

Upper Wensleydale Newsletter

Issue 144—February 2009

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**Newsletters on the Web, 2003-07 simply enter
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Janet W. Thomson,

Editorial

It is just 60 years since the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act was passed, and more of that later. But for those who are too young, or have forgotten, it might be worth looking at the changes in those 60 years.

It's AMAZING. 1949: no TV (except a few sets in London), computers not really invented, newspapers about 8 pages with hardly any (black and white) pictures, food rationed, 'Victorian' hospitals, central heating almost unheard of, very few cars, contact with overseas places awful – test match coverage on the radio from Australia so bad to hear it had to be taken off air, and holidays, hardly any abroad and for most people one week or maybe two, if at all.

Consider the speed of change. We won't give a long list but suffice it to say "Modern Technology- staggering!" Medical and industrial processes almost mind-blowingly complex. Look at the amount and speed of transfer of information around the world; emails and texts. Replies and decisions, even on major issues, can be immediate – and therefore sometimes ill-considered or advised.

It is often said we are living in the most dramatic time for the country since the Industrial Revolution. Then it was the rapid movement of hundreds of thousands of people leaving settled, slower-living communities and flocking to the factories and mills – chaos, filth, sewage, disease... but money. It took a long time to re-adjust to this upheaval. Fortunately in the end there was great progress in science, health and housing.

Today's speed means that any 'crisis', credit or otherwise, gets fast, furious treatment in the media; huge newspapers with screaming headlines accompanied by scary diagrams. Bad news from anywhere is immediately on our screens from

'rolling/breaking news' as they become obsessed with only one topic and 'do it to death'. Is this the balanced news we ought to be getting? Or calling it 'news' before it's happened, when it is speculation?

'Pundits' with their own 'blogs' and websites sound off their "Worst since 19- whatever"; it might be easy for them to be superb doom-mongers; they are probably personally secure. Do they really feel it? What benefit does anyone gain from such prophecy? Where are, instead, the new ideas, the well thought out careful planning, or for that matter a bit of 1949 'stiff upper lip' or 'we'll get through'. A bit of student agitation or 'fire-in-the-belly preaching' about our modern madness wouldn't come amiss!

Which brings us back to the National Parks, set up progressively after the 1949 act. Isn't it in these frenetic times that, more than ever, people need the solace, the space, the ministry of the natural world and the landscape, the reminder that trees and flowers, birds and animals know not of financial panic, and we've so much to learn from them. So while National Parks in this country (coming later than in others) might have their peculiar issues and tensions, they are the blessing we need to save us from our obsessions and our recklessly speeding-up existence.



Eunice

I was hiding in the Wensleydale Electrical and Plumbing advert last month.

Winner: **Jenny Armstrong, Leeds.**

Where am I now?

Newsletters by post

Please note it is time to renew! Subscriptions due are: £8.00 for UK and £15 overseas. Please send the payments as soon as possible to the treasurer, Janet Thomson, Stone House, Thornton Rust, Leyburn DL8 3AW.

Please let us know if you wish us to delete your name.

Brief information

We have been asked if we can find room to advertise two concerts in the Reeth Village Hall; Fridays February 13th and 27th both at 8.00pm. For full details and for tickets phone John Little **01748 884759**

**Next issue
will be produced on February 25th
and 26th and will be distributed
between
February 26th and March 2nd
DEADLINE FOR COPY:
THURSDAY February 19th**

Valentine's Night Disco

Saturday February 14th for 18s+

At the Falls

(Formerly Falls Motel/Country Club)

9.00pm to 1.00am

£5.00 admission before 10.30pm

£10.00 after.

Food served in the bar lounge

663399

Drop-off points and contacts

for news, articles, reports, letters, what's on dates, competition entries, suggestions and comments:

Hawes:	Alan S. Watkinson, Old Station House.	667785
Gayle:	Lorna Ward, East House	667405
Bainbridge:	Hammond's Butchers 650631	
Askrigg:	Rima Berry, 8 Mill Lane.	650980
Carperby:	Margaret Woodcock, Bella Cottage	663488
West Burton:	Nadine Bell, Margaret's Cottage	663559
Newbiggin:	Lynda Bayne, Meadow Barn	663324
Aysgarth:	Kitty's Tearoom	663423
Redmire:	Ann Holubecki	622967
Thoralby:	Sandra Foley, Post Office	663205

Competition

Look to the west!

Here are twelve well known places at the western end of the Dales

1. Would you hear the real boom of a train here?
2. Musical notes made by car's part?
3. Rotten has it!
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!

Answers to the Christmas Missing Links

1. Merry **Christmas** pudding
2. While **shepherds** pie
3. Yule **log** jam
4. Carol **singing** kettle
5. Wise **Men** dips
6. Virgin **Mary** port
7. Virgin **Atlantic** ocean
8. Mistle **toe** cap
9. Sea **holly** berry
10. Santa **claus** trophobia
11. Christmas **card** inal
12. Mince **pie** chart
13. Lam **beth** lehem
14. Christmas **present** tense
15. Cherub **im** ply
16. Christmas **stocking** feet
17. Part **ridge** tiles
18. Shadow **boxing** day

No solutions sent in were exactly as these!

Right Royal Air Guitar Playing!

Hawes is set to be rocked on **Saturday, February 7th** when top Queen tribute band 'Mercury' bring their highly acclaimed and hugely popular show to The Market House.

Billed as the "best Queen show ever", after nearly a decade of touring, 'Mercury' is now established as one of the world's most authentic tributes to the legendary Freddie Mercury and Queen.

With a dynamic stage show that fully emulates the true charismatic appeal of rock's most flamboyant front man backed up by superbly crafted harmonies and intricate guitar work, the show faithfully and accurately recreates the distinctive Queen experience.

The show has built up a loyal and enthusiastic following locally having played to repeatedly packed audiences in Masham and Richmond, and now it's the turn of Hawes to experience its full exhilarating feelgood effect.

The show starts at **8.00pm, with doors and the bar opening at 7.15pm** and to allow air guitar playing and as many people as possible to be there, it will be a standing room only concert. Tickets in advance are: £13 adults and £10 under16s, and on the door are: £15 adults and £12 under 16s and available from the Dales Countryside Museum, Hawes **666210** and Leyburn Tourist Information Centre (**01748 828747**)

Still not got an NHS Dentist?

There have been many mixed messages over the last few months about the provision (or not) of NHS dentistry in our area. It would appear that there is still provision available at Alpha Dental Practice at Catterick Garrison, where quite a number of Dales people are now registered. The address is 16B, Hildyard Row, in the small parade of shops opposite

the Military Hospital. It is upstairs.

The practice is small and very busy and you will need to register. To obtain an appointment phone **01748 832802**.

In case of emergency after 6.00pm on Fridays to cover the weekend and bank holidays, ring **0845 6003249**.

Upper Dales Family History Group

There will be another drop-in Computer Club at Hudson House Reeth, on **Saturday 7th February, 1.00-4.00pm.**

Find out how to trace your family tree using the internet. No need to book - stay as long as you like, only £1 per hour. Members of the group will be on hand to help you get started or get further with your research.

As usual there is no meeting in January. Meetings recommence on **Wednesday February 25th at 2pm** in the Key Centre, Middleham, when Tony Keates will speak about "Anastasia and Henry Armitt – Adventures in Irish and Military Family History". Non members very welcome, £1.00. On Saturday, February 7th, there will be a Computer Club in Hudson House, Reeth, 1-5.00pm, for anyone who would like to get started with researching their family on the internet or would like some help to get further. No need to book, £1 per hour, stay as long as you like.

For details of all meetings see the group website at www.upperdalesfhg.org.uk or contact **John Harland (01748) 823263.**

Tracy Little

Weight Watchers has changed!

Weight Watchers introduces the new “Discover Plan”.

There is a meeting in Gayle that has been running since September 2008 and all of the members there have lost weight and look and feel fantastic. I am very proud of each one of them.

Now, Weight Watchers is pleased to introduce their new plan for the New Year – **The Discover Plan.**

It is one simple healthy eating plan that recognises real life situations and provides a proven framework within which to lose weight healthily. The Discover Plan is based on control and choice of foods and satisfaction so that feeling hungry is a thing of the past. We can help you to control your hunger with healthy eating.

I am the Weight Watchers Leader in Hawes and I am thoroughly enjoying helping members on their weight loss journeys. They are not just my members but have become my friends too. I have been following the Discover Plan and it really works. I have lost 14 lbs with this plan and the new recipes are so delicious. There are no more hunger pangs which also reduces those sugar cravings.

I would love to meet anyone who wants to lose weight successfully so please come along and see how The Discover Plan can also work for you. Meeting held at: Gayle Institute, **Wednesdays at 6.00pm**

Ruth Botcherby (Leader) 07828 920454

Police Report

Hello again. I hope you had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and like me are recovering from the festivities.

Is it just the post Christmas blues or are the good times well and truly over? The National news is full of doom and gloom. The country is in a financial mess with the credit crunch, which must now be affecting most, if not all of us. The politicians are even beginning to realise it and have run out of spin! Christmas has been and gone for another year, so we are even more out of pocket. And to cap it all Woolworths is no more!

Locally, after 18 months of falling crime rates it appears our good times are also at an end. Criminals have been turning up left, right and centre and leaving with our property. As many of you will know QUAD BIKES have been heavily targeted and, since the beginning of November, 14 have gone from Wensleydale and Swaledale. The majority of these have disappeared in the last 3 to 4 weeks, mainly from Bishopdale, mid and lower Wensleydale areas.

STOP PRESS – since writing the above, Upper Wensleydale has been hit at Thornton Rust a farmer losing a Quad and a trials motorcycle – timing between 9.00 and 10.00pm

These machines are an integral part of farm machinery (also used by other businesses within the dales), so the loss of the machine I know is very distressing to the owners. I also share their anger and frustration regarding these thefts. We are doing all we can patrolling the area heavily at relevant times, however the offenders are either very clued up, very lucky or both, as they seem to be coming into the dale and leaving without us or any witness seeing them. There is a lot of effort being

put in from an investigative point of view to trace and apprehend those responsible.

YOUR HELP IS VITAL. Remember if you see anything suspicious PLEASE let us know about it IMMEDIATELY, **(0845 60 60 247** non-emergency or 999 if crime in progress) because if you give the criminals a half hour head start then they (and their booty whether it be a quad or whatever) might be safely back in their lock-ups 30 – 40 miles away by the time we get that information.

Just for your information the methods of taking the quads varies. Sometimes they are ridden away from the premises over quite some distance. One stolen from Swinithwaite was lost on the outskirts of Bradford. Others are suspected to have been ridden to the Darlington area. However some are loaded straight into vans, and it is also known that some are hidden up a matter of a few miles from where they were stolen for collection over the next day or two. Most of the thefts have been committed during the hours of darkness. Offenders have manhandled the machines over and around tractors, which have been parked hard against the machine in barns which shows how determined the criminals are. Dutch barns, cattle barns and buildings of that sort are not secure buildings, so leaving a quad in there with or without the keys is no deterrent. Please don't leave the keys hung up nearby to where the quad is parked. Ideally, the quad needs to be in some form of secure lock-up preferably with its own separate noisy alarm, so it attracts your attention as well as scaring off the potential thief. However locked buildings in the middle of nowhere are also being attacked to take quads, so try and keep them close to home when not in use. I appreciate this is easier said than done. If you make the effort then you lessen the chance of becoming a victim.

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A security company was showing off its products at a Countrywatch meeting on 12th January and they manufacture anchor points retailing between £50 and £90 each which are "sold secure" and state they are resistant to oxy acetylene, angle grinders saws, bolt croppers and together with a chain which must be made from similar materials, I think it was around the £100 mark, and should give some peace of mind.

Oil thefts (diesel and heating oil) are still taking place even though the price has dropped dramatically, so if you have large quantities in tanks please make regular checks – at least weekly – as it may be several months before you realise that something is amiss. Metal thefts – mainly

lead are still occurring so my Durham colleagues inform me – Barnard Castle area has had two such thefts from churches since Christmas.

Daleswatch patrols exist in both Upper Wensleydale and Swaledale. These are members of the community, who were fed up with criminals coming in and helping themselves, so set up mobile Neighbourhood Watch. Being locals they know the local vehicles/people, and so are able to report to the police vehicles and occupants that are out of place. If you are interested in joining please get in touch and we can put you in touch with the relevant group. If you live in Bishopdale, the Mid Wensleydale (Carperby, Redmire West Witton, Wensley areas) or Lower Wensleydale and want to set up a group then give us a call (or e-mail or letter) and we will gladly assist.

Many thanks

Andy Foster PC826
Leyburn Safer Neighbourhood Team
Safer Neighbourhood Police Officer for
Upper Wensleydale
0845 60 60 247 ext 4570

Andrew.Foster@northyorkshire.pnn.police.uk

Wensleydale Writers Group

Wensleydale Writers are a group of writers from all over the dale who meet once a month in Leyburn.

The Hiring Fair by Bob Ellis

Liam and Deirdre entered Hawes from the turnpike road, having walked from Ulverston where they had heard that Hawes might be a good place to find work for the summer. Two days it had taken them and two damp nights in draughty barns. A breakfast of stale bread and cheese had been eaten in despondent silence as they walked the last mile into the little town, the morning light making little headway against the glowering clouds and sheeting rain.

Their first impressions of Hawes Fair were less than encouraging. There was a bustle of activity, but the faces of the men and women were as impassive as the stone facades of the houses on either side of the street, and their speech was so sparing that Liam wondered, with a wry inward smile, whether the young queen's government had put a tax on it. Even those selling cheese, butter, eggs, rabbits and other produce did not cry their wares, but waited stoically for customers.

Walking over to the hiring area in front of Ashton's Temperance Hotel, Deirdre wondered: "Do you think these people ever have any fun? They look as though they were born miserable."

Liam hid his real feelings and replied: "Sure, it's been a long hard winter and everyone's feeling a bit down – and this damned weather doesn't help! But I dare say they're lively enough folk when the sun is shining and their bellies are full." There were more than twenty other young men and women there for the hiring, mostly dalesfolk but a couple from Lancashire and four others from Ireland, whose presence reminded Liam how much he missed Sliabh Luachra. But there was

nothing left for them there since the Famine had taken their parents and little Roisin.

The first to be hired were the fitter and stronger young men. Before offering terms, shrewd farmers appraised them as though they were livestock - which, in a sense, they were. There was little haggling; times were too hard for that; you took what you could get. One wanted to hire Liam, but, on discovering that Liam would not be parted from Deirdre, he hired a lad from Donegal instead.

By mid-morning the rain had stopped and the main interest had switched to the girls. Sharp-eyed farmers' wives inspected and prodded while quizzing them about their domestic and farming skills. A few showed interest in Deirdre but they had no use for Liam so nothing came of it. A red-headed farmer offered terms to Deirdre after pawing her to an extent that Liam found hard to tolerate in silence. The farmer offered to take them both, but they refused, knowing only too well what work he had in mind for Deirdre.

Gradually the numbers thinned until by mid-afternoon there were just Liam, Deirdre and a local girl with a vacant stare, whose mother came to collect her a little later. She sobbed quietly as her mother led her away with soothing words.

A packman, who had been selling cloth nearby and was loading his wares on to a pair of mules before leaving, called over to them: "Thou'll not get a hiring now. Tha might try Askrigg on Thursday." All very well, thought Liam, but where will we find food until then?

Faith, Hope and Love

You are warmly invited to join us in sharing this year's **York Course**, a Lent programme with refreshments for everyone in Penn Hill benefice from 7.30pm to 9.00pm in West Witton Village Hall. Speakers include Bishop Tom Wright, Anne Atkins, Abbot Christopher Jamison and Frances Young (via the CD!).

3rd February Believing and Trusting
17th February The Peace of God
3rd March Faith into Love
17th March The Greatest of These
31st March All shall be well

Further details and course booklets are available from Graham Dear (623960) and John Webster (622491) or as you attend. Please, come for as many of these Tuesday evenings as you are able.

Eng-AGE with us!

**Are you over 50 and living in the
Hawes area?**

There is an opportunity to access advice, assistance and activities to live healthily and happily.

**Tuesday March 24th
10.00am to 1.00pm
Fountain Hotel.**

Free refreshments.

These are some organisations likely to be there:

Age Concern, Richmondshire Senior Forum, Richmond CVS, Community Service Partnership, The Pension Service, Trading Standards, Library Service, County Records Office, H and R Carers Centre, Ageworks Guidance Service and JR Hopper and Co.



**It's not WHERE this is, which is not too hard, but WHAT it is.
Last month's picture was of the bonny Aisgill Force south of Gayle.
Martin Empsall, Helm, emailed in first, and Thomas Chapman, West Shaw Farm, Gayle,
ought to know; he writes " I have lived all my life within a few hundred yards of it!"**

A grand table-top sale

Saturday 21st February 9.30am-2.00pm
(Open for sellers from 8.30am)
Carperby Village Institute

NEW & NEARLY NEW items!
Cake stall, Tombola and children's games.
Soup/rolls, tea, biscuits cakes will be served

**Tables are £10.00 if pre-booked
or £12.50 on the day**
(subject to availability)

(Church groups no charge)

FUN FOR ALL!

Entry: £1 (children 50p)
(For St.Andrew's Church Funds)

**We would like cakes for the cake stall. If
you have anything you would like to do-
nate please contact 663368 or 663097**

Pie and Pea Night

Friday 13th February at the Wensleydale
Creamery at 7.30pm
Pie, Peas and Puddings plus quiz, Raffle, Silent
Auction and Bar

Tickets £10 from The Old Sweet Shop, The
Creamery Visitor Centre or call **650750 or 650240**
In aid of Wensleydale School's trip to the
Amala Children's Home, India

Monies raised for Charity over Christmas

West Burton Chapel for Action for Children.	£ 249
Joint Toy service, Hawes Methodist Church, for Salvation Army	220
Carols by Candlelight, Hawes Methodist Church for Save the Children Fund	215
Gayle Chapel for Air Ambulance, And for Cancer Care	90 90
Young Voices for 'Pudsey'	602
Bolton cum Redmire churches for St George's Crypt	460
West Witton for Children's Society	127
Charity concert, Hawes Market Hall for Marie Curie Cancer Care	1817
St Andrew's for St George's Crypt	615
Thornton Rust carols for St George's Crypt	38
Aysgarth Methodist Church for Children in Distress and Children in Need	160
Hardraw Church for Stop2night	100
Stalling Busk Church for Children's Society	83
St Oswald's Askrigg for Children's Society	198
Thornton Rust for Motor Neurone Disease	112

These figures are good to see. However, for the record, many of them are less than for similar events last year.

Wensleydale Railway

Following a busy Christmas period on the Wensleydale Railway, with Santa Specials and Guided Walks, Operation Spring Clean began on January 5th. *Also Driver Experience Days can be booked for some dates between now and April 1st, when scheduled train services start again.*

Meanwhile the marketing group is busy planning special events that will bring passengers to Leyburn and onwards up the dale to Redmire with connections provided

by Fosters Coaches of Redmire. For Information: www.wensleydalerailway.com

Space, the final frontier..."

The children have "launched" themselves with great gusto into this term's whole school topic, "Space". I asked our 8 year old daughter for 3 amazing facts about Space: "Pluto is a dwarf planet, Mercury is the Messenger of Gods and Neptune is the God of the Sea and Underworld!" 'Star Dome' is bringing an inflatable planetarium which will fill the school hall! I'm sure we will have lots of budding astronauts, astronomers and astrophysicists after the children have been able to view the universe they live in!

Drums Agogo visit Bainbridge

This Friday the school will be pulsing to the beat of djembe and djundjun African drums! The children, from Nursery upwards will be participating in workshops as they learn to play these very special hand drums and then perform the new rhythms they have learnt. We're all looking forward to this event very much!

Swimming at Catterick

Once again Years 1 – 6 are trawling up and down the Dale to Catterick swimming pool. Living as far as we do from the pools makes this part of the curriculum even more important but also challenging. We thought it may cost as much as £40 per child this year but we had reckoned without the terrier tenacity of Lindsey McIntyre! Lindsey has secured funding from the Millennium Fund, Bainbridge Parish Council and a massive £300 from Councillor John Blackie's County Councillor Upper Dales Small Project Fund. We are extremely grateful to them all.

Bags2School

We collected over 700kgs of filled bags bringing in a commission of £219 for PFA funds. Thank you very much to everyone who filled a bag or 2! The PFA supports projects from Nursery upwards.

And finally....Top Fashion Brands come to Bainbridge!

Look out for posters advertising a Fashion Show to be held at Sycamore Hall in Bainbridge on the evening of Thursday 12th March! Top name brands will be paraded including Gap and Bench to name but a few! **Emma Arblaster, Parent Governor**

1st Hawes Brownies

22 Brownies and leaders spent a lovely day in York recently. We travelled by coach with other Brownies from Leyburn and visited the Railway Museum where we had packed lunch. We then walked to the Theatre Royal where we had a great time at the Pantomime Dick Turpin. A really lovely day was had by all. This term we are working on the Healthy Heart badge. Two new Brownies will be making their Promise on 10th February and we will be celebrating Thinking Day on 22nd February with Leyburn District.

Linda Reynolds

Changes to farm payments

Changes to the way hill farmers are paid for helping to look after the country's uplands have been welcomed by the National Park Authority.

Authority chairman Kevin Lancaster said he was pleased Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Hilary Benn and his officials had taken notice of the views of the people at the forefront of protecting the countryside. The £31million Upland Entry Level Stewardship scheme replaces the hill farm allowance that was paid to upland farmers.

It aims to ensure that farmers are supported and rewarded in their efforts to maintain England's historic upland landscapes – including their drystone walls and hedge banks.

Mr Lancaster said: "As a farmer myself, I welcome the changes introduced compared with earlier proposals for the scheme. I am pleased that ministers have responded to points made by farmers, their representatives and National Park Authorities including our Farm and Countryside Officer Adrian Shepherd, the Authority's Deputy Chairman Harold Brown and myself.

The 2009 Wensleydale Chorus programme will be:

Requiem - Mozart; Magnificat - Rutter

Concerts will be 11th July 2009 and 18th July 2009 - venues will be confirmed shortly. Rehearsals will begin on 6th May 2009 at 7.30pm in Leyburn Methodist Schoolrooms and will finish at 9.00pm on this evening so that we can all have a cuppa and a chat!

Two Saturday rehearsals will be 6th June - venue to be arranged and 27th June - Leyburn Methodist Schoolrooms - times to be 10.00am to 1.00pm but these will be confirmed in the Spring.

Fancy joining us? We have our rehearsal and then finish in time to have a tea or coffee and catch up with old friends (some we don't see from one year to the next) or to welcome and make friends with new faces. If you are new to the area or just fancy joining in then please get in touch - you will be warmly welcomed (especially if you sing Tenor!).

Julie Greenslade 663731

Celebrating the Voluntary Arts

A new website has been launched www.celebratenorthyorkshire.org, just one part of an exciting new project supporting voluntary and amateur arts groups across North Yorkshire. Voluntary arts covers the wide range of activities undertaken by people in their leisure time and groups include all art forms from painting and crafts, to music and drama, photography and film making.

**Yoredale Natural History Society
Members' evening in December.**

About 30 members braved the weather and at the Leyburn Methodist Hall were fascinated by three local members who gave illustrated talks.

Sophie Benaiges updated us on recent developments at Foxglove Covert. The mature Sitka Spruce shelter belt is very damaged by recent storms, and is being replaced by phased felling and new planting 70% native trees: 30% non-natives, a balance to encourage Red Squirrel instead of Grays. A new 2Ha wetland area with 2.5k water's edge is in an advanced stage of construction, conserving existing quality ponds and bogs. A third release of Water Vole have joined the already thriving population, after the elimination of this species by Mink about 5 years ago. Lots of volunteer work on Tuesdays enhances the reserve, and increases its educational content.

Deborah Millward led us through the intricacies of the Raydale Project, a vigorous community project in the River Bain's catchment, spawned originally by the Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust charity. A community project in the broadest sense, plans include much to conserve and enhance the natural history and ecology of this special area. She led us with familiar ease through the pathways of obtaining grant aid, and heartened us by her accounts of the way that the 320 people in the area are embracing it.

This year Len Shepherd took his cameras to SW Texas and shot over 2000 pictures. Maybe he only showed us his best, but we were spellbound by their excellence. Waiting patiently for hours, and in extreme heat, seemed to be the recipe for success. We were rewarded by wonderful shots of birds as they came to pools to drink in a 40-year drought stricken area, including the much caricatured but camera-shy Greater

Road-runner, flowers, cacti, snakes and invertebrates.

Of course, a high-light was the buffet that members brought and shared, though we couldn't eat it all!

Robert Hall, Chairman

Please note:

On the fourth Sunday of each month the Methodist church service in Bainbridge takes place in the lounge at **Sycamore Hall** and not in the chapel.

Richard Ross

In his Office/workroom overlooking the rushing waters of the Beck, in Hawes, Richard said it was the peace and quiet of Hawes that had always attracted him. When at University in Leeds, he came to the Dales on walking trips and developed a fondness for the area.

"As well as which", he added, "I've got everything within easy reach here, for my business, Post Office, Internet...and I can almost see the telephone exchange from here!"

Richard moved to Mill Foss in 2006, from not a huge distance away, Burtersett, where he had lived for four years or so. After University, he moved 'down South' for a while working in Electronic Engineering, which is his skill, (as well as photography!) He has built up, with a partner, a thriving cottage industry based on their invention of an electronic 'darkroom timer' and he makes them and sells them all round the globe.

"I haven't cornered the market in Antarctica...yet!" he joked. Richard seems very settled in his home, overlooking the flowing waters, and what with his 'cottage industry' and his landscape photography he's going to need all that 'peace and quiet' to put all his plans into action.

His artist sister, Carol Tyler, has moved in next door. An article on Carol will be coming soon in the Newsletter. **S.H.**

Greenfield Forest declared England's newest Red Squirrel Reserve

The first red squirrel reserve to be established in England since 2005 has been designated at Greenfield Forest.

UPM Tilhill, which manages the forest at Langstrothdale, will work alongside Red Alert North England partners including the National Park Authority, the Forestry Commission and the Save Our Squirrels

project to implement new management guidelines for the reserve.

At over 1000 hectares, Greenfield will become the largest area of potentially suitable red squirrel habitat in the Yorkshire Dales. Volunteers from the National Park Authority have already confirmed the presence of reds at Greenfield which coincides with the maturing of the site's coniferous trees, now seeding and providing a vital food source for the species.

The appearance of red squirrels in Greenfield was first confirmed in 2004. This new reserve follows on from the creation of reserves and associated buffer zones in Garsdale, Mallerstang and Widdale and will ensure red squirrels can continue to flourish in the Yorkshire Dales at a time when smaller woodlands at the nearby Widdale red squirrel reserve approach felling age.

Coniferous woodland, particularly spruce forests, can provide a safe haven for red squirrels as the habitat is not favoured by greys. The seed size is small and better suited to the smaller red squirrel. UPM Tilhill will now apply to the Forestry Commission for grant aid under the English Woodland Grant Scheme (EWGS) to help implement and fund the management of the reserve to give the red squirrel population the best possible chance of expansion and survival.

Verging on the beautiful

Residents are being asked to help look after the hundreds of miles of roadside verges in the Dales National Park.

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, the National Park Authority, North Yorkshire County Council and the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty are working in partnership to improve the management of the road verges across the Dales, and they are hoping to recruit groups of people to adopt stretches near their homes.

Verges in the Dales are very species-rich and provide a natural display from spring to late summer with a beautiful array of colours from bright yellow primroses to the spectacular blue of meadow cranesbill, and the project is working to look after them by improving the way they are cut, preventing physical damage and by removing clippings that reduce nutrients, so allowing flowering plants to compete with grasses.

Local residents are urged to get involved by caring for their verges and making sure they become even better for wildlife. So, if you are thinking how best to manage the verges in your parish why not get in touch?

If you know of a good wildflower verge and would like to help the project to look after it, please contact **James Ferguson** on **01756 751603**, or roadverges@ywt.org.uk.

W.I. Open meeting

Red squirrel conservation

This will be held in Thoraby village hall on **Tuesday February 17th at 8.00pm** by the YDNPA. The evening costs £3.00 and includes a light supper.

Hawes

Leukaemia Research

A total of £1980 was raised for Leukaemia Research at a Sunday lunch and raffle held at Stone House Hotel in December.

Donations received since have pushed the total to **£2050**. The organisers wish to thank everyone who helped to make the day such a resounding success.



Heavens above

Venus continues to put on a terrific show this month, shining like a beacon low in the southwest after sunset.

It's gradually getting closer (and brighter) and by the end of the month good, steadily held 10x50 binoculars might just show you its tiny but distinct crescent. On the evening of the 27th the much more conspicuous crescent of the waxing moon lies 3.5 degrees SW of the planet.

February is your last chance to get a really good early evening view of Orion and the other bright winter constellations before they make way for the springtime stars. Orion's distinctive oblong shape dominates the southern sky as darkness falls, with bright red Betelgeuse marking his NW shoulder, and a sloping line of 3 stars forming his Belt. See if you can spot the hazy patch of his 'Sword' - the great Orion Nebula - just below the middle star of the Belt.

Following the line of the Belt upwards leads you to reddish Aldebaran and the Hyades and Pleiades star clusters; downwards takes you to Orion's faithful hound, Sirius the Dog Star - easily the brightest in the sky. Procyon, his other 'dog', lies higher up, roughly half way between Sirius and the not quite identical Heavenly Twins, Castor and Pollux. Another clump of stars, the beautiful Beehive cluster, lies to the east of Procyon in the constellation of Cancer The Crab. Binoculars show it up very well.

Over in the sky's northern sector, low on the horizon and sometimes lost in the wintery haze, is a brilliant blue-white star, Vega, in the constellation of The Lyre. The familiar shape of The Plough stands on its handle in the NE, whilst high in the NW the 'W' of Cassiopeia is prominent. Higher still, almost overhead, is Capella, the bright yellow leader of Auriga, the Charioteer.

The winter Milky Way runs up through Auriga - a beautiful sight on a dark, moonless night. Have clear skies!

Al Bireo

Don't forget 2009 is the International Year of Astronomy marking the 400th anniversary of Galileo's pioneering use of the telescope. For more information visit www.astronomy2009.co.uk.

New lease of life for 'green lane'

The rutted, ankle-twisting 'green lane' west of Hawes is open for business again after being transformed by the National Park. The route at Cotter End - known locally as The Highway or the Lady Anne's Way - is now restricted to walkers, horse riders and mountain bikers.

As a 'Byway Open to all Traffic', it had been used a lot by off-road motor vehicles - mainly motorbikes - and it was in a terrible condition, with ruts across its width, some almost waist deep. The condition was made worse by poor drainage. It was dangerous for horses and there were complaints from walkers because you could easily twist your ankle.

There is now a Traffic Regulation Order, which means recreational motor vehicles are banned from it. Landowner Sandra Facer said: "The work by the National Park Authority has transformed it completely. It's a huge improvement on what it was a year ago and the TRO will mean it should stay in this condition for a long time."

Raydale Project

2009 will be a very busy year for the Project as plans begin to materialise into actions. The response from farmers and landowners to the request for environmental work on their land has been tremendous. It is quite clear how proud they are of their dale and especially the lake and I think we can all empathise with that. So it should not really be a surprise that, with just a little help, they can agree a plan to safeguard the lake and its catchment. Nevertheless we are extremely grateful for their cooperation, without it, this important aspect of the project would be dead in the proverbial water.

The sustainable tourism working group are putting together a map of Raydale, highlighting the attractions and facilities in the dale. **If you run a business, particularly a tourist dependent business, in Bainbridge, Countersett, Marsett or Stalling Busk and would like details of that business recorded on the map please contact John Warren on 650704.** The group are also working with the producer of several booklets on particular "classic" walks to see if the walk around Semerwater could be added to the series. This would give visitors a much more informed experience of their day in the dale.

Finally it is good to report that Bainbridge Parish Council are to contribute to the project by installing a seat in the old churchyard at Stalling Busk. It will use an old fashioned cast iron framework which will be refurbished with new timberwork. So if you are tiring on your walk around Semerwater here will be a peaceful place to rest amongst those more permanently resting at peace.

**Deborah Millward
Project Leader**

Yorkshire Dales Housing Development Plan Call for Housing Sites

The National Park Authority is inviting landowners to submit expressions of interest in releasing land for house building. The purpose is to help reduce the local shortfall of affordable housing.

Each submitted site will be evaluated and the most suitable will be short listed for allocation in the Yorkshire Dales Housing Development Plan. Allocation will be tantamount to the grant of outline planning permission with development expected to take place over the next 15 years. Public consultation throughout the process will be a factor in influencing the sites selected.

The Authority expects 50% of each site to be developed by housing that is affordable to local households. This will be delivered through partnership with a housing association or some other mechanism that will secure its affordability in perpetuity. The remaining 50% will not have to be affordable but will still be restricted to occupancy by households that need to live inside the National Park. The Authority does not anticipate permitting any new wholly unrestricted open market housing.

The Authority will be looking for sites that are located within or on the edge of a town or village and which are large enough to accommodate at least 2 homes. Sites will also need to meet a number of other planning requirements such as impact on the surrounding landscape, safe highway access, and availability of essential services.

If you think you have a suitable site for consideration please go to the Authority's website for submission details www.yorkshiredales.org.uk

Please note that submissions cannot be treated confidentially as the Authority will be inviting public comment on all sites

received. Submitting a site will not constitute a formal commitment by a landowner to sell or release land.

It will be more difficult to suggest sites for consideration later in the process, so please make use of this opportunity to submit your expression of interest to:

Peter Stockton, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, Yoredale, Bainbridge, Leyburn, DL8 3EL

Or email:

peter.stockton@yorkshiredales.org.uk

before noon Friday 27th February 2009.

Gurkhas in Yorkshire

Many of us will have seen small groups of smartly dressed young Asian men in Richmond or Catterick, usually looking like schoolboys in blue blazers or grey sweaters. More than likely these are Gurkha recruits. They are here in Catterick to train as soldiers in the British Army.

Gurkhas come from Nepal. Two hundred years ago they were actually fighting against the British. The Brits were so impressed by their fighting skills that they recruited them into the British Army in 1815 and they have been there ever since.

Every year some 25000 young men in Nepal apply to join. They have to be between 18 and 21. They are initially tested in their local area until fewer than a thousand are sent for central selection at Pokhara, Nepal's second city. From there only 300 are chosen, of whom 230 come to the UK and the rest join the Singapore police.

So, for a young aspirant soldier there is only a one in a hundred chance of succeeding. That means we get the crème de la crème of Nepalese youth, in excellent health, superbly fit and strong, well educated and determined. They make some of the best soldiers in the British Army and their reputation for fearsome bravery is well deserved.

The 230 recruits come to England in January every year. This can be something of a culture shock as few of them have ever been out of Nepal; not just the cold and the short days but also our sophisticated infrastructure and facilities. Some of them come from really remote areas with no roads or traffic. They begin their 39 week training course with basic drill and familiarisation. After two or three months they do an English course. One of the requirements for selection is a fair grasp of

English. Nevertheless, they still need more practice and have to pass a standard NATO exam. My wife, Liz, and I both do a nine-week course with them. They are willing learners, a delight to teach, with a

standard of discipline and politeness that would be the envy of most teachers.

We are both keen walkers so last autumn we went trekking in Nepal. We visited the British Gurkha Camp in Pokhara, which is like something out of the colonial past, an oasis in a third world city. We had decided to do the Annapurna Circuit and Sanctuary trek. This is often done by trekking companies in about three weeks but we were independent so we gave ourselves nearly five weeks on trek: plenty of time to acclimatise to the 17,700 foot high pass and to meet local people as well as trekkers from over twenty countries. It was a wonderful experience and it gave us some insight into the lifestyles of the recruits we teach. We used to think places like Stalling Busk or Snaizeholme were remote but when we came across villages which were eight days' walk from the nearest road transport it really altered our perception. Everything is carried in by mule or manpower. Sometimes we were walking alongside the mules carrying our evening meal at the next lodge. Their washing was all done by hand in the stream; ploughing was a single wooden blade pulled by two oxen. The standard of living is very low but so is the cost. A typical night's B&B is about £3 per person.

Towards the end of our trek we met some of our Gurkhas, an unexpected surprise. They were mature soldiers, mostly NCOs in Signals. When recruits pass out at Catterick in the autumn they either join the Rifle Regiments (infantry) or one of the core units: Logistics, Engineers or Signals. (The cap badge for Signals is the winged messenger, Mercury, and the Mercury Bridge in Richmond is named after them). Most will go on to do at least 24 years service in the army. Many now stay in Britain after retiring and thankfully they now get a much better pension deal.

We were in Nepal for 42 days without any

rain. Nepal has distinct wet and dry seasons. We now know why recruits ask us "On what date does it stop raining?" I usually reply "If you live in Wensleydale it never stops." Not true, of course, though sometimes you'd think so!

N.P.

Snaizeholme in winter

The astonishingly low temperatures and the snow over the end of last year and the beginning of this, were not good for our wildlife. The birds could not get their beaks into the ground, and the squirrels were also suffering from the effects of the very wet year earlier on. This was because the conifers (which are all wind pollinated) produced absolutely no cones this year. Fortunately the insect pollinated trees and shrubs such as Rowan, Berberis, Wild Raspberry, Cherry and Bird Cherry have done much better producing plenty of berries. The squirrels also have the advantage in this area that many people feed them.

The bird life round our house has continued very active through all weathers, and although the numbers of Chaffinches have been reduced this winter, there are still some around. At this time of year there is just one pair of Greater Spotted Woodpeckers, they eat enough for many.

The species that is here in very large numbers is the Blackbird, and the argumentative Robins of which there are six coming to be fed and they are usually the first to arrive when I call the birds in the mornings. One particular little fellow comes to the gatepost where I put some corn at the same time as my hand is there. Apart from these our three resident Tit species (Great, Blue and Coal) are very active, and the Dunnocks are quietly picking up the bits that fall on the ground.

Our Friends at Tow Hill had a visiting Brambling for the second year running before Christmas, and they already have a number of Green Finches in residence. (I have heard but not seen these) Also they have been seeing Treecreepers recently.

Flying above us we have seen and heard Buzzards from time to time, and once a Raven was being mobbed by one very persistent Crow; also there have been an occa-

sional Heron and the Sparrow Hawks and Kestrels are still around. In the woods there have been frequent meetings with the skittish Woodcocks, but of course no roding at this time of year.

A few days ago I was looking out of the kitchen window, and for a moment I thought I saw a very skinny Red Squirrel with a black tip to its tail on the feeder. Of course it wasn't. It was a Stoat. I had hung a fat ball amongst the bird feeders and above the Squirrel one, and I was able to watch it for several minutes. It ended by trying to tug the fat ball off the tree. It had finally to give up but I was impressed by how well it could climb— slower than a Squirrel but surprisingly agile.

When the snow was on the ground there were Roe Deer slots very near the house, but although they are quite often seen in the woods, rarely as close to the house. We are a little concerned that Sika Deer have been seen not very far away and they have a reputation for being very destructive, as they are as big as Fallow Deer.

A Whooper Swan has been living in Widdale Beck since before Christmas and we wish it luck!

Jane Kemp

Dalesplay

Happy new year to everyone - from Dalesplay. The new year has started with us changing our fee and session structure at Dalesplay, and would like everyone to know that we welcome visitors and families interested in using the setting anytime.

We are working in partnership with Hawes school to provide a 'cookery club' over two 5 week blocks; the first block is fully booked, but the 2nd for KeyStage 2 children, aged 7-11 years, operating from **24th February - 24th March** still has places available at a cost of £2.50 per session. If your child attends Hawes school and would be interested in attending the club please let me know ASAP.

Dalesplay enjoyed a visit from Zoo Lab before Christmas – it was a Nativity Road show, and all the children enjoyed seeing and touching the bugs and animals, the favourite was the friendly rat!

We would like to thank The North Riding Dales Licensed Victuallers Association who have donated us £300, which we will use to purchase new equipment and resources for the setting.

Lindsay Capstick
Be warned!

Readers thinking of going to the cinema in Richmond might be advised to do two things: book in advance, and arrive in plenty of time to park. It's chaos. You might have to leave your car a long way off by which time the show will have started, or worse be sold out. It is galling to have travelled from the upper dale just to return again!

Rainfall figures for July to December 2008

	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total for year
Hawes	187	153	147	319	136	124	2122
Carperby	117	136	131	139	94	118	1395
Bainbridge	141	159	141	222	107	98	1592
Stalling Busk	137	184	163	256	138	119	1942
Askrigg	137	144	150	181	85	98	1483
Thornton Rust	157	181	152	188	107	113	1746

Weather

A careful look at the rainfall figures above, translating them into 'olde English', shows that at Hawes the rainfall exceeded **83 inches** in 2008. That is a very high figure! In 2007 it was 55 inches!

We would like to thank Penny Pollit of West Burton for sending the figures from there for many years.

Winter Gardens

I spied three large rolls of membrane, probably retailing at over £25 a roll, dumped in a builder's skip near Bainbridge in autumn. The site manager was quite happy to let me take them - best to ask isn't it? Straight back to a larger garden which I'm struggling with, particularly an area of 30ft by 20ft, which in spring becomes an unyielding mat of ground elder and dandelions, not exactly wild and romantic, more derelict and dismal. I had strimmed it hard back in October, so the only task was to roll out the membrane, slightly overlapping each strip, until the entire area was covered. Anchoring each strip with a wooden peg at each end to stop it flapping around and ending up wrapped around the telegraph wires, I then proceeded to spread on a 6" thick bark mulch, until all the membrane was covered. Apart from the legendary knotweed, no nasties should tunnel through that.

12mm stone chippings will do the same job, although make sure you have a strong back, and are there on delivery - tipped off the truck just where you want them can really make your job so much easier. Cup of tea and a bun and then...

Pulling the mulch away, I cut through the membrane and planted 6 dogwoods; 3 red *alba sibirica* and 3 yellow *stolonifera*. I like to plant later, as even though it's a bit fiddly, spacing and appearance always look different with mulch on, as opposed to before. Job done and bark spread back around the base of the bright stems, time for an appraisal. You have the rich dark of the mulch as a background to the luminous hues of the dogwoods; not a fussy show but one more open and uncluttered, with plenty of space, where any urge to fill with bits and pieces must be resisted. Just leave it and enjoy the simplicity.

Now some might say that this is lazy

gardening, but I do it because time is tight, and that part of the garden will now be low maintenance, needing nothing else but all the dogwood stems cutting back to 6" every March.

More pressing at the moment is trimming back an unruly hedge of *cotoneaster 'Cornubia'*, which I planted 5 years ago, and which is now taller than me (5' 7"). After a couple of barren years, it's been a truly fab year for waxwings, and these shrubs, along with rowan trees, are magnets for them. OK the show lasts for only a couple of days, but their appearance keeps you warm for the other 363. Cotoneasters will survive a hard prune, so don't stay the hand - be brutal and lop back; next season's flowering and berries will be poor, yet the following year, all will be flourishing. In the borders and underneath the trees, the delicate spears of emerging daffodils are peeping. I remember planting them in dim and distant 1999, and already they're spreading. Always nice to set something in motion.

Ed Gardener

We are sorry to say that this is the last of Ed Gardener's articles. We have very much enjoyed them. He is the fourth gardening article writer we have had over the years and would like to appeal for a fifth!

Please do get in touch. You will have the privilege of choosing your own pseudonym!

Wensleydale School - Amala

Preparations are underway for The Wensleydale School's visit to the Amala Children's Home in India. Every two years the school, with a party of around twenty sixth-form students and staff, makes the five thousand mile journey to Tamil Nadu, India's southernmost state.

Founded in 1994, in the heart of the Indian countryside, the children's home aims to help disadvantaged local children; its pupils, from nursery to sixth form belong to the lowest Indian caste, the Dalits. Without the support they receive at Amala many would not be educated, held back by the rigid caste or class system, or forced to find low paid, dangerous work in the cities. For some their only chance of survival would be to beg. Growing from a simple community schoolroom to a nationally recognised school has taken a lot of hard work, financed entirely from the UK, and in particular Wensleydale. The work of the Amala trust, local people and schools means that the Amala is now home to one hundred children, with many more attending daily lessons; but while the home makes an incredible difference to the lives of these pupils there is always more to be done.

Travelling by plane to Chennai (Madras), before making our way south into the countryside, our journey to Amala will certainly be an eventful one. As with previous visits our two weeks at the school will be spent teaching the younger children a variety of subjects, from English to music, and helping with the day to day running of the busy school; a few days travelling to southern tip of the country may prove to be well earned respite.

The difference this makes to everyone at Amala is great and the visit will be one we will never forget. Getting to this remote part of India is of course expensive and we hope to take as much money, supplies and educational resources to Amala as we can.

Throughout the coming months our Amala team will be holding fundraising events, from curry and pie and pea evenings to sponsored walks, up and down the dale. On the 13th of February we will be having a pie and pea night at The Wensleydale Creamery. ***Full details are on page 12.*** I hope you will be able to support us!

Richard Ellison, Bursary Student

Doctors' rotas as supplied by the surgery

AYS GARTH SURGERY ROTA											Wb - week beginning				
Wb	Feb2nd		9		16		23								
Day	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.					
Mon	FA	A	WF	F	WJ	W	JA	J							
Tues	W	W	A	A	A	A	WF	W							
Wed	F	F	W	W	J	J	J	J							
Thur	W	W	A	A	A	A	F	F							
Fri	A	A	F	F	W	W	J	J							

Doctors: A - Arblaster, F - France, J - Jones, W - West, C - Closed
Morning Surgery: 9.00 - 10.30 a.m. (no appointments)
Afternoon Surgery: 4.00 - 5.30 p.m. (appointment only)
For appointments and all enquiries ring 663222

HAWES SURGERY ROTA											Wb - week beginning				
Wb	Feb2nd		9		16		23								
Day	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.					
Mon	W	W	A	A	A	A	WF	WF							
Tues	F	F	WF	W	WJ	WJ	JA	JA							
Wed	A	A	F	F	W	W	W	W							
Thur	F	F	W	W	J	J	A	A							
Fri	W	W	A	A	A	A	WF	WF							

Doctors: A - Arblaster, F - France, J - Jones, W - West, C - Closed
Morning S'y: 8.45-10.15 Tues till 10.45 (no appointments)
Afternoon S'y: 5.00-6.00 Tues 1.00-4.00 (appointments only)
For appointments and all enquiries ring 667200

Surgery News

Pharmacy White Paper

In December the health Minister made the following statement in the House of Commons. 'I am aware of the strength of responses we have received on the various options for amending the criteria for **dispensing by doctors**. We have taken account of the views of those attending the listening events, the meetings and so on. Because of this I'm pleased to announce today that there will be **NO CHANGE TO THE CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR GPs DISPENSING MEDICINES TO THEIR PATIENTS.**'

This is the best news the Upper Dales and other rural communities throughout England, could have wished for.

We should all give our thanks to all who campaigned so vigorously on our behalf, particularly the Central Dales Practice Consultative Group who raised awareness at parish council meetings and in the press, those patients who gave interviews to the news media about the likely impact of the proposals, and Coun. John Blackie who used his position as chair of the North Yorkshire County Council's Scrutiny of Healthcare Committee to such good effect. Special thanks are due to each and every one of you who took the trouble to write to the Dept of Health backing the 'no change' option. This is your victory.

New Orthopaedic Massage Service

Josephine Lade now offers a private orthopaedic massage service from Hawes Surgery. This treatment helps alleviate chronic musculoskeletal problems such as sports injuries, repetitive strain injuries and postural problems. Sessions cost £35 for the initial consultation and treatment, and £30 for subsequent sessions.

You can book this service by contacting Josephine on **01539 623696**. Clinics are held every Thursday 1- 4.30pm, and some Friday afternoons by arrangement. You can find out more about this service on Jo's website www.reflex-om.com
(There's an advert on page 18)

Clive West

Gayle Mill Calendar 2010

We are planning a calendar for 2010 and are currently looking for images to make an interesting collection. Does anyone have pictures, photographs or drawings of any aspect of the mill which they think would be suitable? We need twelve altogether so the more we have to choose from, the better. Please contact **Carol Tyler 667227**. All submissions will be carefully stored and returned after scanning
(More Gayle Mill news is on page)

GP surgeries supporting campaign to cut waste medicines

GP surgeries in the Hambleton and Richmondshire area are supporting a local NHS campaign to reduce the amount of medicines that go to waste, encouraging people across the county not to order medicines they don't need or have stopped taking. It is estimated that waste medicines cost the taxpayer £800 million a year. It's important that people understand their medicines, how much to take and when.

More information about the campaign is available from NHS North Yorkshire and York's website at www.nypct.nhs.uk and there are usually displays in surgeries.

Who knows?

The great poached egg debate!

Fill a wide, shallow pan with a good 1" (3 cm.) depth of water. Add neither salt nor vinegar. Heat the pan gently until tiny bubbles cover the bottom. Take a hen egg 1-5 days old (not new-laid). Break it carefully into the water then turn the heat down as low as possible so that no bubbles rise, and leave it for 8-10 minutes. Lift the egg out with a slotted spoon and drain off the water. The egg will be shapely and tender. This method is not suitable for more than two eggs at a time. For serving more than two at a time you will have to use an egg poacher. The eggs will be shapely but the whites will be tough.

Jean Day

Wensleydale Decorative and Fine Arts Society

'How Pleasant to Know Edward Lear'

Edward Lear first attracted attention by his paintings of birds and later turned to landscapes producing watercolours of great delicacy. He travelled to Greece, Italy, Egypt and India and published books on his travels with his own illustrations. His *Book of Nonsense*, which popularised the limerick, has never been out of print since its first appearance in 1846.

This warm and delightful person – 'A man of original and versatile genius' – an ornithologist, diarist, musician and traveller expressed his simple philosophy through timeless humour.

In the lecture at Middleham Key Centre on **Tuesday February 10th at 2.00pm**, Tim Stimson focuses on the life of Edward Lear with illustrations of his work and quotations from his writings.

A painter and ceramicist, Tim has spent the past 15 years as a freelance Art Historian specialising in 17th and 19th century art and society. He lectures for the universities of Hull and Cambridge and for NADFAS and presents residential study courses in Britain and Europe. Membership information on Wensleydale DFAS is available from **Elaine Frances tel. 624203**. Visitors are welcome at the lecture.

Leeds Met builds links with Yorkshire Dales

Leeds Metropolitan University and the National Park have formed a long-term partnership to share learning, research development and outreach opportunities.

Professor Simon Lee, Vice-Chancellor of Leeds Met, and David Butterworth, Chief Executive of the YDNPA, signed a Memorandum of Understanding which outlines joint initiatives in sustainable tourism, sport, management training and housing as well as ways of creating projects, student placements and volunteering opportunities

Professor Anne Gregory, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Leeds Met, said, “The Yorkshire Dales are the very essence of Yorkshire. They summarise the history, culture, geography and industry of our area. The scenery is iconic and the towns and settlements of the Dales epitomise everything there is to say about the county: independence, hard work, creativity, resilience and character. The University is delighted to be a partner of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority. Together we will be working to provide new opportunities for the Dales communities ensuring that Higher Education is available to all who can benefit from it. Immediate priorities will be to work with the Authority on sustainable tourism and enterprise.”



Letters and emails

Just a point about your latest walk article in the newsletter; as far as I am aware** the mines above Simonstone did not produce the hard Sedbusk 'granite'; this was mined in the white rock quarries below the lane from Sedbusk to Simonstone.

The mines on the walk produced the much softer Burtersett stone. It is many years since I was last down any of them; the white rock mines are large spacious working where all the stone was removed, although they are quite short passages, and one has a flooded pit in the floor.

The Simonstone mines used the same techniques as those employed at Burtersett with a wide working face, supporting the working on pillars, either blocks of stone left in place or walled supports, even wooden props and beams. A single access roadway was retained as the face moved forwards and the old working to the sides back filled with waste and rubble. The consequence of this has been a danger of collapse which has occurred at Simonstone.

The actual mining operation did not appear to have been carried out on any thing like the extensive scale as that at Burtersett.

Gavin Edwards

(We were a bit unsure about the Simonstone stone being like the Burtersett stone which is in soft layers; the Stags Fell stone remains seem very hard. Houses built of it play havoc with drills! So we emailed back. Ed.)

That why I said ***as far as I am aware,* but the white rock quarries are below the road and that plays havoc with drills. It was used to build the Yorebridge school at Askrigg; I think the actual quarries were reopened especially to produce the stone for that project in the late 1920s.

Gavin

We would welcome further comments.

Dear Sir, Please can we have lots more schoolboy howlers like the ones on page 10 of issue 143, I haven't laughed so much for some time. A happy new year to all.

Yours faithfully, **J.R.de Quincey.**

(Good! We have "On reaching 50, or being over 60 and heading towards 70, which you'll smile at, but no room for it this month. Ed.)

Winter coffee!

This is the first time that the monthly coffee mornings in the Hawes Methodist rooms have carried on through the winter, organised by Help the Aged and others in the community, to be a meeting point and to provide useful information

The next one is on **Tuesday, February 17th** from 10.00am to noon and the proceeds this time will be for the Alzheimer's Society.

Hardraw Church Appeal

We are having to completely renew the electrical wiring on Hardraw Church as the old wiring is brittle and dangerous.

We will also fit energy efficient lighting and replace the heaters which no longer work.

This essential work will stretch church funds to the limit and if anyone feels they can support us financially we would be extremely grateful. Please make any donations payable to Hardraw PCC and send to:

Mrs Sue Foster, The Shepherd's Dwelling, Hardraw, Hawes. DL8 3LZ

MARKET PLACE AND GREETINGS

FOR SALE

Excellent quality timber from
pine pews.

Large heavy duty door, 3ft x 6ft 6in.
To view and to make an offer please ring 667625

Audrey (Stringer) would like to thank everyone very much who gave her such lovely cards and presents on the occasion of her 80th Birthday.

Happy Returns Audrey!

For sale

Stainless steel A.W.T. 3-piece
saucepan set £20 o.n.o.
Dinner service for 4 people (16 piece)
Porcelain, white with blue border
£20 o.n.o.
Tel: 663583

Michael and Joanne
would like to thank everyone for
the lovely cards and gifts given for
Barnaby and Ellie.

FOUND

If you have lost a compact digital camera in Cotterdale on 15th November 2008 please contact Guy Martin with details on **667133** or **losfe-linos@supanet.com**
Address: Slingsers, Cotterdale, DL8 3LT

Gilbert and Margaret Haygarth
would like to thank everyone who sent cards, gifts and good wishes on their Ruby Wedding Anniversary

Apology

We are very sorry that the greeting sent from **Margaret Pratt** of Sycamore Hall wishing all her relatives and friends a very merry Christmas and a happy new year got lost in our system and did not appear.

LATIN

Tutor/mentor needed to teach up to GCSE level, for enthusiastic student
Tel: 667644

Happy 30th birthday
Uncle Stuart, 21st February
Lots of love
Holly, Daisy and Jane
xxx

Happy 30th birthday
Stuart
on February 21st
Love from Dad and Mum
Have a great day!

I have received in the recycling boxes at the Community Office in Hawes and Yorebridge Askrigg some brand new cartridges. They may be for old printers, but if any one is still using these Hewlett Packard printers- cartridges- 20, 49 and 14 has these numbers and would like to acquire them for a donation to Yorebridge Sports and Fitness please ring
Kate Empsall 650565

W.R.Outhwaite and Son, **Ropemakers, Hawes** **JOB VACANCY**

Full-time post to include general office duties and to manage the purchase and sales ledger routines in a small, busy, friendly team.

Experience of computerised accounting desirable, plus accuracy with figures and office procedures and a pleasant telephone manner. Enquiries/applications to

Mrs. Sylvia Morton, The Ropeworks,
Hawes, North Yorkshire DL8 3HG. 667487

Great Line Up of Shows to Start 2009

From New North Yorkshire Event Promotion Company

Just the Ticket Events is a new company which will bring quality, affordable live entertainment to community venues across North Yorkshire. It is a subsidiary of **AiR**, and as AiR's Creative Director Robin Battersby explains "it has been set up to utilise the excellent venues and outdoor sites available in the area to present an exciting range of high quality, popular shows and events."

The programme of shows for 2009 started with a concert from the world class virtuoso gypsy flamenco guitarist **Eduardo Niebla**, at the cinema in Leyburn.

Next, the top rated and hugely popular locally Queen tribute show **Mercury** are playing **in Hawes Market House on Saturday 7th February at 8 .00pm.**

8th February sees highly rated Radio 2 Young Folk Award Winners 2002 **Uiscedwr**, a four piece Celtic band play Leyburn cinema and on **Friday 27th February** folk favourites and stars of numerous TV shows, with the entertaining **Houghton Weavers**, both at **7.30pm.**

Tickets for all the concerts at Leyburn cinema are available from Leyburn TIC **01748 828747** Tickets for Mercury in Hawes are available from the Dales Countryside Museum **666210** and Leyburn TIC. More details about all the shows are available on AiR's new website www.artsinrichmondshire.org

Mobile Skip

Saturday February 21st

9.00am to 1.00pm

Gayle Green.

Bulky items, cardboard and plastic
welcome

The Really Great Shunner Fell

The new right of access to walk on moorland has been with us for well over 3 years now. This gives everyone a good chance to discover the superb countryside right on our doorsteps. As well as walking, you can use access land for running, climbing, or watching wildlife. Sometimes restrictions may be in place, so check at Hawes National Park Centre for the latest info.

Great Shunner Fell, situated 5 miles to the north of Hawes is a monstrous block of wild and charismatic land which is fascinating in every respect. The Pennine Way National trail - a 270 mile route from the Peak District to the Scottish Borders, passing over the backbone of England - follows the path from Hardraw onto Great Shunner. The route up the fell passes along a walled lane, flagged and cobbled paths and over peat moorland before the summit is reached at 2349ft or 716m above sea level.

At the summit is a small stone windbreak and an Ordnance Survey Triangulation point. Looking around you in spring time will reveal many moorland birds such as curlew, skylark, red grouse, and even perhaps a black grouse (blackcock). This area is also the southern-most limit in England for the yellow marsh saxifrage. To the west, there are old colliery pits which were last worked around the 1920's. Across to the north, there are spectacular views of the north Pennines, particularly Cross Fell. Looking south, the 3 peaks of Wherside, Ingleborough and Pen Y Ghent adopt their rightful positions. You will do well to find a better spot to take in the full glory of the Pennines, whatever the weather.

Walking west or east from the summit takes you along rugged country where the true wildness of the area is realised. You

may have seen a few walkers on Great Shunner, but you'll be all alone for this bit! Depending on your route, you will reach the Buttertubs road, or eventually the ridgeline from Mallerstang Edge at Hugh Seat. This is the true divide between the heads of Wensleydale and Swaledale, and comprises a massive amount of inspiring (in good weather!) or bleak (in bad weather!) country. You can't imagine what it's like...

To walk in these areas, you don't need to be a "full-on" mountaineer, but you do need to take decent waterproof coat and trousers, spare warm kit, hat and gloves, some bait and your flask. Being confident with a map and compass is essential.

You can join me, Matt Neale, National Park Area Ranger for Upper Wensleydale, on a guided walk on Tuesday, 24 March, starting at 10.00 am from the layby, 200m west of Cotterdale Village (Grid SD 831 937). This fairly strenuous, 10 mile walk, will give you a chance to explore the area without having to worry about the map and compass bit, or why not learn how to use a map and compass on one of the 'Pathfinder' training days at Hawes National Park Centre this summer. Telephone **666210** for further details and to book your place on the walk and the courses.

Matt Neale
Area Ranger – Upper Wensleydale

WHAT'S ON LISTING

Transfer these dates to your calendar!

January

31 Aysgarth Singers concert. Middleham Chapel 7.30pm

February

3 Hawes Drama Group reads "The Queen and I" by Sue Townsend. Gayle Institute at 7.30pm

3 York Course. 7.30 to 9.00pm at West Witton Village Hall. See Page 11

6 Wensleydale Society meets at West Burton Village Hall. 7.30pm.

"Mapping the Dales" by Keith Sweetmore, County Records Office

6 Darts knockout at the White Hart, Hawes

7 Mercury tribute show. Hawes Market House 8.00pm. See page 5

8 "Uiscedwr" Celtic Band at Leyburn cinema. 7.30pm. See page 35

8 Antiques and Collectors' Fair. The Falls

10 YDNPA Planning Committee. Yoredale, Bainbridge 10.30am

10 Decorative and Fine Arts Society meets at Middleham Key Centre. 2.00pm. See page 30

12 Wensleydale Country Markets. Methodist Hall, Leyburn. 10.00 to 11.30am

13 West Burton Chapel. Packing goods for Malawi. 7.30pm

13 Pie and Pea Night at the Wensleydale Creamery. See page 12

13 Ladies Darts Knockout at the Crown, Hawes

13 Old Time Dance Club. West Burton Village Hall from 8.00pm

13 Concert in Reeth Village Hall.

14 Valentine's Night Disco. The Falls. See Page 3

17 Coffee Morning for the Alzheimer's Society in the Methodist Rooms, Hawes from 10.00 to noon.

17 York Course. 7.30 to 9.00pm at West Witton Village Hall. See Page 11

17 Red Squirrel Conservation. Thoraby Village Hall at 8.00pm. See page 18

18 Discover and Do. DCM 2-4.00pm

19 Wensleydale Country Markets. Methodist Hall, Leyburn. 10.00 to

11.30am

19 WALL-E film. (Walt Disney, Cert U) White Hart, Hawes 4.00pm

20 Museum Friends "The Haytime Project" by Dr Pippa Rayner. 7.30 at the DCM

20 Quiz Night for Gala funds at the Fountain, Hawes at 8.00pm

20 Mixed Darts Knockout at the Club, Hawes

20 Quiz night at the Wheatsheaf, Carperby

21 Mobile skip in Gayle. Usual arrangements. See Page 6

21 Grand Table Top Sale at Carperby Village Institute 9.30am to 2.00pm. See page 12

22 Craft and Produce Fair. The Falls.

24 Shrove Tuesday

25 Ash Wednesday

24 Service of Ashing at St Margaret's, Hawes at 7.00pm

25 Upper Dales Family History. See P. 6

26 Wensleydale Country Markets. Methodist Hall, Leyburn. 10.00 to 11.30am

26 Gayle Ladies "Walks in America" by Bryan Peacock at 7.30pm

27 Deadline for Housing Sites. See P 21

27 Lent Lunch at Thornton Rust Village Hall noon - 1.30pm

27 Concert in Reeth Village Hall.

27 Pairs Darts Knockout at the White Hart, Hawes

27 Houghton Weavers concert at Leyburn Cinema at 7.30pm. See page 35

Gayle Mill activities

Although technically closed for the winter, much has been happening at the mill of late. Thanks to the joint efforts of Gayle Mill Trust and the Friends of Gayle Mill, in November we held our first and extremely successful 'Christmas Fayre', much enjoyed by local people and visitors alike. Sales of a wide variety of hand-made decorations and wood products made a most welcome boost to mill funds. Horizontal rain in December failed to deter attendance at the 'Carols at the Mill' evening, organised by the Friends. The Hawes Prize Silver Band and The Young Voices provided the star attractions, and a raffle of a handsome hamper raised some £50 which was donated to The Young Voices. We would like to thank everyone who supported these events and invite you all to come along again next year.

We have some ambitious projects lined up for the next couple of months, mainly to restore the old crane and also the final piece of machinery – the great rack-bench saw. With a large number of parts, all needing careful cleaning, there is plenty of scope for volunteer help. In addition, volunteers are needed to help with the guided tours in the Spring and Summer months, both on the reception desk and as tour guides. If you would like to help, please telephone the mill (**667320**) for further details. Training will be taking place in late February and March.

Conducting tours around the mill may seem daunting, but be assured it can be a most rewarding experience – just ask anyone who has done it – especially when your tour breaks into spontaneous applause at the end!

**Mike Thomson
Gayle Mill Trust
and Friends of Gayle Mill**

Hawes Grammar School Trust

If you are currently in full time higher or further education and live in the parish of Hawes then you could be eligible for an award of £30 towards the cost of books or materials related to your chosen course. If you feel that you are, then please contact me for further details.

Rebecca Alderson 667760

Settle-Carlisle Enterprise Network

A major walking conference is being organised, based on the successful event held in Hawes 18 months ago and sponsored by local firms. The next event is being held in Shipley on **Saturday March 14th from 10.30am to 4.00pm**, with Colin Speakman as the keynote speaker.

(It's easy to go to this event by train from Garsdale!)

Ruth Annison, 650349

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