
THU 7 MAR	7pm	Titanic: The Musical (Live Event) *£12
FRI 8 MAR	6pm	One Life (12A) 1h 50
FRI 15 MAR	6pm	Driving Madeleine (15) 1h 31
THU 21 MAR	7pm	The Motive and the Cue (Live Event) *12
FRI 22 MAR	6pm	The Lesson (15) 1h 43
THU 28 MAR	7pm	Painting the Modern Garden (Exhibition) *£12
TUE 2 APR	7pm	Six Inches of Soil (Exploring Film) *£8 (Includes a local sausage buttie! Local interest documentary plus Q&A session)

OTHER EVENTS & NEWS (*Half price entry for our volunteers)

SAT 2 MAR	7:30pm	Evening with Liffy (Live Music) *£8
SAT 23 MAR	7:30pm	Gaelforce (Live Music) *£12

Please book events in advance if possible. Call us Mon-Fri 1-4pm



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

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by the late Alan S. Watkinson**