

# **THE UPPER WENSLEYDALE NEWSLETTER**

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FEBRUARY 2014**

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### **PLEASE NOTE**

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As a general rule we only accept adverts from within the circulation area and no more than one-third of each issue is taken up with them.

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**THE MARCH 2014 ISSUE  
WILL BE PRODUCED ON  
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## Editorial

It looks as if 2014 is going to be quite a year! Things seem to be hotting up already (for example the ongoing debate on climate change, if you'll excuse the pun!) It might be a bit risky to prophesy, but barring sudden emergencies, nationally, here are four things likely to dominate: the battle over energy and sites for fracking for shale gas; European elections in May and the linked issue of migration; the Scottish referendum on independence in September; the centenary of the start of the first world war. So there should be plenty to occupy the lines of our editorials.

As if that's not enough; here, we also have the 60-year anniversary of the designation of our National Park (1954), and the mighty Grand Départ of the Tour de France to occupy our minds!

In all these issues it's not easy to get facts or get to the truth of what happened or what is going on, making it hard to clarify our minds. We will take one issue at a time over the next few months and try to present an overall picture.

So to fracking and energy! In America it is being successful and producing plenty of gas. America is a huge country with plenty of space. There are some minor, but not serious, examples of ensuing earthquakes and ground water pollution.

Developers claim it is less polluting than coal mining and less intrusive on the environment. Objectors point out that the supply has a relatively short life before it runs out, and claim that with developing clean coal technology we should re-visit our vast supplies of coal. Developers claim fracking is less risky than even the new nuclear power stations. Many people seem to think that we need a balance of all kinds of energy supply with more research into wave power; we have in Britain some of the biggest tidal rise and fall in the world— every day! Fracking developers point out that their supply is constant, unlike wind or solar or hydro.

'Not in my back yard' (NIMBY), might seem to safeguard us here, since developments— like wind turbines— are not permitted in National Parks. For how long? Are we, in National Parks or Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, a bit shielded from, or even apathetic to, the issue? What price can be placed on the environment and its value? Is

energy supply the over-riding consideration.?

The other side of the coin is this: not energy supply, but energy demand and usage. We are pretty good in this country at responding to sudden crises, either natural or man-made disasters; but the gradual increasing need for energy because of a growing population and higher expectations of life-style, seem to creep up on us and it is harder to see the problems and to get us to react.

An even more contentious issue is energy-saving. We are good at that in crises, but not on a regular basis. It is always hard to appreciate what huge differences can be made if every household, every business, factory or local authority makes an effort to use less. Do we need to heat and light every room, even when not used? Do we not heed the invitations to insulate? Do we need constant lighting outdoors in the night, certainly not with the intensity sometimes provided? Wait a minute; I must go and switch a few things off.

## Vacancy for Parish Clerk

**Bainbridge Parish Council** is looking for a replacement Parish Clerk to begin work on or about 1<sup>st</sup> May 2014. You will work alongside the current clerk until her retirement on 31st July 2014 or thereabouts. You will work from home and be paid for 4 hours per week at a rate based on the National Scale for Parish Clerks, commensurate with experience and qualifications. Minimum £8.43/hour.

You will be responsible for Agendas, Minutes and Action Points of the Council's meetings and sifting through correspondence. You will also take on the role of Finance Officer for the Council. The Council meets in the evening on a bi-monthly basis, January, March, May, July, September, November. Further details, including a detailed Job Description, Person Specification and application form can be obtained from the current Clerk, **Pauline Beckett**, [mpbeckett@onetel.com](mailto:mpbeckett@onetel.com). Closing date for applications is **1<sup>st</sup> March 2014**

## Domino Drive

Stalling Busk

**Wednesday February 19th, 7.30pm**

Details: **Margaret Iveson 650379**

### Think “Is A&E for Me?” before going to hospital this winter

NHS Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is urging members of the public to check the range of health services available to them before using emergency services and busy Accident & Emergency (A&E) departments over the winter period.

Every year, emergency services and departments in Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby are put under huge amounts of pressure dealing with increasing numbers of patients over the busy winter months. It is nationally recognised that significant numbers of patients who attend A&E departments could be treated by another more appropriate NHS service such as their local pharmacist or GP.

Dr Charles Parker, the CCG’s lead for Urgent Care said: “It is really important that people are aware of different health options available to them when they are ill and can choose the most appropriate service for their needs. This will help us keep A&E and emergency services free for those people who are seriously ill and need them the most.”

Leaflets and posters will be on display at local GP practices, health centres and pharmacies over the coming weeks. There is also more information on the website [www.hambletonrichmondshireandwhitbyccg.nhs.uk](http://www.hambletonrichmondshireandwhitbyccg.nhs.uk) and on the CCG’s Facebook and Twitter pages. The range of local health services includes:

Local pharmacy

G.P.

NHS 111

Self-care;

leaving A&E for, for example, difficulty breathing, heavy bleeding or broken bones.

### Handy Hint from Kate!

Saw this website mentioned in an article in a paper and thought it may be useful as more people use mobiles as their main phone line:

[www.0800buster.co.uk](http://www.0800buster.co.uk)

Most mobile phone providers in the UK still charge their users for calls to 0800, 0808 and 0500 numbers. 0800Buster lets you call these numbers using your mobile's inclusive minutes, by providing you with a UK landline number to dial instead. No registration or set-up is necessary, and the service is completely free. Just dial **0333 555 8800**, enter the full free-phone number you want to call at the prompt then press #---it's that simple!

**Kate Empsall**

### Eunice the Ewe



Last month I was hiding on page 28 and was found by **Simon Cambridge, Leeds**

### Thornton Rust Quiz

It seems a long time ago now but those of us who went to the Quiz Night at Thornton Rust Institute in early December remember a fun-packed evening. There were over a dozen teams (more than 60 people) which pretty well filled the hall. Before proceedings began there were the usual conversations - people saying how useless they were at quizzes and how they'd only come to support the institute and weren't really bothered about the quiz at all.

As we progressed through the various rounds (ten in all) the atmosphere firstly became more relaxed and light-hearted, then increasingly competitive and ultimately climaxed with a nail-biting finish (at least for those near the lead). Of course, those teams who missed out complained that there were too many questions on this and not enough questions on that but we just put that down to sour grapes.

In reality it was all good natured and very entertaining. Sue and Steve Duffield did a sterling job as quizmasters, not only devising the questions but managing to keep control of the fairly vociferous participants. Sue's voice must have suffered severely and Steve had to work hard to keep the scores.

There was an excellent supper and very generous prizes, both for the winners and for the raffle, which seemed to have an endless succession of goodies. This did mean that we finished quite late but nobody minded and we all went home pleased we'd had such a good night. It would be great to do it all again next year.

**N.P.**

### Civic Service

The annual Civic Service, to give thanks for the people of Hawes will this year be held in St.Margaret's Church at **10.30am on Sunday 23rd February**. We look forward to seeing you. All will be most welcome.

### **News from St Oswald's, Askrigg**

A big 'Thank You' to everyone who contributed in any way to the Christmas Tree Festival in church last year or came along, or participated in the Preview Concert. The Church looked fabulous with its cleverly decorated trees and it was lovely to see it full for the Concert and Christingle Service.

**Coffee Mornings** - St Oswald's Church launched its Year of Music at the first of their popular winter coffee mornings on 11th January, with a lovely morning of refreshments and entertainment by the new Hand Bell group. £250 was raised for church funds - thank you to everyone! Further coffee mornings are already booked for Saturday 8th February, Saturday 15th March and Saturday 17th May. Hopefully, each one will have some kind of musical entertainment, linking to St Oswald's Year of Music. All coffee mornings are held in the back room of Askrigg Village Hall from 10.00 am to noon and entry is just £2. Everyone welcome! Plans are underway to provide a variety of **vocal and musical entertainment** in the church throughout the year, culminating in a special Christmas concert. Details will be available in due course.

**Bell Ringing** - St Oswald's is launching a recruitment campaign for new bellringers at church. Anyone over the age of 11 is invited to get in touch and come along to see what is involved. Guidance and instruction will be undertaken by two newcomers to the community - **Kevin Sorsby (650396)** and **Alan Apsden (663502)**. Please contact Kevin or Alan for further details.

**Gregorian Chant** - Back by popular demand - St Oswald's has planned another Gregorian Chant Workshop on Saturday 26th April. The workshop will run from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm and will culminate in a service of Monastic Vespers or Monastic Compline. Anyone is welcome to participate at a cost of £10. It would be an advantage to read music, but it is not essential. Refreshments will be provided. Contact Mary Rose Kearney (650880) for further details or to book your place.

**Karen Prudden**

### **New Members Wanted for Dales Time Team**

Budding time detectives are being invited to join a special club that meets at the Dales Countryside Museum..

The Yorkshire Dales branch of the Young Archaeologists' Club is looking for new members interested in learning more about the fascinating history of the area.

The Yorkshire Dales Young Archaeologists' Club (YDYAC) is a collaboration between the Council for British Archaeology and the National Park Authority. It's part of the Young Archaeologists' Club - the only UK-wide club for young people up to the age of 17 who are interested in archaeology - and is a great way for young people to investigate their local heritage.

Museum Officer Debbie Allen said: "We currently have 25 members and we meet, on average, one Saturday morning a month to take part in exciting activities like willow weaving, stone carving and mosaic making. Our members also learn new skills like surveying and field walking, and they explore different historical periods.

"Since the Club was formed in 2006, we have had several annual themes including prehistory, the Romans, Vikings, Medieval times, the Victorians and World War Two.

"The youngsters have also been able to learn about and practise different archaeological techniques, they have gone on several trips to historical sites and they have even helped in the filming of Channel 4's 'Time Team'.

"As well as potential new members, we are also interested in meeting people who could help run the Club with the existing team or deliver occasional sessions. We would love to hear from anyone who has skills or knowledge in archaeology and has the time to get involved."

Anyone interested in becoming either a member or a helper should contact the museum on **666210**

or email [dcm@yorkshiredales.org.uk](mailto:dcm@yorkshiredales.org.uk)

### **Gayle Mill News**

Following a really successful Christmas Fayre, Gayle Mill is now in spring- cleaning mode and preparing for a busy year ahead. We're just finalising the details on our new and extended range of courses and skills classes for this year and we're hoping that this year there will be something for everyone, beginning with a new Lino Printing Course delivered by Kath Lockhart on 15 February. There'll be courses over the February half term too, with a 'chilled out' and relaxed opportunity to try your hand at a variety of different family- interest activities. Keep an eye on our website for details, or check in our newly re-vamped brochure, soon to be in a handy location near you!

We open for our first Demonstration Tour on Sunday 2nd February, where you'll be able to see our latest acquisition- a Pillar Drill- last used to drill some of the 777, 124 rivet holes that keep the Tyne Bridge standing to this day. Come along and see this and all our woodworking machinery in action at either 11.00am or 2.30pm, as Gayle Mill continues to safeguard the important heritage of this region for the local community and visitors alike.

We're hoping to extend the Volunteering experiences we can offer here at Gayle Mill this year, as we plan for what we hope will be our busiest year yet. Many local young people are studying for qualifications connected with Tourism and Leisure or Hospitality and if this is you, and you'd like to get involved in the many exciting opportunities that we have planned, or to help us give our visitors from all over the world a real Gayle Mill welcome, we'd love to hear from you. Similarly, if you have a crafting skill or a wood-working skills that you'd like to share or develop, or you made a New Year's resolution to 'get involved' or 'help make a difference,' do think about coming along to join us.

If you'd like to find out any more about our Courses, Volunteering or visiting Gayle Mill, call us on **667320** or drop in and say hello to our new manager, Lynda.

**Lynda Casserly**

### **Middleham and Dales Local History Group**

**Tuesday 18th February 2.00pm**

Middleham Key Centre.

'Early maps of the Yorkshire Dales' by Keith Sweetmore. In this talk Keith Sweetmore will explore mapping of the more northerly dales area through the ages. He will provide copious illustrations including the Gough Road Map of the fourteenth century, details from Christopher Saxton's Yorkshire map of 1577, work by mapmakers Warburton and Jeffreys in the eighteenth century, and the various editions of the Ordnance Survey from the 1850s onwards. Map making techniques, and examples of maps made for particular purposes will also be covered, with an emphasis throughout on the usefulness of maps for local history. Keith Sweetmore graduated in modern history from Durham University and completed his archival training at University College London. He has worked as an archivist to private and public organisations for over thirty years, and until recently was Archive Development Manager at North Yorkshire County Record Office. From February 2014 Keith will be taking up a new role as Engagement Manager (North) for the National Archives, liaising with archives across the north of England from his home base in the Upper Dales.

Annual membership of the group is £10 and visitors are welcome to attend individual meetings for a fee of £3. For further information, please contact **Tony Keates 640436** or email [dotand-tonyk@btinternet.com](mailto:dotand-tonyk@btinternet.com)

### **GP in the Dales - 1960 to 2000**

A Video Show by Doctor Hamer

Also Featuring a Gala Video

**In the Market Hall, Hawes at 7.00pm**

**On Friday 21st February**

Tickets on the door - adults £4, children £2

Proceeds for St Margaret's Restoration Fund



## Christmas Crossword Answers

### Across

1. Hark! The ——— wrote C.W.
4. He contributed "Regent Square"
7. Away in one
8. Put the museum back in bitter
9. 'Little man-like'
10. "This is the answer" is one
12. Pine classes (anagram)
17. Following the energetic
19. 25 instead of 26 to produce the season!
20. A rancid 6 down might do this to you.
21. Singing on rye, and do this to the odds.
22. You'll have done this on 6 down on the 25th
23. You've to thank him for your tree lights.

### Down

1. ——— Above; herein
2. You could migrate to hear this
3. The noble's lower parts
4. Begin in my first art class
5. Sums
6. What do you think!
11. Unfilled I cancelled out
13. "from ——— lands afar"
14. The Christ Child's in the Pacific!
15. They're there if you breakdown
16. The Old Norse yawned
18. "——— a linden tree"



## February Competition

Some missing middles.

Find a word which links with both given words.

**EXAMPLE** Dandelion— Work; CLOCK

1. ANTE — SERVICE
2. BRAIN — CREEPER
3. COLD — DRAGON
4. DOCTOR — DUNNIT
5. EVERY — BAG
6. FRIEND — CAPTAIN
7. GREAT — END
8. HAND — HORSE
9. ICE — KEEPER
10. JUNK — SHOT
11. KINGS — BAR
12. LONG — START

When submitting your answers please remember to give the name of the charity to which you would like us to send £20 if you are the winner.

## Carperby Charity Concerts 2014

Carperby Concerts have three charity events lined up for this year. The first is on Saturday 15th February at Carperby Village Institute and features Broom Bezzums, a unique, powerful live acoustic duo. Andrew Cadie and Mark Bloomer have a formidable reputation in Germany, where they are now resident. Their striking stage presence and Anglo-Celtic influenced material is gathering new fans wherever they go. Fiddle, guitar, mandocello, Northumbrian small pipes and foot drum are all deployed to give a big, rich sound to their own self-penned songs and traditional tunes. For this concert they will be joined by Katie Doherty, an extremely well respected and award-winning singer and songwriter from the North East of England. Together, they will provide a memorable evening and all proceeds will go to Askrigg Primary School. Tickets are £12 in advance or £14 on the door. Call **663808** to book or for further details

**Steve Sheldon**

## Penhill Benefice

First Lent Lunch of 2014:

**Friday March 7th, noon to 1.30pm**

Redmire Village Hall

**Further dates next**

## Prunings

### *A personal take on Plants, Propagating and other related rural ramblings.*



Sarah Langton-Lockton, who writes in the Lady, has moved house and has been planning how she will create a new garden in the wilderness she has recently purchased. The most interesting points so far have been related to those trees and shrubs she plans to dispose of: a massive Tamarisk, an untidy Bay tree, Magnolias and Camellias, a Ceanothus and lots of Choisya. Unfortunately, those of us who live up here in the Dales would struggle to keep such a selection as this thriving, and they would be unlikely to become overgrown. The top of her list of replacements is Amelanchier Lamarkii. This lovely tree has been one of my favourites for years. The bronze tinged spring foliage is followed by starry white flowers and then purple berries which the birds love. In the Autumn it colours beautifully. I hope she realizes that it will take some time to become the multi-stemmed small tree she covets. The ones I grew from hardwood cuttings some years ago are still only shrub like, but they may have suffered from my indecision as, not having found the perfect place for one I keep on putting them in larger pots! It's the time of year when we think about the clean-up: cutting back, digging (if you dig) and general conservation, but it is also an ideal time for taking leaf bud cuttings from evergreens. I find this much more rewarding! These are similar to normal stem cuttings except that, whereas a stem cutting is taken directly underneath a node so that the new roots will spring from the node, the leaf bud cuttings are taken inter-nodally where the base of the cutting is between two nodes. Ideally cut from strong, young, disease-free material. Choose a section of stem where there is a leaf bud in the axil. Cut the stem cleanly with a slant, directly above the node, partly to discourage rot, and partly to encourage branching. Make a straight cut about an inch and a half below the node, longer if the stem

is very woody or thicker than your little finger. The leaf next to the bud will sustain the cutting until new roots can develop. The cutting needs to be pushed into the compost so that the bud is just at the surface, and it will then form the new stem. It helps to damage the bottom two thirds of the stem to stimulate root formation. I usually scrape it with a sharp penknife as I do for all cuttings. You can put several round a clay pot, or, if there are multiple large leaves around the node, such as with a Mahonia, they will need a pot each. This method can be used for Holly and Berberis and many evergreen shrubs, but it is not advisable to try it with Rhododendrons or Azaleas as the buds in the axils are often next year's flowers. If you put in lots of bulbs each year you may be interested in a new product from the RHS. The society has put on the market a "Bulb Starter" with rootgrow, containing Mycorrhizal fungi; it claims to do the same for bulbs as it does for the bare root trees mentioned last November.

Good luck! And whatever you grow, take time to enjoy it.

**Rose Rambler.**

## Music for All in Wensleydale

The Wandering Minstrels are a group of professional musicians. For the past seven years, as part of the Swaledale Festival, they have given free performances at care homes and sheltered housing for people who cannot get to public concerts. Thanks to Richmondshire District Council's Community Opportunities Fund this scheme will be extended to fourteen premises in 2014, including Sycamore Hall in Bainbridge. The wide range of music offered has been much appreciated in the past. Further details of the Swaledale Festival, which runs from 24th May to 7th June 2014, can be found at [swalefest.org](http://swalefest.org)

## Mobile Skip Service

**Saturday February 15th**

**9.00am to 1.00pm**

Gayle Green.

Usual conditions apply



## Police Report

**L**ike the television I am full of repeats this month. Over the past two months crimes to bring your attention to are Quad Bike thefts. These have very much come back to haunt us. They are not just happening on our patch but also in Cumbria and Durham. There appears to be a slightly different modus operandi this time as some are being taken through the day. You may have had a visit from Don Watson or another Community Support Officer regarding "Lock It or Lose It". Too many people are "Losing It" leaving Quads and other vehicles unattended on their premises during daylight with the keys in. PLEASE HEED ADVICE AND DO NOT LEAVE KEYS IN VEHICLES. You never know who is watching. The concept of trespassing on your farm-yard land or garden is no deterrent to a thief. DO NOT MAKE IT EASY FOR THEM.

A Land Rover Defender was taken overnight from Gayle near the bridge recently. It was locked and directly outside the owners house. Did you see anything? If so please contact us. Other vehicles have been stolen in the dales which include Mitsubishi pick ups.

There have been a spate of outbuilding break -ins targeting Stihl saws, chainsaws, pressure washers and electric power tools (drills, grinders etc).

Remember that shed alarms are quite cheap (circa £20.00) and a lot cheaper than replacing your losses. There have been sporadic reports of thefts of livestock, mainly sheep it has to be said. These are usually discovered when the animals are brought down off the fells for the winter. Just a reminder please be vigilant. Offenders are having to use some form of livestock carrier be it a towed trailer or lorry. Report sightings of unfamiliar vehicles promptly please so that we can get them checked out.

A strange crime that happened twice around the Christmas period in Hawes was theft of number plates from vehicles. Criminals are doing this to disguise their vehicle against Number plate reading cameras as it helps to stop their movements being tracked. Several motorcycles were stolen from a break-in at a barn type building near Askrigg at 11.00am in the morning recently. We were alerted by an

eagle eyed neighbour who saw one offender brazenly riding one machine a few miles down the road from where the offence took place without any protective clothing or head-gear.

Oil and diesel is also still being stolen. We have had oil thefts in Hawes and diesel thefts in Leyburn. Caravans have also been the target for attention from the criminals with two being stolen from the lower dale over the last month. A caravan was also broken into on a site in Hawes and a boiler stolen.

Good news. There was a spate of cars broken into throughout the dale one evening recently and the offenders were caught heading back over to Durham through Arkengarthdale .

Please keep up reporting sightings of anything you think is not quite right. Remember the sooner you do it the sooner we can respond to it and check it out. You may just prevent a crime or allow the apprehension of offenders.

Thanks as always.

**Andy Foster PC826**  
**Leyburn Safer Neighbourhood Team**  
**Wards of Addleborough and Hawes & High**  
**Abbotside**  
**Telephone 101**  
**SNTLeyburn@northyorkshire.pnn.police.uk**

## Hawes Christmas Lights

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped erect and dismantle the Christmas Lights. It is very much appreciated and we hope the display continued to please. Also thank you to all who helped out on Saturday 7th December. The new venture of the outdoor market and 'show' had a tentative start but hopefully can develop into another worthy event. "Wensleydale's Got Talent" and the Variety Concert were well supported and prove what talent lies in our area.

If you would like to help or have any ideas to help please contact **Kevin White, Whites of Wensleydale, 667236.**

**Liz Lawson**

## Best Foot Forward

### West of Eden.

If it is limestone landscape and unusual place names that turn you on, then turn off where you quite likely usually drive past.

On the way to what I like to call Old Westmorland— the Orton, Tebay, Appleby and surrounding villages—we usually turn up the minor road from Pendragon Castle in Mallerstang to cross over Birkett Common. Railway buffs certainly know this place as it is a favourite for photographs in the deep cutting as trains near Birkett Tunnel. But this limestone knoll to the north of the lane is well worth a clamber around rather than



*'Local' Althberg boots from Richmond; I can recommend them!*



*Lammerside Castle*

rushing on. It is only about a square mile; no paths, good views and freedom! While up in this area, how about a peep at one of the smallest castles I know? : Lammerside. It is on the bridleway from Tommy Road, (that's the name of the lane over the common) about three quarters of a mile north east towards Wharton. It was built in 12th century, strengthened in the 14th to keep out the Scottish raiders and abandoned in the 17th, but it is worth 'ticking off' - no more off-beat for a hobby than the 'bagging' of hills over a certain height!

Now back to the lane and on to one of my favourite places— just because of the name: Stennerskeugh!

Again, it is one of those places usually passed by when hurrying on down to the Rawthey Valley, the Howgills and Sedbergh. It's hardly a village but a small collection of buildings and a bridge worth looking at and accessed by several paths and a lane to the east of the A683.

Now into the clouds! The Stennerskeugh Clouds. This is Roman country. The better

route south is on the minor road (Roman and very straight) and anywhere along it, park and start to explore— or you can walk on the bridleway from Stennerskeugh then tracks which once provided access to workings in the limestone.

This is an area of swallow holes, shake holes, workings, gills, cairns, riggs and sheepfolds! Any



*Stennerskeugh Bridge*

time of the year will do, but obviously for flowers on the limestone, wait a couple of months. It is an area to wander around; you will most likely be alone. It is hard to believe that we are just a couple of miles 'behind' the rather drab mass of Wild Boar Fell which on its top is bleak acidic terrain.



*Among Stennerskeugh and Fell End Clouds*

In case you're wondering, Stenner = personal old Norse name 'Stegenheard' or 'Steinarr' + 'Skogr' = wood or forest.

**A.S.W.**

## Coffee Morning and Raffle

A total of £391 was raised for St Margaret's Church Hawes Restoration Fund held at the White Hart on Tuesday January 14th.

The organisers wish to thank everyone who helped to make this event a success.

**Ernest and Doreen Whitehead**

### Given Away!

We include here our usual summary of monies raised for others, by Churches and other groups over the Christmas period.

West Burton Methodist Church, carol singing and Christmas services for Action for Children **£588**

Bolton cum Redmire Churches for St George's Crypt; Leeds **£434**

Ditto, from busking, Hawes, Leyburn **£483**

Hawes Methodist Church Carols by Candlelight for Action for Children **£161**

Hawes Methodist Church; United Toy service for Salvation Army **£153**

Hardraw Church for Salvation Army **£100**

Marsett Methodist Church for the Red Cross **£20**

West Witton Church for Children's Society **£110**

Aysgarth Methodist Church for Action for Children and Children in Need **£136**

Carperby Luncheon Club, for the Air Ambulance **£300**

St Andrew's with Thoraby and Thornton Rust for Caring for Life **£629**

St Oswald's Christmas Tree Festival etc. for 'Shine' **£425**

That's a total of nearly £3000.

### Friends to Meet

NOTICE is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Friends of North Country Theatre will be held at: The Forum, Bullamoor Road, Northallerton, DL6 1LP on

**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February at 8:00 pm.**

'Angels' are also welcome to attend. Following the formal meeting, Nobby Dimon will give an update on what the North Country Theatre have been up to, and what is intended in the next year or two.

### Hawes United Football Club

The club would like to thank all participants, helpers and contributors to the club's sponsored walk last August. Through their efforts and generosity the club raised approximately £900 for the funds. Many thanks.

**Gordon Sleightholm**

### Stone House Hotel Helps the Dales

The award-winning hotel in Sedbusk is demonstrating its green credentials by supporting the work of a local environmental charity.

Stone House Hotel has chosen to send customers their Christmas wishes by email this year to save paper and minimise their impact on the environment.

The hotel has also made a donation of £250 to Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust (YDMT) to support vital projects that care for the local landscape and environment.

It is the latest in a series of environmentally friendly initiatives adopted by the hotel, ranging from the installation of a biomass wood pellet boiler system, water-saving shower heads, LED lighting and sourcing local ingredients for the restaurant wherever possible to minimise food miles and support the local economy.

Chris Taplin, Stone House Hotel director, said: "Last year we printed over 2000 Christmas cards and envelopes which equates to a lot of paper! We are looking at ways to reduce our carbon footprint and sending our seasonal greetings by email seems to be a logical step. The reduced printing and postage costs also mean that we can support the YDMT and their excellent work in protecting the natural beauty of the dales – which is vital to tourism."

David Sharrod, YDMT Director added: "We are very grateful to Chris, Peter and the team at the Stone House Hotel for their generosity. With their support we can continue to work with partners to help protect and enhance the Yorkshire Dales landscape so it can be enjoyed by local people and visitors to the area now and in the future".



*Directors Peter Westwood and Chris Taplin*

## The Old School House, Leyburn

Film PHILOMENA (12A)  
with Judi Dench and Steve Coogan  
**Thursday and Friday February 6th and 7th**  
**5.00 and 7.30pm**  
Tickets £6; concessions £5  
Bookings **624510**

“AN ENCHANTED EVENING”

**March 1st at 7.30pm**

of Old English Folk Songs; Opera, and  
selections from Popular Musicals

Presented by “INCANTARE”

Tickets £7.50 bookable in advance from the  
Box Office, The Old School House, Ley-  
burn

Tel: **624510**

[admin@oldschoolhouseleyburn.com](mailto:admin@oldschoolhouseleyburn.com)

## LASS: Leyburn Arts and Social Society

Thornborough Hall. As the new cinema has opened at The Old School House in Richmond Road, members of LASS have decided to host only one film per month. February's LASS film is the classic Alfred Hitchcock 'North by Northwest' starring Cary Grant and Eva Marie Saint on **Thursday Feb 27th at 7.30pm** in the Oak Room Thornborough Hall.

Membership for February and March is £5 and will include the March film, another classic, starring Rock Hudson in his first major role, 'Magnificent Obsession.' Please phone **Jeannie Bishop on 622023** for further information.

## Swaledale Festival

**This year's programme is now on the website.**

The Festival runs from May 24th to June 7th and begins on the Wensleydale Railway! There is to be a special visit of the steam locomotive *Bittern*, a sister engine to the famous *Mallard*.

On-line booking for this opens very soon; also see the Festival website for details of becoming a Friend.

## New Look for the Museum

Work is well under way with alterations that will provide more and better facilities for visitors. Museum manager Fiona Rosher said: "This is a very exciting time and it marks a new chapter in the museum's life. When everything is finished, we will have a very different interior with new entrance and retail areas, a lift to the first floor and a biomass boiler. "Reconfiguring the entrance area will enable us to create new introductory displays focusing on the elements of the Yorkshire Dales landscape and how these have been used by people to build a life for themselves. Over the centuries since people have exploited and adapted these elements in their struggle to survive and the tools they have used and their stories will be told throughout the museum galleries."Our new displays will support schools in their teaching of the new curriculum and we'll be in touch with teachers very soon to ensure we are meeting their needs and to highlight a new pre-history programme we are developing. "The retail area will offer more local products and include a new area to highlight the work of local artists and makers, and there will also be a new space in which they can showcase and sell their work to a wide audience.

"The changes mean we will be able to develop new exhibitions featuring material from our reserve collections and we will be introducing an annual pass enabling people to visit the museum and to enjoy the changing exhibitions throughout the year." As well as its collection and exhibits, the museum offers a range of events, education resources and activities aimed at generating community participation in, and developing understanding of the cultural heritage of the Dales. There is also the research room where individuals can investigate the archive and artefacts collection. There are also willing, knowledgeable volunteers on hand to assist with family history research. The museum opens again in February; 10.00am to 5.00pm. There might be further slight disruption as the refurbishing work continues.

### Upper Dales Family History Group

November's speaker was David Lewis with the story of Smithson Tennant (1761 – 1815) a scientist born in Selby but with roots in Wensleydale. Tennant inherited an interest in science from his grandfather and experimented from an early age. While still young he inherited a fortune from his grandfather and both parents as well as property in Wensleydale, allowing him to travel, study and carry on with his scientific research at Cambridge. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society at the very young age of 24 and studied medicine but made his name with discoveries in the field of chemistry. He was the first to investigate the nature of diamonds and prove they were a form of carbon and the first to apply science to the benefit of farmers. He discovered two of the elements in the Periodic Table, iridium and osmium, was one of the first to investigate meteorites and helped with the development of a safe domestic gas supply in London; work which led directly to Davy's invention of the safety lamp. Famous during his lifetime, Smithson's chronic inability to write up and publish his work means he is scarcely remembered today even in his home town.

### Help, Please,1



Bob Ellis in Gayle, who is doing research into the Dales music scene in the 1950s and 60s, hopes that readers might be able to shed some light.

The details on the back of the above photograph state that the concertina player was **Kit Jones** and that the photo was taken at the King's Arms in Redmire. It would be interesting to know when the photo was taken, who was doing the recording and why. Any further information about Kit Jones would also be appreciated

### Wensleydale Society

As the Hackfall Officer for the Woodlands Trust Paul Mosley co-ordinates events, walks and education days at Hackfall and manages a team of volunteers. In "Hackfall Woods" on **Friday February 7th** he will describe the restoration of Hackfall Woods. This ancient woodland and the related Ainslabie landscape garden is a Grade 1 Listed Historic Park and Garden

The talk starts at **7.30 pm** at West Burton Village Hall and we make it easier to get to lectures by our return coach between Middleham and West Burton, which picks up in Harmby, Leyburn and West Witton. (details from **Eileen Jackson 622287**)

On Friday 7th March there will be an illustrated talk on Kiplin Hall, by Curator Dawn Webster.

Membership is £5 per year, and members are welcome to bring guests (£1 per guest). Our monthly walks programme for members adds to the enjoyment of Wensleydale and its wider environs, and is a wonderful way to get to know the area.

A lunch will be held for farming people (retired and working) at Berry's Farm Shop and Café, Swinithwaite at **12.30 pm on Thursday 20th February 2014**



All are welcome but numbers are limited, so please call **Helen on 01677 470180** by 12th February to book a place. The lunch is free of charge, though a donation would be helpful from those who feel able to contribute. Transport can be provided if necessary.

### Upper Dales Family History Group

The next meeting is at **2.00pm on Wednesday, February 26th**, in the village hall at Harmby near Leyburn. The speaker is Lynda Powell, curator of the Green Howards Museum, who will be giving an insight for family historians into the history and role of the Volunteer regiments in the local area. Non-members very welcome; contact **Tracy Little 01748 884759** for further information



## Playground Cricket

*Last month's 'Games we Used to Play' prompted this article*

Cricket is normally a game where two players are active - three if you include the wicket keeper - while the others stand about watching one poor soul running like mad for the ball.

At playtime in my junior school we played a version which I have not come across since.

A 'wicket' was chalked on the toilet wall (outside!). There was one bat, everyone had their own ball, either a tennis ball or sorbo rubber.

We all stood in a queue waiting to bowl our own ball, or fielded if not possessing one, chasing our own ball then rejoining the queue. Whoever hit the 'wicket' or caught the ball took over the bat. We never cheated by chalking the ball in advance; even conscientiously wiping it clean after hitting the 'wicket'. Today a wicket with sprung stumps would be used.

I don't remember anyone instructing us in how to play this version. Either we just invented it or it was passed down the generations.

Does anyone recall this playground version of cricket? I can't believe it was unique to my school.

**Alan Harpley**

## News of Newsletter 'Staff'

We are pleased to announce that Sue Harpley who served on the Newsletter committee for 12 years before recently moving from Widdale to Scruton, has just been awarded a 2.2 B.A. Humanities degree from the Open University. Congratulations!

Lorna Ward (Gayle) who served on the committee for nine years and as the local contact for Gayle since 1999 is having to 'retire'. She says, "I've really enjoyed it". We want to say a huge 'thank you' to Lorna, and send our very best wishes to her and to husband Dee.

Anyone in the Gayle area wishing to put in greetings or articles for the Newsletter should phone, email or take them to **Sarah Champion, 23, Little Ings, 667006** or [sal.champion1@gmail.com](mailto:sal.champion1@gmail.com)

## The Annual Charity Concert

The Hawes Silver Prize Brass Band, conducted by Stan Roocroft, has hosted an Annual Charity Concert in Hawes Market House for over 25 years, raising in excess of £35,000.00 for many national, regional and local charities.

This year's concert held on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December once again proved to be an outstanding celebration of festive music and Christmas Carols in the company of the Hawes Silver Prize Brass Band and the Aysgarth Singers. The audience entered into the community sing with great spirit and enthusiasm. The final item in the programme was the singing of "O Come all ye faithful" and with a soaring descant from the Aysgarth Singers it felt like Christmas had begun.

The Hawes Silver Prize Brass Band wishes to thank all the people of the Dales and the local businesses of Hawes who so generously gave of their time and contributed to the evening. Our thanks also to Barclays Bank for their financial support to the evening.

The concert raised £1741.85 for the benefit of Hawes Local Charities.

Any local charity wishing to apply for a donation should register their interest and request the Application Form by writing to **Sue Woof**, HSPB Secretary, Ghyll Style House, Kidlington, Sedbergh, Cumbria LA10 5EH no later than the **15<sup>th</sup> February 2014**.

## Le Tour and Asda

It has been announced that Asda is the official partner of the Tour Makers for Yorkshire's Grand Départ and the Tour de France in the UK.

In a first for the famous cycle race, Asda will help recruit, train and provide uniforms for the Tour Makers, which will be made up of up to 10,000 volunteers across the country.

Information from the Tour Maker project leader will soon be available as selection and training gets underway.

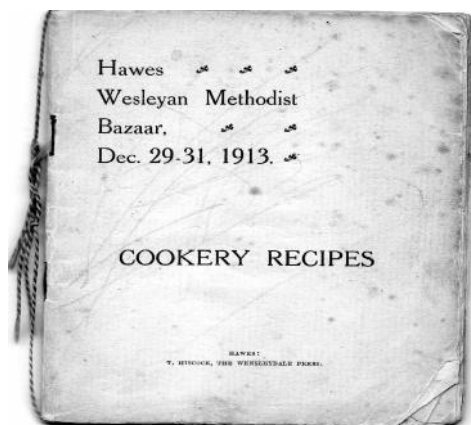




*Mystery picture. Last month's was halfway between the hamlets of Wharfe and Crum-mack; GR 776705 for purists! We didn't expect any answers, so very well done to Neil Dyson of Carperby who replied very promptly.*

### Help, Please, 2

I am in receipt of an e-mail from a lady living in the Cotswolds who is seeking information regarding the Udall family who lived in Hawes and who were friends and neighbours of the Blythe sisters who ran the Post Office when located in the Market Place. She is also in possession of an old cookery book produced locally for Hawes Methodist bazaar of late December 1913. Anyone with information on any of the above can contact me, **Barry Wilcox** on **667503**. Thank you.



### Bolton Castle Events

#### **Tudor Life Weekend**

Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th February (10-4)

Step back in time and experience life at Bolton Castle during its Tudor heyday. With Tudor cookery, weapon drills, herbal medicine, Tudor crafts and games and much more.

Normal Admission Charges apply

#### **Under Siege!**

Monday 17th – Friday 21st February (10-4)

It's the year 1645 and Bolton Castle has been held under siege for nearly six months! The soldiers have eaten everything in the Castle including the horses and are starving to death. Find out what life under siege was really like and learn how the Civil War siege finally ended. Would you fight for Parliament or the King? Make your own helmet or crown, flags and shields and learn about civil war siege weaponry and defences through our educational trails.

Normal Admission Charges apply

**Katie Boggis**

## **National Park is a Great Place to Visit...**

that's the verdict of a survey of visitors to the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

Scenery, remoteness and walks are the main attractions, closely followed by the peace and tranquillity of the area – and the majority of people said they would definitely be back.

The comments come from the results of face-to-face surveys commissioned last year. Ninety per cent of respondents said they had visited before, 70 per cent of them in the last 12 months compared to 64 per cent in the last similar survey in 2008. And the number of first-time visitors has risen from seven per cent in 2008 to 10 per cent.

The results show more people were staying in the area for an average of five nights – 58 per cent compared to 47 per cent in 2008 – while 42 per cent were visiting the area for the day, compared to 53 per cent in 2008.

Just over a third lived in the Yorkshire and Humberside region, 17 per cent came from the North West and seven per cent of the visitors were from other countries – mainly New Zealand, Australia and Germany – compared with two per cent in 2008.

The results also show that the sources of information used to plan a visit have changed over the last five years, although there is still a way to go before electronic sources replace paper-based ones.

The 2013 surveys show that maps were still the most frequently-used source of information. But these results for paper-based information are less than the figures in 2008. The surveys involved 515 people and took place at a range of busy visitor locations in the National Park, including Malham, Aysgarth, Ribbleshead and Grassington.

## **Swimming**

I was thinking about going swimming once a week and wondered if there was anyone else interested to do the same, thereby sharing the travelling cost. Please contact me, **Liz Lawson, Wensleydale Press, 667575.**

## **Dales Cycling**

Regarding Allan Tate's article – I took to mountain biking as a complete novice at almost 65 years old. I chose off-road as I was afraid of the busy Dales roads, especially at weekends, and thought I would be safer on tracks. (I must confess it was a softer landing when I fell off!) Two years ago I joined a small group of older cyclists, most of whom live near Leyburn. I also got a road bike as I feel much safer in a group and more confident on my own on the road now. I have progressed from riding 10 to 12 miles to being able to do 30 which I am pleased with as I am now 5 years older than when I started.

There is also the social side to group cycling as we stop at a café or pub half way round and have a pot of tea, something to eat and a chat. We use mainly quieter back roads and go up or down Wensleydale and into Swaledale – depending on the weather and wind strength and direction. We have our main group ride on Thursday morning usually starting from Leyburn but in summer not necessarily. We also have a shorter Monday ride for anyone who needs to build up their skills and confidence. A map of the route and description is sent to us all via e-mail so we know what sort of ride to expect. We are currently devising 5 cycling leaflets with a short, medium and a longer route – three on road and two off road. This is at the request of Leyburn Town Team who wish to continue to promote cycling in the Dales as a result of the Tour de France coming through in July. These will be available in March if all goes to plan. So, you can pick up a leaflet and find a route to suite your ability or you can telephone me and come and join us. We have an assortment of bikes from hybrids and tourers to mountain bikes and cross bikes. It makes no odds what you ride, we can accommodate you and you will be most welcome to join us.

**Sheila Simms 622465**

### **Small property to rent**

Main Street Askrigg.

Please contact: Kathleen Harrington

Romany Cottage, Askrigg

Or telephone: 01969 650682



### What should I buy – desktop, notebook, netbook, tablet?

This is a question I am frequently asked when people want to know what they should upgrade to when their computer reaches the end of its life or they feel the need to change.

With Windows XP reaching the end of its life (according to Microsoft) I suspect many people are wondering what next. ( By the way Windows XP won't suddenly die in April but Microsoft will stop providing support and there will be no more updates or security fixes – also other companies are likely to stop producing any more software or hardware drivers for XP).

The most asked question is: do I need a computer or should I buy a tablet? There is no one simple answer but there are a few things to consider:

1) **Power** (speed of the electronics) - there is no dispute that when it comes to computing power desktop computers generally have the edge over laptops. Laptops have the edge over netbooks – those tiny laptops. Generally computers have the edge over tablets.

2) **Flexibility in use** (what you can do - apps) – computers again have the edge on tablets. There are far more powerful applications for computers than tablets or smartphones. Once you have used a tablet or smart phone for a while you realise that the app store has an endless assortment of apps to choose from, but you also realise that the vast majority are rubbish, and mostly only there to throw adverts in your face. Even well-established apps such as Facebook or Gmail on tablets have serious limitations and irritations compared to using them on a computer screen.

3) **Productivity** – If you want to get work done, computers again are in another league – both in terms of the programs you can use but also in the infrastructure of keyboard and mouse. Certainly you can type on a tablet if you need to but touch screens are not the most comfortable to use and lack physical feedback which means a lot of errors creep in. To get any serious work done you need a

keyboard. In that case desktop computer keyboards provide the best support for people typing longer documents but for letter writing and longer emails laptops are fine.

4) **Hardware support** – want to plug something in (camera, printer, scanner or anything else) then it is a no-brainer! Tablets don't really allow you to plug anything in, and even when you buy an AirPrint/CloudPrint compatible printer, support is limited on tablets (and the output quality not as good quality generally).

5) **Storage** – the average laptop now comes with about 1000Gb of storage space for documents, photos, music etc., desktops often have even more – additionally the storage is relatively fast. Most tablets have 16Gb (of which about 4Gb will be used for the system and not available to you). You can buy 32Gb and 64Gb devices but they add a huge mark up for a relatively cheap component. Flash memory used on most tablets is also slow. Tablet manufacturers get around this limitation by using cloud storage – which is fine if you have a good internet connection available. Given that internet in the Dales is generally fairly slow, and 4G mobile phone coverage sporadic at best, cloud storage is not always terribly convenient. Plus it is expensive once you have used up the small free introductory offer.

As the marketing hype goes into overdrive you would think that desktops and laptops are a thing of the past but just from these brief examples you can see that using only a tablet limits what you can actually achieve.

To read an article discussing this further visit: <http://tinyurl.com/isthepcdead> which also gives views on how people's use of tablets change after the 'honeymoon period'. Don't misunderstand me; I use a smartphone and a tablet – but I would not give up all purpose computers for anything!

Since this is my first article of the New Year a belated Happy and Prosperous New Year.

As always if you have questions, ideas for articles etc. contact me by email at [carol.haynes@dalescomputerservices.com](mailto:carol.haynes@dalescomputerservices.com) or by phone on 663798. See you next month.

**Carol Haynes**

## Askrigg School News

### Collaboration News

In September 2013, Askrigg VC and Bainbridge C of E Primary Schools took their first steps together as a collaboration, and what an exciting time it has been! In education's current climate of considerable change, falling numbers in our rural schools, and significant changes to funding arrangements, schools are increasingly exploring different educational models to safeguard the future and the quality of provision for our children. With all of these things in mind, we are delighted that West Burton C of E Primary School will become part of our collaboration in September 2014, under the headship of Charlotte Harper. Mrs Sally Stone retires from West Burton at the end of this academic year and the next two terms will provide an opportunity for a smooth transition from Mrs Stone to Miss Harper, maintaining stability and continuity for the children and communities of all three schools. In 2015 there will be further changes for all schools in North Yorkshire. Not only does the National Funding Formula begin which will gradually have a negative impact on the budgets of small rural schools, but also there will be changes to the way the local authority is organised and structured. We seek to minimize the vulnerability of our small schools by achieving 'strength in numbers', helping us to retain a school in each of our communities. A new National Curriculum for primary schools will be launched in September and this collaborative model will allow the staff to prepare effectively and efficiently for the significant changes by sharing expertise, distributing responsibility, and engaging in a wider professional dialogue. Working in partnership with other schools will also afford us the opportunity to benefit from a broader skills-set, enhance curriculum planning, and provide greater capacity to lead learning strategically. By establishing this collaboration now, the three governing bodies proactively drive the shaping the future for our mid- dales schools and make an early move towards a sustainable solution for the 'local' future of our children's education. The future is bright...

**Charlotte Harper Executive Head-teacher**

### Mettupalayam

Mr and Mrs Godwin came in on Wednesday afternoon to talk about a small village in India called Mettupalayam. The people have a vegetable curry that they have every day called samba. They have their own school called Crakehall primary school. They wear a uniform to school and none of them wears a sweat shirt because it is so hot. In the English alphabet there are 26 letters in the language but the people in Mettupalayam (Tamil language) have to learn 247 letters. They walk to school because only people that live in the village go to that school. The children get to school before the adults and sweep up, tidy up and get stuff ready for the morning. Then later on the teachers come in and do their teaching. And when they get given homework all the teachers go home and all the children do their homework in the playground.

The playground at Mettupalayam is made out of sand, and for their lunch they have to bring their own plate in and get given samba and rice. Some days they get given a healthy milkshake sort of drink and just slurp it off their plate. For a snack they have just some plain chick-peas.

**Jeremy ~ Y5**

### Air Ambulance Clothes Collection

Please bring bagged clothes, curtains, towels, bedding (not pillows or duvets) shoes, used ink cartridges and old mobile phones to St.Margaret's Church, Hawes. Bags are available in the Church.

Proceeds of the collection will be split between the Great North Air Ambulance and St.Margaret's Church.

Please ring Margaret Iveson on **667285** if you need help getting things to the Church.

### Wensleydale Railway News

Meetings are ongoing with Network Rail re the (2nd) landslip so little news this month. Except that - undaunted by lack of a train service, rain all day and mud on the way -

Wensleydale Railway's traditional New Year's Day walk from Redmire station to Aysgarth Falls and back took place as advertised and was thoroughly enjoyed by the participants!!

## Everyday Cycling

Cycling has been around for much longer than motoring of course, but we cyclists do feel as if we have to fight for our right to use the road sometimes. In the early days, when bikes were a new invention, it must have felt very similar.

In Harrogate in 1878 a group of enthusiasts formed the Bicycle Touring Club, later renamed the Cyclist's Touring Club (CTC). It was the first and is the oldest touring club in the world, pre-dating the AA and RAC by several decades. Cycling opened up new travel opportunities to the many, and so the CTC listed welcoming hostels, and many of these still retain the winged wheel CTC emblem (see Askrigg village shop).

In 1884 the club installed steep hill warning signs, as early bike brakes were so poor. In 1889, it supported Lady Harberton in a court case when she was refused entry to a hotel for wearing her "Rational cycling dress". She had set up the Rational Dress Society in 1881, and it promoted the wearing of bloomers, as a type of divided skirt to be worn under a long coat, and this proved popular as cycling apparel. Times have moved on, and the CTC is now the foremost pressure group for cyclists.

There are perhaps four controversial topics today where cyclists have to argue their case. Many took issue with Sir Bradley Wiggins when he recently supported the compulsory wearing of helmets. Pedestrians are just as likely to fall and suffer a head injury. Enforced helmet use results in a sharp decline in cycling. In the Netherlands, the majority of cycling head injuries occur during competitive events. In fact the best way to make cycling safer, is to get more people on bikes, as then motorists get used to cyclists, and develop respect.

Motorists commonly argue that cyclists should pay road tax....road tax was abolished in 1937, and replaced with vehicle excise duty. It is now based on carbon emissions, and I'm not sure that cycling emits much carbon!

How much room should a motorist leave when passing a bike? In many US states, a minimum of 3 ft is enshrined in law. In the UK, the recommendation is that you leave as much room as you would when passing a moving car, or a horse.

And finally, double yellow lines: invented

by George Bamber, a Masham farmer who died in 1902, he painted them around his property to discourage parking on market day. We adopted them in 1960. It was Eric Pickles who recently suggested that motorists should be able to park on them for up to 15 minutes in order to stop, shop, and rejuvenate the High Street. Many organizations reminded him that the lines are there to enable the free flow of traffic, and such parked cars would make life much more dangerous for cyclists...just think of Hawes!

Leslie T Kinsman

## Pete Abbott Returns to Wensleydale

Last year on 8th March, Pete Abbott and his Other Roads band performed at a sell out concert in West Witton Village Hall which was enthusiastically enjoyed. Now he is returning to West Witton on **Saturday 8th March** for another concert in the hall, which is one of sixteen dates in his UK spring tour. Pete is a popular singer/songwriter and guitarist who has toured extensively in the past year in the UK (including the Hardraw Folk Gathering), Germany, Denmark, the Netherlands, Spain and this month in New Zealand. In this spring tour he will be accompanied by Gregor Borland. Gregor, who is a member of Other Roads, is recognised as one of the finest Scottish fiddle players and teaches fiddle playing in Scotland and in the Valencian region of Spain where he lives. This is the first tour in which these talented musicians have appeared as a duo.

Local interest will be provided by a supporting performance by Kim Ralls, a young guitarist and singer/songwriter now living in Wensleydale but originally from Norwich. He is a strong singer with a rock-influenced guitar style. The hall and bar will open at 7.00 pm and the concert will start at 8.00 pm. Booking early is advised and tickets can be purchased in advance for £12 from **Grant Humphreys 622108 or David Bentley 625458**. Tickets at the door will cost £14.

## Sycamore Hall News

Not any really! We are very sorry to report that the self-appointed correspondent, Derek Ramsden, has been in hospital for much of January. We miss his 'notes from Sycamore Hall' and send our very best wishes.

A.S.W.



## Gayle and Hawes Weather 2013

**W**eather-obsessed British people spend on average six months of their lives talking about whether it's going to rain or shine, according to a survey published recently.

Speculation about whether it's going to be wet, complaints about the cold and murmurings about the heat are also the first points of conversation with strangers or colleagues for 58% of Britons. The study of 2,018 adults by pollsters found Britons talk about the weather for about 2 days [49 hours] every year. Maybe that's why the starting point for many conversations in Yorkshire may be: 'Grand day', 'Freezing i'ntit'? 'Not bad for this time of year'!, 'Will it ever stop raining'? and for those of my generation speaking to youngsters, 'Snow; tha' ought to have seen it in 1947'.

One weather joke sums up my expectations of weather in Gayle before I became a local.

Q: What do you call two straight days of rain in The Dales?

A: A typical weekend

As a result of such devotion to the weather, and my need to design and plant a garden fit for the Wensleydale weather, I decided to record the weather's main features in some detail during my first year of living in Gayle in 2013. This devotion to weather is often related strongly to a gardener's interest in his or her plants and their chances of survival.

First of all I chose an external location for the thermometer and then a system for recording the highest temperature of the day, which I recorded each day at 15.00 hours; from December 1st 2012 to November 30th 2013. A summary of my findings is set out below. This is followed by my typical descriptions for the type of weather we were experiencing that day.

The official dates for the seasons are as follows:

Winter starts 21st December 2012, recorded at a daily mean average of 3.6 degrees

Spring starts 20th March 2013, at a daily mean average of 11.9 degrees

Summer starts 21st June 2013, at a daily mean average of 18 degrees

Autumn starts 22nd September, at a daily mean average of 10 degrees

Within the daily recordings are lows and highs. For example, December 2012 with a low of -5 and a high of 8 degrees Celsius; with a cold start and a warmer Christmas period. Similarly, at the height of summer with an average of 21.7 degrees there was a low of 13, beginning of July, and a high of 30 degrees on the 18 July; over 20 degrees was recorded for 22 days in this month.

During the year I recorded specific comments to describe each day, the list below is a selection of these and alongside the number of days which this descriptor matches. The numbers do not add up to 365 days because of mixes in conditions, for example sunny and windy, wet and windy.

Dry and sunny 130; Snow 15

Dull and Cloudy 83; Rain 69

Sunny 111; Medium to high winds 76

## Conclusion

My first year of monitoring weather in the Dale was I suspect above average with dry and sunny the clear leader, in particular July and August had some hot days and one scorcher. Of course the Dale was also cold and covered in snow for weeks in March. Because of the weather the gardens were in great bloom, lasting from late Spring through to November.

**Denis Haffner**

## Yorkshire Dales Branch of the Young Archaeologists' Club

The Young Archaeology Club is for young people aged between 8 and 16. We are based at the Dales Countryside Museum in Hawes and meet generally once a month on a Saturday morning. We have various activities and days out and sometimes we have the opportunity to help with a "dig".

We are currently planning a programme of activities and trips with a Roman theme for 2014. If you would like to know more or want to join us, talk to Fiona or Debbie on 666210 or email [dcm@yorkshiredales.org.uk](mailto:dcm@yorkshiredales.org.uk)



## Heavens Above

The next couple of months are ideal for planet spotting with all five visible to the naked-eye putting on a great display.

During the first week of February try looking for the elusive innermost planet, Mercury, low in the WSW about 30



minutes after sunset. It's reasonably bright (magnitude 0.5) at the start of the month but then dims rapidly before it's lost from view on Feb 10<sup>th</sup>. The next planet out from the Sun, Venus, is a dazzling 'Morning Star' rising in the SE a couple of hours before the Sun. On the morning of Feb 26<sup>th</sup> around five o'clock it forms a spectacular pairing with the waning crescent Moon – a lovely sight in the dawn twilight.

Mars and Saturn are also morning objects in the constellations of Virgo and Libra respectively. Neither of them is particularly high in UK skies this year. Mars rises in the east around 10.30pm at the beginning of the month and brightens rapidly as it heads towards opposition on April 8<sup>th</sup> when its bright orange spark will be on view all night long. Saturn rises slightly later – round about 11.00pm – and reaches opposition just over a month later on May 10<sup>th</sup>. The beautiful ringed planet remains prominent in the evening sky until October.

Jupiter, the largest planet in the Solar System, reached opposition on January 4<sup>th</sup> and is slightly past its best. Even so it still shines brighter than any star and dominates the night sky right through until June. The giant planet reaches its highest point in the sky – roughly 60 degrees up – for many years in early March, making it ideally placed for viewing. Look for it in the south soon after dark amongst the stars of Gemini. It forms a sharp-pointed triangle with the constellation's two main stars, Castor and Pollux, and can't really be

missed. Binoculars will show you its four biggest moons though not all of them may be visible at the same time. Jupiter is the focus of next month's National Astronomy Week (1st–8th March) when observatories and astronomical societies all over the country will be inviting visitors young and old to explore the night sky. You'll find more details at [www.astronomyweek.org.uk](http://www.astronomyweek.org.uk)

Have clear skies!

Al Bireo

## Hawes School News

### KS1 Nativity and Performance



Our annual KS1 Nativity production was a huge success. Both performances were well attended and Year 2 and the nursery children added their own personal touches to the event. Thank you to everyone who came to make it such a special event.

### Out of School Clubs

Our weekly multi skills club and Tag Rugby club are proving popular and are both well attended. We are now going to add a cookery club to our out of school activities and Pizza will be the first recipe. We're looking forward to tasting it!

### Dance Workshop

We're very excited about the dance workshop which is coming to school in February. We'll be benefiting from this as a result of the School Sports funding initiative.

## Appy Days for the Three Peaks

The National Park has released an Android version App to encourage more people to stretch their legs and take in the views from the top of Pen-y-ghent, Ingleborough or Whernside – or all three.

Karen Griffiths, the YDNPA's Interpretation Officer, said: "The iPhone app has proved to be really popular and we have had some excellent feedback on it. The Android version will mean the massive amount of information it contains will be there for more people. It costs £1.99 and all the money from the sales will be spent on maintaining the rights of way network – which copes with around 100,000 visitors every year – as part of the Three Peaks Project.

As well as containing 1:50,000 OS maps of the Three Peaks Challenge – summiting all three in 12 hours – and alternative routes for each peak, the app has maps and links to route descriptions for mountain bike rides.

It also has information on geo-located places of interest ranging from geological and archaeological sites through to nature reserves, and some stunning 360° panoramas from the summits and an augmented reality 'toposcope' showing the names of the hills surrounding each of the three peaks.

The iPhone and android versions of the Three Peaks Yorkshire app can be downloaded through [www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/y3peaksapp](http://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/y3peaksapp) and from iTunes and Google Play respectively

## Theatre Group

The local theatre group is ready to go again. The first trip will be on **Thursday March 6th**. Please ring **663259** to inquire or book. The coach can pick up also in Leyburn or Middleham— or Richmond depending on which theatre is being visited.

## West Burton School News

At the end of last term the whole school performed our Christmas play "Feed the World". It took place in West Burton village hall with refreshments; the chef club baked. Our play was based on having enough food to eat and being grateful for what we have. There was singing, acting, dancing and poetry. The play was written by the pupils based on work they had been doing throughout the term. Family, friends and the local community enjoyed both performances. We have been enjoying Forest Schools and recently we have made wax tablets using our old Christmas candles. They were quite hard to make but we managed to do it. We melted the wax on the fire and put them in a wooden frame that we constructed with help from our volunteer parent helpers. This term we have chosen our poems for the Wensleydale Tournament of Speech. In class we have been encouraged to read poems and enjoy them. We have all now chosen a poem that we want to perform at the Tournament of Speech! We look forward to the competition and maintaining our high standards!

Emma, Nancy and Zoe

## Superfast Broadband



Free business workshops and master-classes are

taking place at The Station, Richmond and Innovate Business Centre, Colburn. There is also a larger 'Superfast Business Success Event' taking place at Solberge Hall in Northallerton on **Thursday 6th February 2014, 9.30am**.

If you would like to book a place on any of these events or to find out more then please contact: **0845 002 0021** [enquiries@sfny.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@sfny.co.uk) or [www.sfny.co.uk](http://www.sfny.co.uk)

## **Wensleydale Decorative and Fine Arts Society**

### **The British Neo Romantics**

The Neo Romantic School refers to a loosely affiliated group of landscape painters of the 1930s to the 1950s. In response to the Depression and W.W.II they reacted against ugly naturalism, looking back to the romanticism of 19<sup>th</sup> century artists like William Blake and Samuel Palmer, but strongly influenced by 20<sup>th</sup> century artistic movements including cubism and surrealism.

During the 1940s they were encouraged by the government to record the changing face of towns and villages across the country under the Recording Britain Scheme. Many fine artists were involved under the label Neo-Romantics including Paul Nash, John Piper, Henry Moore and Graham Sutherland. In all more than 1500 pictures, mainly watercolours, were produced and form part of the national collection at the V&A.

**Linda Smith** holds two first-class degrees in Art History. She is an experienced guide and lecturer at Tate Britain, Tate Modern and the Dulwich Picture Gallery.

The Wensleydale Decorative and Fine Arts Society lecture is at **2.00pm on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February** at the Middleham Key Centre.

Non-members are welcome at £6 per lecture, pre-booking is essential, membership and further information is available from the Membership Secretary, tel. **01748 886545**

### **St. Valentine's Train**

Made a booking for Valentines this year? Why not join us on our St Valentines Train on Saturday 15th February, including buffet lunch, bubbly and a rose for the lady. Reflect on the romance and nostalgia of the golden age of railways whilst taking in the beautiful scenery of the Yorkshire Dales. Tickets are £25 please call 01677 425805 to book. Perfect for couples or group bookings!

**Rachel Roberts**

### **Coffee Morning in Thoraby**

**Tuesday February 25th 10.00am to noon**  
at Penview

Cakes and books stalls.

In aid of Aysgarth Methodist Church

## **Thoughts From Not Very Far Away**

Since our move here last July we have found Scruton to be welcoming and friendly. On the day we moved in we had a visit from the Neighbourhood Watch organiser. The following day we were invited to supper by one neighbour and a few days after that to 'tea or drinks' by another resident. ( When relating this to an old friend, she commented drily, "Yes, but they don't know you yet!".) Our immediate neighbour is a farmer and offered any help we might need. So far we have been to Village Hall coffee mornings, a film show at the same venue, and had a visit from someone who has had connections with the village going back generations, who brought with him a 'history of the village' which included interesting facts about our house, which it seems was one hundred years old last year, just a 'new build' compared to Tarney!

The climate here seems a bit milder than on the Pennines and I am hoping to be able to cultivate plants in the garden that would never have thrived at Tarney. We are unlikely to have sheep nibbling our roses or rabbits eating everything either; but I will miss the lambs frolicking and bleating in the Spring and the curlew and lapwing calling as the hills suddenly 'green up' and the cloud shadows speed across the scene.

The informal and friendly atmosphere of the Health Centre in Hawes has been replaced by our new surgery in Northallerton which is like a mini-hospital with a Boots-sized dispensary, a bit daunting but I expect we'll get used to it.

We are lucky to have a bit of space around us, which we had got used to up at Tarney, but we've also got a bus running past the door. Haven't used it yet, but it's there. On the subject of transport, the Wensleydale Railway runs through Scruton, the station has recently been renovated and we had 'Santa Specials' running at Christmas, which we could see from our window; thrilling to see and hear the little steam engine. When it officially opens sometime this year, maybe we will be able to travel by train!

We made a short visit to Hawes recently and it was great to see quite a few familiar faces and catch up on the news, ( the UWNL doesn't print gossip!) All the best for 2014 to everyone.

**Sue Harpley**

Rainfall Figures for 2013							
	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total for year
<b>Hawes</b>	We would like to thank Mr and Mrs Heseltine for sending figures in for many years. We are now looking for someone to take over.						
<b>Carperby</b>	86	84	48	149	90	217	<b>1052mm</b>
<b>Bainbridge</b>	81	104	55	172	101	281	<b>1254mm</b>
<b>Stalling Busk</b>	108	111	85	200	110	329	<b>1458mm</b>
<b>Askrigg</b>	90	71	55	165	85	237	<b>1078mm</b>
<b>Thornton Rust</b>	105	83	51	183	92	249	<b>1172mm</b>
<b>West Burton</b>	52	112	64	113	96	227	<b>1045mm</b>

**Public Invited to Get Involved  
With Local Healthcare:  
Patient Congress Event  
6th February,**

Catterick Leisure Centre, Gough Rd,  
Catterick Garrison, DL9 3EL

NHS Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is inviting members of the public to attend its Patient Congress Event at Catterick Leisure Centre on Thursday 6 February 2014 from 1.30-4.00pm.

The Patient Congress is a forum to bring together members of the CCG's Health Engagement Network and representatives from local GP Practice Participation Groups. Members of the public with an interest in healthcare are also welcome to attend.

The CCG will be giving updates on recent developments and discussing the latest initiatives and plans, including its work to redesign older people's services in Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby as part of its 'Fit 4 the Future' project. There will also be an opportunity for group discussions around the CCG's key priorities for the coming year

**Hawes Brownies**

For anyone who doesn't know we meet most Tuesday evenings in term time, 6-7.30pm at Hawes Market Hall.

Through the autumn term we had an exciting programme of activities. These ranged from team games to baking muffins using ingredients grown in other countries, recycling, and our use of water. We also covered looking after ourselves with a visit from the dentist and beginning our first-aid training. A big thank you to Angela and Jo for teaching us how to care for our teeth and to Vickie for our first aid training, which we are looking forward to completing soon. In December we attended the Toy service at Hawes chapel where we performed 'The Twelve days of Christmas.' We ended the term with a trip to the Hawes pantomime 'Peter Pan' which was fantastic; well done everyone!

We are now looking forward to our spring term activities especially our sleep-over at 'The Deep' in Hull to celebrate 100 years of Brownies.

If any girls aged 7-10 years would like to join us please come along to a session or contact **Carol Hall: 667234**. There are plenty of spaces available

## An Easy Step to Make Your Home More Energy Efficient

We are often told that we have to spend significant amounts of money on energy saving measures in our homes, but there are a number of cheap or low-cost things we can do in order to make our homes more energy efficient.

One of these measures is reducing the air flow from fireplaces which are only used occasionally for open fires. We know that chimneys need to “draw” effectively when there is a fire burning, but some of this draw is still there when the fireplace is not in use, sucking our precious warmed air out of our homes and encouraging draughts. So what is the best thing to do?

Consider fitting a wood burning stove – not only are these more efficient, throwing more heat into the room than an open fire, but they also draw less warm air from the room than an open fire when there is no fire in the grate.

Consider fitting a chimney balloon or use newspaper to temporarily reduce the air flow up the chimney. This can be easily removed when the fireplace is to be used.

But how much energy will this save? My initial research indicates the energy saving from a single fireplace is likely to be roughly the same in a year as externally insulating a home – and it’s considerably easier and cheaper to do!

Please note: You must ensure these measures are removed before you attempt to use the fireplace and they should not be fitted if you have a problem with condensation in your home.

***Diane Hubbard** of Green Footsteps carries out home energy assessments to help reduce your energy bills and also offers Green Deal Assessments from her Kendal base. She is pursuing her research on chimneys through a PhD at University College London and can be contacted on 01539 823119 or [diane@greenfootstepscumbria.co.uk](mailto:diane@greenfootstepscumbria.co.uk)*

## Community Office News

### LITTLE WHITE BUS

As from 1<sup>st</sup> February the ‘Market Day Special’ journeys to and from Askrigg and Bainbridge are:

Gayle	11.10	13.45
Hawes	11.15	13.50
Bainbridge	11.25	14.00
Askrigg	11.30	14.10
Bainbridge	11.35*	14.20*
Hawes	11.45*	14.30*
Gayle	11.50*	14.35*

Flat fare of £1 still applies (no concessions)

No need to book, flag the driver down and hop on, except if coming from Carperby or Aysgarth.

\*Timing subject to no requests from Carperby and Aysgarth or stops en route.

### TRIPS WITH LITTLE WHITE BUS

Our schedule is decided and leaflets will be available soon. Look out for the posters. There is a small increase in the fares –sorry about that.

HOT NEWS: Very soon we will have a step fitted to the bus, emerging as the door is opened. We are always happy to have more volunteer drivers; we will arrange for MIDAS training. Call us on 667400 or email, [uwco@btconnect.com](mailto:uwco@btconnect.com)

### BIKES AND BUSES

In cahoots with YDNPA we have obtained funding for a bike trailer to be used with the smaller of the two buses. We’ll be producing a leaflet with details of family-friendly bike routes, which the Little White Bus can take you to. This project should be ready for use by Easter, so dig out the bicycle clips and brush the cobwebs off your spokes.

### OTHER NEWS

We are still seeking funding for the refurbishment of the planting in the Old Quaker Burial Ground; it would include hard standings for benches. Plans can be seen at the Community Office. Donations toward the cost are welcome. Subject to getting enough funding, it could be completed in time for the Tour de France!

Our Lap top computers are seriously in need of replacement or repair, which requires a little more money than we have at present, so in the meantime we are not doing any computer workshops, but hope to re-instate them as soon as we can.

**Trish West**

## GENERAL WHAT'S ON S

### February

- 1 Men's Prayer Breakfast: 8.30am at Sycamore Hall
- 1 For Bolton Castle Events. See p.15
- 2 North Yorkshire Dales Methodist Circuit. Circuit Service Day. Three united services: 11.00am at Richmond or Middleham. 6.30pm at Aysgarth
- 2 Gayle Mill Tours re-start. For Gayle Mill News and Events. See p.6
- 4 Drop in for Coffee at Cross House, Carperby. From 10.00am to noon. In aid of St Andrew's Church, Aysgarth
- 5 Bolton-cum-Redmire PCC's Church Coffee Club. 10.00am to noon. At Park Lane House, Castle Bolton
- 6,7 Film 'Philomena' at Old School House, Leyburn. See p.12
- 7 Wensleydale Society. 7.30pm. West Burton. See p.13
- 7 Moulin Rouge Themed Evening for Hawes Gala funds.
- 8 Coffee Morning, Askrigg Village Hall. 10.00am to noon.
- 8 St Oswald's Church, Askrigg, Coffee Morning. See p.5
- 8 Labour Party area meeting; Black Lion, Richmond; noon
- 11 YDNPA Planning Committee: 1.00pm.
- 11 Decorative and Fine Arts Society. Middleham Key Centre. 2.00pm. See p. 23
- 14 "Filling Station" at Middleham Key Centre. Speaker: Chris Bennett from Musewell Hill
- 15 St Valentine's Train. See p.23
- 15 Mobile Skip in Gayle. See p.8
- 15 Carperby Charity Concert. See p.7
- 17-24 Bolton Castle events. See p.15
- 18 Middleham and Dales Local History Key Centre 2.00pm. See p.6
- 19 Carperby W.I. Mark Littler 'Antiques Road Show'. , 7.30pm.
- 19 Stalling Busk dominos. See p.3
- 20 FCN lunch; Swinithwaite. See p.13
- 20 Hawes W.I. President's Evening; 7.00pm. Gayle Institute.
- 21 Video show, Hawes Market Hall: GP In the Dales. See p.6
- 21 Museum Friends: The 'Herriot' Dales vet; Mystery or Myth. Adam Hurn Village Hall.
- 23 Hawes Civic Service. St Margaret's Church. 10.30am
- 25 Coffee Morning in Thoralby. See p.23
- 26 Upper Dales Family History, Harmby Village Hall. See p.13
- 27 Film 'North by Northwest', at Thornbrough Hall, Leyburn. See p.12
- 28 Yoredale Natural History. 'Flowers and Birds of Lesbos'. Leyburn Methodist Hall. 7.30pm.



### Museum events

- 1 Museum reopens. 1-30 March. Mark Butler, photographer, exhibiting his work on the Dales
- 18 Creative Writing, Museums as Muses. 10.30am to 4.30pm. Adult workshop with Irene Lofthouse. Please book. £40, lunch provided
- 19 Create a coat of Arms. Sessions at 10.30am, 12.30 and 2.45pm. Children join Tudor artist and storyteller, Mari Monipenni to create a coat of arms for your family. Please book. £5.
- 20 Green Man/Woman Mosaic-making. 10.30am, 12.30, 2.45pm. For children 4-14. Please book. £5.
- 21 Storywalk sessions at 12.00, 1.30 and 3.00pm. Walk with Wanda to hear strange stories about headless horsemen, grinning gargoyles and other tales in the Dales. Children aged 8-12. All children to be accompanied by an adult. £3.50.
- 21 The "Herriot" Dales Vet—History or Myth. 7.30pm. Friends of the Museum evening lecture with local vet Adam Hurn. £2.
- 22 Birds, Beasts and Flowers. 10.00am to 4pm. Join felt artist Emma Fountain for a workshop in Needle Felting. All materials will be supplied but please bring own lunch. Please book. £20.

For further information on any activity 'phone 666210 '



## Tour De France Update

**M**omentum is now building amongst the residents and business in the upper dales with many people finding new and innovative ways to ensure that despite the disruption that will occur, they make the most of the expected visitors that will arrive in Hawes on, or before July 5<sup>th</sup>.

Numbers are expected to peak at around 35,000 so there is lots of planning to be done to make sure that where possible businesses can carry on as usual such as district nurses making their rounds and farmers herding livestock across the roads that form parts of the route itself.

We have a really strong TdF committee in Hawes (all are welcome) who are all working hard to make sure that the event is as successful as it can be. The focus for the upper dales, and in particular for Hawes and High Abbotside is the fact that we will be hosting one of the mountain stages, therefore the committee has decided the theme should be white with red polka dots.

This will match the jersey colour of the “best climber” which may well be decided on which rider tackles the hill climb from Simonstone up Cliff Gate Road to the top of the Moor.

It is around this area that the committee is seeking to see if we can have our very own chalk sculpture of a bicycle in the hillside. The idea is to try to ensure that we have a unique TdF legacy that will, along with the exceptional Dales scenery, attract visitors for years to come. If all goes to plan I have no doubt that we will be looking for volunteers to create this lasting legacy, especially if you have any plant or machinery that could help!

We are also looking to make sure that as much of the route and associated areas are decorated in red polka dot bunting, of which we think we may need around 2km (yes 2,000m) to make the impact that we want!

In addition to this we are sourcing some red polka dot T-shirts for everyone to wear on the day and if you are lucky enough to live along the route we’d like to see if we can encourage you get some of those old bed sheets out, paint them with giant red spots and hang them out for all to see!

The focus in Hawes itself will be the Food and Wine / Beer festival planned for Hawes town centre where a continuous table is to be laid out to run from the Chip Shop all the way to Caffè Curva with a wide range of food and drink on offer from businesses across the area. We are planning the layout of this potentially record breaking table of food and drink now and would like to see as many businesses / organisations or voluntary groups get involved, so if you think that you can offer some food or drink during this festival please get in touch (contact details below)

There will also be a “Bike Trail” where local residents and businesses can decorate old bicycles (you can see some examples on our facebook page [www.facebook.com/HawesTourDeFrance](http://www.facebook.com/HawesTourDeFrance)) with flowers that will form a trail for people to follow. We will be developing this trail over the next few months so if you want to be a part of this please get in touch as soon as possible so we can plan the route without missing anyone off.

We have also had lots of ideas about how we can make sure that the visitors that come for July 5<sup>th</sup> not only come for that day but as many days either side of that day as possible and come back again in the years to come, one idea is to have a music event on the Friday or Saturday night and to make sure that there is plenty going on either side of the main day itself to keep the “festival” atmosphere going, we would love to hear from you if you have other ideas to keep as many people as possible in the area.

All in all things are moving on very well and I’d like to thank everyone for all of their hard work so far planning what I am sure will be the biggest event and most numbers of visitors that Hawes will see, certainly in my lifetime!

**Griff Thomas**

(Deputy Chairman Hawes and High Abbotside TdF Committee)

email: [Hawestdf@outlook.com](mailto:Hawestdf@outlook.com).

The next TdF working group meeting will take place on **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February at 3.30pm**

*(We will welcome news of the arrangements being made in the other villages along the route in the dale. Ed)*

Doctors' Rotas Supplied by the Health Centre																											
AYSGARTH SURGERY ROTA										Wb - week beginning				HAWES SURGERY ROTA										Wb - week beginning			
Wb	Feb 3rd		10th		17th		24th				Wb	Feb 3rd		10th		17th		24th									
Day	am	pm	am	pm	am	pm	am	pm			Day	am	pm	am	pm	am	pm	am	pm								
Mon	JF	JF	WJ	WJ	J	J	WB	WB			Mon	WB	WB	FB	FB	W	W	FJ	FJ								
Tues	W	W	FB	FB	W	W	FJ	F			Tues	BJ	BF	WJ	WJ	J	J	WB	WB								
Wed	F	F	W	W	B	B	J	J			Wed	J	J	F	F	W	W	F	F								
Thur	W	W	F	F	W	W	F	F			Thur	F	F	J	J	J	J	W	W								
Fri	J	J	J	J	J	J	W	W			Fri	W	W	W	W	B	B	J	J								
Doctors, B-Brown, F - France, J - Jones, W - West, C - Closed										Doctors: B-Brown, F - France, J - Jones, W - West, C - Closed																	
Morning Surgery: 9.00 - 10.30 am no appointments										Morning Surgery: 8.45-10.15am Tues till 10.45 no appointments																	
Afternoon Surgery: 4.00 - 5.30 pm appointment only										Afternoon Surgery: 5 - 6.00pm Tues 1.30-4.00 appointments only																	
For appointments and all enquiries ring 663222										For appointments and all enquiries ring 667200																	

### Introducing the New Practice Manager

Lynn Irwin, who lives at Simonstone, is now the Practice Manager for the Central Dales Practice; she is based at the Hawes Health Centre and works there Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, going to Aysgarth if needed. Lynn is responsible for administering the General Medical Service with the N.H.S., making sure the appointments and patient lists are correct and all contracts fulfilled, dealing with the accounts and staffing (but not the doctors; they are partners) and with dispensing and ordering. She is responsible for health and safety at the surgery; even the surgery has to have a nominated first-aider! In this age of rules and regulations the Care Quality Commission sets out 28 essential standards that have to be interpreted in every aspect of running and maintaining the surgery. "We might see a few changes", she told me! The Practice Manager has to deal with patient complaints and suggestions and will be happy to see people in her upstairs office. She feels strongly about the communication and record-keeping between practices, i.e. when patients move, or are temporary residents, and also the communication between primary care and the hospitals. Lynn, originally from Darlington, worked in solicitors' offices after leaving school, and was involved in conveyancing for Richard Johnson in Hawes for five years. She comes from four years' work at the Harewood Health Practice in Catterick. "It couldn't be more different from here", she says

"especially in the very different age profile", but also works the other two days at Aldborough St John, a very rural practice like ours, near Richmond. If necessary she can be contacted there. Lynn will be known to many local people being married to game-keeper Marcus (originally from Hauxwell), and having son Taylor at Hawes school and Dalesplay. She is getting into cycling (probably like 90% of the population in this Tour de France extravaganza!), and as if that isn't enough Lynn is currently following a four-year Open University course in Business Management and Leadership. We wish her well.

### Drop-off points and contacts

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

<b>Hawes:</b>	Alan S. Watkinson, Burnside Coach House.	667785
<b>Gayle:</b>	Sarah Champion 23, Little Ings	667006
<b>Bainbridge:</b>	Sylvia Crookes, 3, Bainside	650525
<b>Askrigg:</b>	Rima Berry, 8 Mill Lane	650980
<b>Carperby:</b>	Margaret Woodcock, Bella Cottage	663488
<b>West Burton:</b>	Nadine Bell, Margaret's Cottage	663559
<b>Aysgarth:</b>	Hamilton's Tearoom	663423
<b>Redmire:</b>	see Carperby above	
<b>Thoralby:</b>	Sandra Foley, Shop	663205

## Surgery News

*(We apologise; this report should have been in the December/January Newsletter)*

### **MPIG**

In October I had a meeting, accompanied by Coun. John Blackie and William Hague, with Jeremy Hunt, the Secretary of State for Health. We lobbied him about the withdrawal of the minimum practice income guarantee (MPIG) from next April. As those who have followed this story will know, MPIG forms a substantial part of the funding for rural GP practices. I outlined the wide range of services that rural practices provide, their high scores on patient satisfaction surveys and the low cost to the NHS that they represent, and asked him pointedly why he would wish to destabilise them by withdrawing funding. Whilst Mr Hunt was adamant that MPIG would be withdrawn, he did appear to appreciate that this is a particular problem for rural practices. He and his officials promised to look at this and revert with their proposals. As I write, there is no guarantee that a solution will be forthcoming, and if some mechanism to replace lost MPIG funding is proposed, the devil will, as ever, be in the detail. You can be sure that I will continue to lobby and campaign on this issue.

### **Signing Off**

This will be my last Surgery News bulletin. At the end of the year I will be leaving the practice after 16 years. My replacement is Lynn Irwin. (Please see the feature on the previous page). I would like to thank all of you who have supported the practice these past years. In my time here I have seen 8 Secretaries of State come and go, and 5 different QUANGOS that have 'managed' primary care services in North Yorkshire with worsening degrees of competence. We have outlasted them all. We are still here. The Central Dales is a good old-fashioned GP practice. I have done my best to keep it that way.

**Clive West**