

THE UPPER WENSLEYDALE NEWSLETTER

Issue 264

December 2019, Christmas and January 2020



By Leon Biros Class 2

**Donation please:
50p suggested**

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

Christmas is Coming!

Dear Friends

As much as I would love to slow down time, there is no getting away from the fact that Christmas is literally around the corner. I wonder how many of you have smiled with joy at these words, or indeed felt your spirits sink, for like no other time of the year, the season of Christmas can throw up a whole raft of emotions and memories, both good and bad. This is merely a fact of life, a truth, that, for some, Christmas is not necessarily a good time, but nowhere does that truth appear to be acknowledged, certainly not on the high street or in the media. So, whilst I would never want to diminish or take away the joy and excitement of Christmas that is experienced by both young and old, I would like us as loving and compassionate people of God to take a moment to consider what a 'blue' Christmas might entail.

Constant cries of 'Merry Christmas!' and non-stop carolling can contrast with the feelings of many people at this time of year. For those suffering from the recent or impending death of loved ones, dealing with recent separation or divorce, struggling to find employment, or facing depression or family crisis, this can be a very isolated and dreary time. Every greeting and every song reminds the grief-stricken of how unhappy life is at this moment. Perhaps it is important for us to recognise that Christmas celebrations do not meet everyone's needs.

Do we, I wonder, if we haven't done so already, need to set up a quiet reflective corner in our churches where folks can just sit and be? Perhaps a 'quieter' Christmas service is worth considering where there is space to ponder?

When I look at the Christmas story, there was a lot of hustle and bustle, a lot of coming and going. Angels, visits, journeys, crowds, quite frantic really, and yet amongst it all, Mary ponders.

'But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.' (Luke 2: 19)

The word 'ponder' in the Greek suggests not just considering but also trying to put things

together. Doing it in the heart adds an important emotional overlay to the process. To ponder in our hearts is to try to feel it out as well as to think it out.

Mary's young life had already taken an unforeseen and potentially disastrous direction. Strange and bizarre events had brought her to this moment when she gazes upon her new-born son, who, although obviously human, small and vulnerable, will somehow, in some way, be hugely significant in the history of humankind. How, why, really? If you ponder it with only your mind, it seems unbelievable, crazed, unimaginable, even ridiculous. Just thinking about the events that have led up to this birth, away from home in a crowded unfamiliar place, with limited comforts and supplies is enough to make this young girl weep. But she is not just pondering with her mind she is pondering with her heart, a heart that knows God, a heart that knows love, a heart that knows that if she continues to trust God as she has done so far, then things will work out.

There are many things during our lifetimes that make us 'ponder' in this way, exactly as Mary 'pondered'. In many ways Christmas can be a time when we 'ponder' more than we would at any other time. Why has something happened, where is the sense in it, is it possible to live life differently? I do not know what life or death events you will be pondering during the Christmas Season, but I do pray that there will be those moments of stillness when you feel God's presence, those gifts of peace-filled space that will equip and enable you to engage with the hope that underpins the season.

I confess that I love Christmas and always have, but it is perfectly o.k. to have a 'blue' Christmas, for the truth is that 'God is with us'.

So, wherever you are, whatever you do, whether alone or with others, may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

Rev Melanie Reed

**Methodist Superintendent Minister, North
Yorkshire Dales Circuit**

Newsletter Christmas Greetings

We wish all our readers, advertisers and contributors, regular or occasional, a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas and a Healthy and Prosperous 2020.

Once again we decided to make significant donations to the charities most often nominated as recipients of competition prize money. We will thus be giving £100 to the Yorkshire Air Ambulance and £100 to the Great North Air Ambulance both of which serve the Newsletter area.



Eunice the Ewe

Last month I was on the river bank waiting to be rescued by the Swaledale Mountain Rescue team and the winner of the £10 prize is Lily Haygarth of Gayle.

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

Cover Painting

The painting on the front cover is once again by the winner of the Reg Fagg Trophy. In some years this has been an open trophy with entries being given to the Christmas Lights Committee. This year it was organised in conjunction with Hawes School and many excellent entries were received including those from Bertie (class 1), Cicely (class 2) and Reggie (class 3).

The overall winner is **Leon Biros** whose artwork adorns the front cover of this issue.



HAWES CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL 2019

SATURDAY 7TH DECEMBER

Children's Party

In the Market House

1.45pm:

Fun and games with Colin Bailey
Visit from members of Aladdin Panto
Community Buffet

Bring your own snacks ~ Free Admission



4.00pm: Market Place:
Community Carol Singing
with Hawes Prize Silver Band

4.30pm: Father Christmas arrives

Submission of articles

Please note that all submissions should comply with current copyright legislation. If submitted articles are not the original work of the person submitting them, then all relevant permission should be sought and granted for reproduction.

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

**TUESDAY JANUARY 21st
(Unless we are full earlier)**

PUBLISHED ON JAN 31st

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A Classic Christmas

Enjoy a selection of festive favourites in the company of vocalists Amy Fudali and Colin Bailey with 'Tales from the Tree' told by Mark Cronfield as Saint Nicholas.

Tickets available from local venue contacts or
www.bluebox.co.uk/boxoffice | Colin Bailey 07711 211169
 All performances start at 7.30pm (Doors open 7.00pm)

Saturday 7th December - HAWES MARKET HOUSE | DL8 3QN
 Community Office

Wednesday 11th - GILLING WEST VILLAGE HALL | DG10 5JG

Saturday 14th - LEYBURN ARTS CENTRE | DL8 5DL
 01969 624510 | www.leyburnartscentre.com

Tuesday 17th - TUNSTALL VILLAGE HALL | DL10 7QR

Wednesday 18th - NORTHALLERTON FORUM | DL6 1LP
 01609 776230 | www.forumnorthallerton.org.uk

Thursday 19th - BEDALE, CHANTRY HALL | DL8 1AB

Friday 20th - WEST BURTON VILLAGE HALL | DL8 4JY

Saturday 28th - MASHAM Town Hall | HG4 4DY
 01765 680200 | Masham Community Office

Performances and programmes subject to change without prior notice.
 Bluebox Productions proudly presents A Classic Christmas | www.bluebox.co.uk | Haverhill House, Thaxby, Leyburn, North Yorkshire. DL8 3JG

THORNTON RUST INSTITUTE GRAND CHRISTMAS WHIST AND RAFFLE

DECEMBER 13TH 7.30pm
ALL WELCOME

Drop-off points and contacts

For news, articles, reports, letters, What's On dates, competition entries, suggestions and comments:- All 01969 numbers.

Hawes:	Community Office	667400
Gayle:	Sarah Champion	
	23, Little Ings	667006
Bainbridge:	Sylvia Crookes,	
	3, Bainside	650525
Askrigg:	Rima Berry,	
	8 Mill Lane	650980
Carperby:	New contact needed	
West Burton:	Nadine Bell,	
	Margarets Cottage	663559
Aysgarth:	Hamilton's Tearoom	663423
Redmire:	Kevin Davis	624165
	Westholme	
Thoralby:	Sandra Foley, Shop	663205
West Witton	Christine Barker,	
	Chestnut Garth	624934

Bainbridge Women's Institute

Bainbridge W.I. meet on the **third Thursday of the month** at Bainbridge Village Hall at 7.30pm.

The next meeting on **December 19th** is the Christmas party for members only. Please contact **Margaret Preston on 01969 650095** for further details.

Our programme is almost finalised for the New Year and we are looking forward to talks on varied topics such as the Women of Sizergh, Meadow Flowers, Bulgaria and Yorkshire Humour. There will be cookery demonstrations and talks by published authors. There will also be plenty of craft workshops and outings. Follow us on Facebook at Bainbridge WI inspiring Women.

The first meeting of **2020** will be on **January 16th**, where Caroline Griffiths will be speaking on Soldier to Sound Practitioner. We look forward to seeing you.

Gill Flowers

Hawes Grammar School Trust

If you are in full-time higher education and you live in the parish of Hawes, then you are eligible for an award of £25 towards the cost of books or materials relating to your course. If you feel you are eligible for the award then please contact **Rebecca Alderson on 667760** for further details.

Fountain

Hawes



Why not have a Christmas Day lunch, without the hassle....

For **£16.95** each, we will prepare for you, to take away, a complete Turkey lunch, including wine.

Just either pop it in the oven or microwave and it's done!

Orders are being taken up to 16th December

for collection up to 7.30pm on Christmas Eve

For more details just call in, or ring us on **01969-667206**

Homeless but not Alone

This Christmas and into 2020, my daughter and I are joining forces with friends from Swaledale to prepare and deliver packages of vital items to those who are homeless. Rough sleeping must be pure misery, especially during these harsh winter months, and no one actively chooses this way of living. People sleeping on the street are almost 17 times more likely to have been victims of violence. Homelessness can be the result of severe disadvantage, abuse and mental or physical health problems but it can happen to the least likely individuals due to a series of unfortunate life events. More than one in three people sleeping rough have been deliberately hit or kicked or experienced some other form of violence, including being sexually assaulted and urinated on and they are over nine times more likely to take their own life than the general population. They are at grave risk of developing physical and mental health problems and addictions and the average life expectancy of a rough sleeper is 44 years. I was recently talking to a young homeless man in London whose teeth had been kicked in, unprovoked, by a group of suited city workers. What is that about? Less than a year ago he owned his own house and earned over £20k working as a self employed plumber.

Charities such as Crisis, Centrepont and Shelter do a fantastic job in supporting those in need and tackling the complex issues underlying homelessness but they can't reach everyone. People who live on the streets report feeling invisible, worthless and that no one cares. Homelessness is something that we are quite removed from in the Dales; but we are a caring community.

If you are reading this message and want to help, we would be really grateful for donations of new or second hand items that we can include in our packages. The packages will be life-sustaining, but, just as importantly, they will send out the message to rough sleepers that people do care and are thinking of them.

Although we don't want to be prescriptive, some suggestions of useful items are: **homemade, new or second hand gloves, hats,**

scarves, socks and jumpers (knitters get busy), unwanted warm coats, packs of toothbrushes and toothpaste, combs, tissues, chapsticks, nail clippers, plasters and antiseptic cream, sanitary towels, baby wipes, hand sanitizer, small LED torches with spare batteries, sleeping bags, emergency foil survival blankets (very cheaply purchased online), cereal bars, peanut butter, ring pull cans of tuna, bottles of fresh water and Christmas treats. However, I am sure that there are many other items that could be helpful, bearing in mind that the homeless have limited storage space and everything will be gratefully received. If you would like to include a card or message for the recipient then this will reinforce the feeling that people care.

If you live in the Wensleydale area then items can be delivered directly to my home, **Stall House, Thornton Rust** or left in the garage if we are out. Alternatively I can collect items if you let me know your location. My contact details are: **Olwyn Chorley** on **01969 663531** or ol@thorntonrust.plus.com.

If you live in the Richmond area then please contact Jackie Potter on **07792 857074** or jackiepotter24@outlook.com to arrange delivery or collection of donations.

Thank you so much in anticipation of your help, we know that small gestures can have a **BIG** impact.

Olwyn Chorley

Christmas Charity Concert

Hawes Silver Band and the Aysgarth Singers are again putting on a joint Charity Christmas Concert, this year in aid of Fight Bladder Cancer. An enjoyable evening of melody is promised and the concert takes place in Hawes Market Hall on **Friday, December 20th at 7.30pm**. Admission is £8 on the door (accompanied children free) and there will be a raffle and light refreshments.

Gerald Hodgson

Grand Christmas Quiz

An extended quiz (two month's worth) this month.

1. What ballet premiered in St. Petersburg in 1892?
2. What edible Christmas product is known for its very long shelf life?
3. What real life store features in "Miracle on 34th Street"?
4. In the song "Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer" what incriminating evidence was found on Grandma's back?
5. How many reindeer are featured in the poem "Twas the Night before Christmas"?
6. In the "Muppet Christmas Carol" who played Scrooge?
7. Name the animatronic cassette -playing bear toy that every child wanted for Christmas in the mid 80's?
8. In the 1964 classic "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" what was the name of Rudolph's faithful elf companion?
9. What well known Christmas song became the first ever broadcast from space in 1965?
10. What holiday movie sequel includes a cameo by Donald Trump?
11. In what modern-day country was St Nicholas born?
12. What company has been using Santa Claus in its advertising since 1931?
13. Who declared that the birth of Jesus would be celebrated on the 25th December?
14. Who was the 1st president of the USA to decorate the White House Christmas Tree?
15. Name Australia's Christmas Island capital.
16. In which year did Charles Dickens publish a "Christmas Carol"?
17. Which country does the ginger bread house come from?
18. What were Victorian Christmas Trees topped with?
19. What was first designed in the UK by a 6 year old?
20. Who once earned £1,000 guineas for writing a verse for a Christmas card?

Please send in your answers to arrive by **January 21st**. Don't forget to nominate your charity which will receive the £20 prize should you win.

"NO-vember Answers

All began with NO

1. Nottingham
2. Nostell Priory
3. Nothing
4. Nova
5. Notch
6. Nobby
7. Noah
8. Nosterfield
9. Nose
10. Notable (Not able!)
11. Nous
12. Now
13. Nought
14. Notice (Not ice)
15. Norse
16. Nobel

One or two answers could have been debated but the judge's final decision was that the winner is Yvonne Dennison from Leyburn who nominated the Macmillan Nurses as her chosen charity. They will receive the £20 prize.

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Foreigners in London 1520-1677

Leslie Primo, an expert on Renaissance art, examines the influence of foreign painters on British art during the 16th and 17th centuries and their enduring impact on the British School of Painting at Tennants Garden Rooms, Leyburn on **10th December from 2-3pm**. This lecture, for The Arts Society Wensleydale, asks why foreigner painters were preferred by the aristocracy in London to native-born English painters, why did they come in the first place and what was their impact on English art practise?

Leslie traces foreign artists from the Tudor period through to the Renaissance and Baroque, looking at their origins and how they came to work in England. He examines the contribution of artists such as Holbein, van Dyck, Lely, and Rubens, considering how these artists influenced the British School of Painting and assesses their legacy.

Leslie has lectured extensively at major institutions including the National Gallery, National Maritime Museum, Courtauld Institute, and the National Portrait Gallery. He is an entertaining, informative and popular presenter for The Arts Society nationally.

Tickets are £10 (refunded if you join TASW).
Contact **01845 567489** or

wensleydale@theartsociety.org for tickets, which are also available prior to the lecture. TASW website – <https://theartsociety.org/wensleydale> has full details of the 2019-2020 programme.

Chris Whittaker

Wensleydale Filling Station

Christmas Unwrapped at Newton Le Willows Village Hall on **Friday, December 13th from 7.00pm to 9.00pm**.

For more details contact **Mike Hirst on 07714 204024**, mikehirst3@gmail.com.

Return Thanks

Sandra and I wish to express our sincere thanks to all relatives, friends and neighbours for the kind expressions of sympathy and for the many letters, cards and messages of condolences received following the recent sad loss of our mother. We have also received a fair amount of fresh baking, which is also what the good folk in these parts do very well.

Mother would be horrified at what she would see as a fuss being made of a small unassuming figure such as her.

Barry Wilcox

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Memorial Service at St Oswald's Askrigg

As the festive season of Christmas approaches, we are aware that the sense of emptiness and loss experienced through bereavement can often feel intensified at this time. We would like to extend an invitation to all to attend a short Memorial Service at St Oswald's church in Askrigg at **4.00 pm on Sunday, December 8th.**

During the service, the names of loved ones will be read out, and a candle lit in their memory. You will also have the opportunity, should you wish, to write their name upon a wooden star and place it on the Christmas memorial tree, which will remain in the church for the duration of the season. We hope that you might find the opportunity to engage in this act of remembrance helpful. In order to help us with our preparation we would appreciate it if you could let us know by **Thursday, December 5th** if you are planning to attend and the name of your loved one to be remembered. This may be done by email at: office@upperwenben.org, by sending a text to: **07566 211168** or by telephoning the Vicarage and leaving a message on **01969 667553**.

Rev Dave Clark

Police Report

The following incidents have occurred over the last month.

Sometime in October the contents of a household oil tank at West Witton appears to have been stolen. Please check the security on and ease of accessibility to your tank – there are a range of cost-effective and easy to install security measures for oil tanks available.

In the early hours of October 28th a red Honda quad bike was stolen from a farm building near Keld. The quad is believed to have been seen driving towards Tan Hill with a Landrover Defender, itself believed stolen from Cumbria that same day. Around the same time two farm/out buildings at Angram were broken into, although nothing was believed stolen. A further farm building near Gunnerside was also entered and thieves unsuccessfully attempted to steal a quad bike from within. Enquiries are ongoing regarding all these offences.

On the morning of October 30th a residential property just outside Askrigg was burgled whilst the owners were out. The offenders kicked through a rear door and made a search for jewellery before making good their escape. Similar offences occurred that day near Sedbergh and Masham.

On the evening of November 5th a Honda quad bike was stolen from a farm building at

Firewood Seasoned hardwood logs

Tel: 01969 662692
Mob: 07970 629227

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*Led by Colin Bailey and Mick Yare,
young people present a varied
programme of well-known songs and
festive favourites and celebrate their
achievements during 2019.*

Friday 13th December
Thoraby Village Hall | DL8 3SU

7.30pm (Doors open from 7.00pm)

Tickets £8.00 inc. light refreshments.
U12s FREE. Raffle. Proceeds in aid of
performing arts activities for
young people.

Available online at www.blueboxt.co.uk,
or Colin Bailey on 07711 211169,
or Audrey Bailey on 01969 663319,
or on the door.

Advance booking is advisable.

Gayle. Vigilant members of the public reported seeing a quad being ridden later down Swaledale in the Low Row area in company with an unidentified 4x4 vehicle. Officers were already in the area working on an anti-crime operation and so the quad was located and followed by police as it travelled over the Stang area, where the rider abandoned it before running off. Forensic enquiries are continuing to identify the offender.

On November 15th, mid-afternoon, a man was caught loading gravel taken from the premises of a property in Widdale, the suspect was challenged, however they left at speed in a Black BMW 3 Series heading in the direction of Ingleton.

The above incidents are a good reminder to check the security again on homes, outbuildings and vehicles. For your quads, please consider installing chaining posts sunk into concrete, trackers, immobiliser devices, sound padlocks, security lighting and CCTV. Please contact us at Leyburn Police station for further security advice. Also, please keep ringing us **at the time it's happening** when something looks suspicious.

This month in the Dales area police have

made four arrests for drink and drug driving offences. A stop-check at Middleham this month led to the seizure of cannabis and cocaine from a driver. In the run up to Christmas, officers will be carrying out roadside checks on vehicles in this area. If you've had an alcoholic drink or think you might have controlled drugs in your system please don't be tempted to 'chance it' and drive. Please use a designated driver or legally registered taxi.

Here's wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and New Year - my last drop-in surgery of the year will be on Christmas Eve so if you're passing, please call in at the Hawes Community Office - there will be mince pies.

PCSO Lucy Osborn 3744

Dales Safer Neighbourhood Team

North Yorkshire Police

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Hawes Primary School (YCAT) News

Hawes Primary School was inspected by Ofsted in September and judged to be 'Good' in all areas. The school was inspected under a brand new framework, which has just come into force. The school achieved a good judgment for the Quality of Education, Behaviour and Attitudes, Personal Development, Leadership and Management and Early Years Provision. Inspectors identified that pupils "enjoy school" and "behave well in school." Older pupils are "very good role models for the youngest pupils to follow."

Don Parker, CEO of Yorkshire Collaborative Academy Trust, said, "I am pleased to announce that Hawes Primary School has been judged a good school by OFSTED. The school was sponsored by Yorkshire Collaborative Academy Trust (YCAT) in October 2016. This judgement has been a great achievement by the school's children, staff, governors and parents. Everyone has made a huge commitment to improve the school and YCAT is incredibly proud of their success."

Headteacher Hanna Vasey commented, "Our Ofsted report clearly shows that we have happy children who enjoy coming to school. It recognises the support that we have received from the Trust so that teachers have good subject knowledge and share their love of reading with the pupils. It also acknowledges the work we have done on our curriculum to develop the growing awareness for pupils of life beyond the school's rural location. I am so proud of the fact that the dedication and determination of the staff has been recognised."

Early in 2016, Hawes Community Primary School was placed into Special Measures by Ofsted. In September 2016 Hanna Vasey became the new headteacher and in October 2016 the school became part of the Yorkshire Collaborative Academy Trust (YCAT).

The Chair of Governors, Jan Linsley said, "I am delighted by the



progress the school has made over the past few years. This is Hanna's first headship and she has done an amazing job here. As governors we are very proud of our children and the ongoing commitment from families. We are very grateful for the support from YCAT."

Indian Dance Workshop/ Performance



On Monday 21st October, two ladies from an Indian Dance Company came to show us how to dance. They also taught us the story of Rama and Sita through drama. In the afternoon KS2 performed the dancing and drama in front of parents, family and friends. One of the ladies performed a fast, intriguing dance. She had bells on her ankles and was dressed in a beautiful pink and gold dress. The other lady drew a Rangoli pattern on the floor with flour. We learned so much about Diwali. It was a fun, exciting day.

By Paige, Miya and Lucas

Netball at Askrigg

On Friday 8th November two teams from class 3 took part in a high five netball cluster competition at Askrigg Primary School. Both teams made it to the semi-final stage and unfortunately had to play each other. Hawes team B made it through to the final against Reeth and Gunnerside and we won 4 – 3. We received a trophy and we are through to the next round of the competition. We all had a great time and would like to thank Mrs Guy and Miss Lewis (George's mum, for taking us and for their words of encouragement and support. We would also like to thank Mr Bullock and Mr Barrick, for organising and refereeing the event.

By Matt, Emily N and Olivia

Hawes School staff and pupils wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Dawn Alderson

Open Pantry

Open Pantry is a new initiative being run by the churches in Wensleydale to help people who find themselves in food crisis. There has been much in the news lately of how the numbers requiring assistance from food banks have been steadily rising across all parts of the UK and this is a response from the churches in the area to provide help at a much more local level.

St Margaret's church, Hawes and St Oswald's church, Askrigg will begin a trial of 'Open Pantry' in December. St Alkelda's church in Middleham is also involved and opened their 'Pantry' last month.

People can come and take the food and toiletry items as and when they need them without referral, with the invitation to make a contribution to the 'Pantry' when their circumstances change.

The 'Pantry' will be situated towards the rear of the church buildings which are open approx. 9am – 5pm every day.

For those who may wish to make a contribution to the 'Pantry', a list of essential items is given below. Please leave any donations for the pantry in a labelled bag at the rear of Church.

UHT milk, Cereals, Jam, Marmalade, Biscuits

Tins of: Rice, Pudding, Custard, Vegetables, Soup, Potatoes, Tomatoes, Spam, Ham, Corned Beef, Tuna, Baked Beans etc

Jars of: Pasta Sauces

Meals or Pies in a tin: such as Stew, Pasta, Meatballs, Hotdogs

Packets of dried food such as: Pasta, Rice and Noodles

Toiletries: Deodorant, Toothpaste, Soap, Shower Gel, Feminine Hygiene products, Toilet Paper.

Revd Dave Clark

Soup and Sweet Lunch
Thorlaby Village Hall
Thursday, December 19th
Noon – 1.30pm
£5 per head

Thorlaby Village Hall
Saturday 14th December at 3.00pm
The Magic of Christmas
with Askrigg Handbell Ringers
Christmas music and poetry
with refreshments

For local help with your bookkeeping, invoicing and business admin

Mike Reeves has 43 years
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Hawes In Bloom



The summer flowers are well and truly over, we've enjoyed the fireworks, the Hawes Christmas Lights are going up. So what is now a familiar cycle of events continues around Town.

Despite a very mixed, not to say difficult summer in growing terms, I hope you agree that there was still a good show of colour to brighten things up, even on the greyest wet days. I do try to select plants that are going to succeed whatever the weather throws at us but I must say I did wonder if there was going to be anything left during the worst of the gales!

I am now planning ahead and am about to put together my order for plants for next summer's show and will be talking to the nurserymen before Christmas. I would appreciate the return of any empty baskets so that I can take them when I go. This helps to keep costs down and it is of course good to recycle materials where possible.

As I'm sure you can imagine a huge amount of work goes on behind the scenes as well as the back-breaking task of actually putting up and taking down the baskets and troughs. Once again I want to say a big thank you to my faithful and long suffering band of helpers. You not only turn up whatever the weather but you put up with me bossing you around and expecting miracles. You know who you are!

A sincere thank you to Messrs Gtec who so generously allow me to take over the entire rear of their premises down on the Trading Estate in Spring for several weeks. Those of you that have ventured down there during the height of the preparations will understand me when I say that without this facility Hawes in Bloom just couldn't happen.

A big thank you too to all our generous financial supporters from the Parish Council, The Gayle Mill Trust, local Clubs and Pubs and of course so many generous individual donors.

I wish you all a safe and joyful Christmas and look forward to Hawes in Bloom 2020!

**Your resident Plant Pest
Richard Noble**

December 2019 Newsletter

Firstly we would like to say a really big thank you to the local businesses for their kind donations to our Halloween walk, we had approximately 100 children join us on our walk. The costumes were amazing and the treats delicious. Our Christmas fayre was held on Sunday, November 10th, we had lots of prizes to be won and it was lovely to see the whole community come out and support us. Thank you Sharon Guy for arranging it all for us, we are very grateful for all your hard work. The children have been enjoying the teddy bears picnic role play area and we made some Pudsey bear biscuits. The children have all been designing a Christmas card and these have gone off to be printed for the families who chose to order some. They make a lovely gift for close family and friends. We have lots of Christmas crafts planned for the month ahead and we will be having a visit from Father Christmas. Thank you for all the support from our families and friends in the community, we have had a wonderful year and Dalesplay is full of happy children making friends and learning new skills. We hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Joanne Fothergill

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Down on the Farm

It's November on the farm. It's duly wet, although, thankfully we have not had the quantity of rain suffered by areas in the south of our county which have been badly flooded. I always associate "Tupping Time" with cold, damp, short days and this year is typical! I don't envy my husband and other farmers as they attend their Tups (Rams) on a daily basis. A bucket with ration (dry feed) is offered to each tup to ensure they keep fit during their time spent with the sheep. Rud is applied to the Tup's breast bone so that a farmer can see which sheep will give birth in early April. Each week a different colour is applied or another tup is brought in as a replacement. The colour change is relevant to a particular week. Any wandering sheep are gathered together so the Tup can check whether or not they are in season. By the end of the month most of the sheep will be in lamb and the Tups can go back to a restful 11 months.

We had an unusual visitor to our farm at the end of October. Our first encounter with a "Hoopoe" was in 2017 on Gran Canaria. It is a very attractive bird. The feathers on the body are russet brown with a black and white stripe at the tip of the wings. But it's the feathery crest on its head that is rather unique. The feathers normally flat, can be spread out on the top of the bird's

head like a fan, presumably to attract a mate. It was therefore a shock when my husband spotted the Hoopoe on our farm. He assumed it was on its way back to the Canaries from its summer residence, which can be as far north as Scotland, when it stopped for a quick rest and feed before continuing on its long migration south. We hope it reached its destination and is enjoying the warm sunshine now.

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News From Hawes Fire Station

This edition seems to be full of thank yous! Early in the year we said goodbye to Stuart McLoughlin who had given great service to not only the station but to the local community in general. We wish him and Janie all the best for the future. His place has been taken by Mike Lloyd, who will be attending his first 'safe to ride' course in early December.

As I write this article we have attended between 50 and 60 incidents so far this year. At the Reeth flooding we attended 7 incidents in one day with the crews working tirelessly for 13 hours non-stop. Thanks to all the households and businesses we attended for giving us warm drinks and snacks to keep us going. The commitment shown by all the crew cannot be overstated and also to the families at home who often get left with no notice or idea where we've gone or when we'll be back. Their commitment is as great if not greater than ours!

In August we held the bi-annual barbeque. A big thank you goes to the people and businesses who provided prizes etc. for this fantastic event. Thanks to Michelle Barnes for bringing the event all together and to Sue Airey who did a great job doing the cooking. Also, thanks to the crew and their families for manning the stalls and making it such a huge success.

We have enjoyed having several organisations visit us during the year, the latest one being Hawes Youth Club....they all seemed to enjoy their night, despite getting a bit wet!

We wish you all a happy and safe festive season.

Ant Heseltine

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Message from Wensleydale Music and Theatre Group

As we enter into panto season we cannot believe it's a year since our production of Jack and the Beanstalk that was nominated, and won 'Best Panto' in the North region, at this years NODA awards. We are also delighted to tell you that Alana Teasdale, who played Jill took home the 'Rising Star' award!

Although we are having a year off we are excited for our next production in December 2020, Snow White. Our first production meeting will be announced soon. Our vibrant society welcomes anyone who would like to be involved in any shape or form.

Happy Christmas and see you next year!

Amy Cockett, Chair of Wensleydale Music and Theatre Group

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Prunings

It's fascinating how the mature greens of late Summer morph into the glorious hues of Autumn, and as the leaves drop we are presented with the greys of denuded trees and the tawny shades of early Winter. So far (mid November) the grass still holds its colour, and the wet Summer has left plenty for the sheep. It is to be hoped that those parts of the Dales already affected by flooding are spared further devastation and can enjoy a peaceful Christmas.

The catalogues full of treats for the Spring and Summer are arriving by the bucket load. It seems that our superb local Posties have much more to contend with than the Christmas rush and election literature. There are many exciting possibilities, but as I spent rather a lot last season to fill the new part of the patio I shall be more careful this time. The early Spring bulbs last year were a joy and are already beginning to show above the gravel, but the tulips did not really come up to expectations. Next Spring I have decided to try some of the tiny varieties which only grow to about six inches. These types usually survive well, they thrive in poor soils and will naturalise if they are happy. I shall plant some on the banking down the side of the lane and as they look good in pots and pans I shall put together some of those as well.

Looking out now it's dry. What I should really do is grab some secateurs and get on with cutting back. The beans and the sweet peas have left masses of detritus, all good for the compost heap, but there are canes and string to extricate first. I've been lazy and done the easy jobs first. When I started on the raised bed there were far more nettles hiding than I expected, and pulling them out dislodged some of the Alliums. Must take more care!

There was an interesting question in Garden News about protecting the wood in a raised bed. The answer given suggested lining it with plastic and adding holes for drainage. Long gone are the days when old sleepers impregnated with creosote were used and nothing grew round the edges, but we made ours out of tanalised timber so it would survive. This can be obtained in big sizes, very much like sleepers and so unlikely to bend or twist,

and it does not seem to have affected anything growing inside. My lovely red Begonias have finally succumbed to the cold and I shall try and keep the tubers as they were so beautiful.

It warms my heart when the experts bang on about leaving unkempt areas as wildlife habitat. I've been doing that for years, but it could be a euphemism for laziness. In one of such places I've noticed a young Rowan sapling. It has only just reached berrying size, and they are white. It is really lovely. Where it came from I have no idea, but I must rescue it and give it a better place to live.

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

Rose Rambler



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Rail Bridge Removed

You may remember quite a few years ago Trust supporters gave generously to our appeal for funds to purchase the Fort Bridge, a rail bridge which carried the Catterick Camp Branch line over the A1 near Catterick, which had to be removed as part of the motorway widening scheme. The bridge (in two sections) was transported for storage at Redmire Station.

Recent research for the proposed extension to Bolton Castle identified that the bridge would not be suitable for bridging Apedale Beck, primarily because the bridge was removed in rather a rush by Highway Agency contractors

who in the process damaged it beyond repair, a situation that was recently confirmed by an independent structural survey undertaken on behalf of the Trust. The Trust very reluctantly agreed to the removal of the bridge from Redmire Station Car Park as it had become a bit of an eyesore as well as an ongoing insurance liability.

Cleveland Bridge Company, who are blasting and painting the new Leyburn footbridge free of charge, were approached for advice. Three company employees very generously volunteered to dismantle and remove the bridge using their transport contractor. For the last 2 weekends they have worked extremely hard cutting up the bridge and breaking the concrete from the sections and the final section of the bridge was removed from the site on Friday 25th October.

Helen Ashworth

(Volunteers Coordinator & Lead Fundraiser)

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Farewell to Bob and Lesley

After 17 years as owners of Cockett's Hotel and Restaurant in Hawes, Bob and Lesley Barber have finally hung up their aprons and are entering a new stage in their lives.

Bob ran his own Plumbing and Building business in Doncaster when he and Lesley decided to embark on a new career in the hospitality business and bought Cockett's back in September 2002. In addition to the hotel and restaurant they also acquired the services of chef Paul Noble who had already been there for 12 years and is still running the kitchen today.

They have sold the lease for Cockett's to Rachel Lamby and Peter Sowerby the tenants at the nearby Crown Hotel.

Bob has been a member of the Hawes Christmas Lights Committee since they arrived

and soon discovered that he was the only committee member comfortable climbing a ladder! Bob also helps Richard Noble with the assembly of the annual Hawes in Bloom displays.

In anticipation of their retirement Bob and Lesley designed and built their current home at the back of the hotel back in 2011/12 and now look forward to an extended holiday! Bob fancies buying a motorbike and touring the dales whilst Lesley is looking forward to spending more time with their grandchildren.

Bob and Lesley are very grateful for their initial welcome and the continued support of everyone in Hawes who have helped them to have a very enjoyable 17 years.

B.M.C.

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Best Foot Forward

A Castle to Castle Walk

A lot of walks have some kind of theme. It may just be physical features such as following a river or doing the Three Peaks; it could be some aspect of nature like a flower walk or searching for red squirrels; or it might be a linear walk following a historical route. The walk described here is nothing like as famous but it links two historic castles and passes by four old churches in mid-Wensleydale.

The walk starts at Bolton Castle and finishes at Middleham Castle, a distance of about eight miles. Much of the walk is downhill, with a little climbing at the end, and almost all of it is on decent paths and tracks which many of you will know. As with many linear walks, the main problem is how to get to, or get back to, the start. In this instance it is possible to use a combination of the Little White Bus to Leyburn and the 159 Richmond to Ripon service, which goes through Middleham. However, the timetables need to be studied carefully to find the most efficient connections and at this time of year when daylight is limited, it can be particularly awkward.

When I chose to do the walk in November, my wife (whose idea it was in the first place) opted to come with me. Because the buses back to Castle Bolton are scarce, we decided to start at Aysgarth, which has a better return bus service. From there we walked to Castle Bolton but as that is not part of the main walk, I will spare you the details, except to say that Aysgarth Falls was very impressive after recent rain.

Rain had already started by the time we reached Castle Bolton. It has a large car park but rather expensive parking fees. The castle itself is a significant landmark in Wensleydale and it was built as much to impress as for defence; it stands out clearly from so many vantage points. The history of the castle is well documented, so suffice it to say that it was built in the late fourteenth century by the Scrope family, around an existing dwelling. In the seventeenth century it passed into the hands of the Orde-Powlett family who still own it. It is closed in winter but in summer it is a busy



tourist destination and is a popular venue for weddings. No one lives in the castle now but it

has several very useable rooms for various functions.

In the shadow of the castle is St Oswald's Church, which was built seventy-five years earlier. Its sundial immediately became obsolete when the castle was built. Like most local churches, the door is open in the daytime and if you go inside you will find a plethora of displays about village life and church activities. There is certainly lots going on there. We sat in the porch out of the rain, as I'm sure many walkers had done before us.

We left the church and headed for the long, narrow village green, which is criss-crossed with access tracks to the houses. On the way we passed an interesting water trough embellished with a cross and at the far end there is a Meeting Room where numerous notices are on display. The good people of Castle Bolton certainly like to keep us all well informed. The rain gradually petered out and views of Penhill improved as we dropped down through squelchy fields to the disused railway line. At one time it was prudent to walk along the line to the road at Redmire but since the new footbridge was built the direct footpath can be used. Shortly before the bridge, which spans Apedale Beck, the path exits the National Park. You might soon have guessed this anyway because after a couple of small fields the route enters a relatively new housing estate, a feature rarely seen inside the park.

Just down the road from the houses is the Bolton Arms. Being chilled to the bone by rain and cold we approached with trepidation ten minutes before midday, fearing the pub would be closed but we were delighted to find it open and were welcomed by Martin and Steph who had a splendid fire blazing. We used this to dry out our gloves while enjoying a hot chocolate and listening to their plans for future development – more bedrooms, a glass cellar on display, even a shop! We'll watch this space with interest to see what actually happens.

Tempting as it was to linger, we had to remember there was a bus to catch. Redmire village will be familiar to most, with its shapely sycamore trees on the attractive green. Unfortunately the King's Arms closed about twenty years ago. As far as I am aware not a single pub has closed in the dale since then. That's not bad going when the national average is about fifteen pubs a week.

We soon found ourselves out of the village on the lane to the church. Here there is a choice: walk through the fields or follow the lane past the church. In view of the notorious mud at the farm buildings on the former, we opted to walk the lane. It is normally very quiet but there was a memorial service at the church that day, so there was a bit more traffic. St Mary's Church is twelfth century and like so many rural churches, is a ten minute walk from the village. Our walk continued along the lane past some new glamping pods which looked very spacious with new facilities. Then into the woods there is a good track with lovely views down to the river. Many of the trees are beech, which are more common down here than in the upper dale. It is a delightful mile to Bolton Hall, where the woods end and the view becomes expansive again.

The hall is the seat of the Orde-Powlett family. It was built in 1675 and rebuilt in 1902 after a serious fire. Although much reduced, the Bolton Estate is still very extensive. As we walked along the main drive from the hall to Wensley there was a fair amount of estate traffic. There is a lodge half way down and another at the main gate entrance, both with a touch of the Gothic about them. Wensley is an estate village and the Three Horseshoes Inn belongs to Lord Bolton. We decided one pub was enough for the day and pressed on. At the bottom of the village Holy Trinity is a redundant church, which has some very fine features. Although used occasionally as part of the Penhill Benefice of churches, it is maintained by the Churches Conservation Trust.

For a very short while we were flanked by the traffic of the A684. We crossed the River Ure on the handsome four-arched bridge which is very old, certainly built before 1436, although it was widened (on the downstream side) in 1818 as the volume of

traffic increased. It was a relief to get off the main road because the heavy



wagons are very close to the narrow footpath. Once in the fields again there was peace and quiet. The river was in a hurry. It wasn't flooded but there was plenty of water in it and we felt some anxiety as to whether the footpath could be inundated. We needn't have worried, although parts of the bank were seriously eroded and it was obvious that the route was being less well used as a result.

Without getting our feet properly wet, we reached the track from which a footpath climbs up to Middleham. The ensuing fields can be quite confusing but for much of the way a path is trodden through the grass. We crossed the airstrip used by the racing fraternity and took the left turn towards the church, our fourth on this walk. It is dedicated to St Mary and St Alkelda. The latter is a little known saint. Apparently she was an Anglo Saxon princess who was strangled by Viking women for refusing to denounce her faith. There are only two churches in the country dedicated to her, the other being in Giggleswick.

A few minutes later we were in the upper square looking at Middleham Castle, our final destination. The castle dates from about 1170 so it is a couple of hundred years older than Bolton Castle. (There is evidence of an even earlier castle nearby which dates back to 1086.) What we see now is an impressive ruin. It was built by the powerful Neville family, and as we all know, Richard, Duke of Gloucester, lived there as a boy and later married Anne Neville before becoming Richard III. The castle is now in the hands of English Heritage and in winter it is only open at weekends.

We had some time to kill before our bus back to Leyburn but with four pubs in town that wasn't a problem. Two were closed so appropriately we ended up in the Richard III. What better way to finish a fine walk?

N.P.

Middleham and the Dales Local History Group

Masham – the roots of Corbyn and Johnson

by Denny Gibson at the Middleham Key Centre,
Tuesday, January 21st at 2.00pm.

If you have read about it in the local and national press you can now discover the full and accurate story of how the ancestry of Corbyn and Johnson was researched. Both had ancestors who were trades people in Masham at the same time in the 1830 and 1840s. Each had direct ancestors who subsequently moved to the South East and prospered and three generations later became the parents of Jeremy Corbyn and Boris Johnson.

Denny Gibson, a keen local historian, has researched family histories for over forty years; her own, other people's and the genealogy of some noted people who have an ancestral link to the dales.

This short talk will be preceded by the Annual General Meeting of Middleham and the Dales Local History Group.

Annual membership of Middleham and the Dales Local History Group is still only £10, visitors are welcome at £3 per meeting. For more information contact **Tony Keats 01969 640436**, dotandtonyk@btinternet.com.

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Trees Protected in the Park

The chopping down of a much-loved, mature sycamore tree in a conservation area in the Yorkshire Dales National Park has resulted in criminal convictions and fines for two men.

Neil Dinsdale, of Bainbridge, and Edward Fox, of Hawes, entered guilty pleas at York Magistrates' Court, after being charged with the unauthorised destruction of a tree on their land by the Pennine Way in the Gayle Conservation Area. Mr Dinsdale appeared in court, but Mr Fox did not.

They were fined £250 each for breaching section 211 of the Town and Country Planning Act. The court also ordered them to pay in full the legal costs incurred by the local planning authority, the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, which amounted to £2,400.

The felling of the perfectly healthy sycamore tree on Gayle Lane in April this year was reported to the Park Authority by the then chairman of Hawes and High Abbotside Parish Council, the late John Blackie, who said local people were "very cross" about what had happened.

The court heard this morning that Mr Dinsdale had said he had been advised to remove the tree as it might have restricted future development of the land.

Member Champion for Development Management at the Park Authority, Jim Munday, said: "Local people in Gayle and Hawes were upset by the totally unnecessary felling of this healthy mature sycamore tree. It was part of the character of the area and greatly enhanced the local environment. I hope this case

serves to underline that trees in [conservation areas](#) are protected – and that the Park Authority will prosecute landowners who cut them down without any consultation or consideration."

Time, Please!

A new book about former drinking establishments in the Yorkshire Dales through the ages has been published by the North Craven Heritage Trust. 'Time, Please! 'Lost' Inns, Pubs and Alehouses of the Yorkshire Dales', by David Johnson, features some 160 former alehouses, inns and taverns located throughout the Dales.

David, who has researched and written extensively about the archaeology and history of the Yorkshire Dales, said: "I really don't know why, but for many people 'lost' pubs seem to have a romantic attraction. Maybe it's because in times past the pub was arguably at least as important as the church in village life. This is the first book to draw together a host of former drinking houses in the Dales, many of which will surprise the reader."

The book was part-funded by Stories in Stone, a programme of community and heritage projects developed by the Ingleborough Dales Landscape Partnership, which is led by the charity Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust (YDMT) and mainly funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Chris Lodge, Stories in Stone Project Officer, added: "We're delighted to have been able to support the publication of this fascinating book. It includes a wealth of information about an important aspect of Dales life and is full of interesting details."

The publication is timely with the 'Long Live the Local' campaign in the national news at the moment and, with Christmas just around the corner, it will make an excellent present for ale aficionados as well as those interested in local history. The A5, 126-page book is available from local outlets and costs £9.99. It is also available online from www.ydmt.org/shop or <https://retail.yorkshiredales.org.uk/>.



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Day					
Mon	S	S	S/B(am)	B	S
Tues	S	S	P/S	P	S
Wed	P	P	P	C	C
Thurs	M	B	M	C	M
Fri	S	B	B	B	M

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Afternoon Surgery: 3.30pm – 6.00pm
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AYSGARTH SURGERY ROTA Wb - week beginning

Wb	Dec 2nd	Dec 9th	Dec 16th	Dec 23rd	Dec 30th
Day					
Mon	M	P	P/M	P/M	P/M
Tues	M	P	M	B	M
Wed	S	S	S	C	C
Thurs	P	P	P	C	P
Fri	M	S	M/S	M	M/S

Doctors: B- Brown, S - Scott, P -Pain , M-Morrison (ANP)
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Afternoon Surgery: 3.00pm – 5.30pm
appointments only

*For appointments and all enquiries ring **663222***

HAWES SURGERY ROTA Wb - week beginning

Wb	Jan 6th	Jan 13th	Jan 20th	Jan 27th	
Day					
Mon	S/B	S	S	S	
Tues	P/S	P/S	P/S	P/S	
Wed	P	P	P	P	
Thurs	M	M	M	M	
Fri	M	S	S	S	

Doctors: B- Brown, S - Scott, P- Pain, M-Morrison (ANP),
C - Closed

Morning Surgery: 9.00am-10.30am No appointments

Afternoon Surgery: 3.30pm – 6.00pm
appointments only

*For appointments and all enquiries ring **667200***

AYSGARTH SURGERY ROTA Wb - week beginning

Wb	Jan 6th	Jan 13th	Jan 20th	Jan 27th	
Day					
Mon	P/M	P/M	P/M	P/M	
Tues	M	M	M	M	
Wed	S	S	S	S	
Thurs	P	P	P	P	
Fri	S	M	M	M	

Doctors: B- Brown, S - Scott, P -Pain , M-Morrison (ANP)
C - Closed

Morning Surgery: 9.00-10.30am ; no appointments

Afternoon Surgery: 3.00pm – 5.30pm
appointments only

*For appointments and all enquiries ring **663222***

Jane Cockburn

Wishes to thank everyone for their lovely cards, flowers and gifts on her **100th birthday** and sends everyone best wishes for Christmas and New Year

The Preston under Scar Art & Craft Exhibition held in October raised £300 which was donated to the Swaledale and Wensleydale Flood Relief Fund.

Barbara Brooks

Yorkshire Dales Chairman to Lead National Parks England

Carl Lis OBE, Chair of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, has been elected Chair of National Parks England, the body which represents the 10 National Park Authorities in England. This key appointment for National Parks England comes as the country faces a climate emergency and follows the recent release of the independent Review of Designated Landscapes, which calls for bold action in National Parks to protect and enhance the natural environment, encourage greater use of England's National Parks and to offer the chance for every child to spend a night under the stars.

Mr Lis said "With the major challenges faced by society, from climate change and nature recovery, to the future of farming and sustaining health and well-being, our National Parks have a vital role to play. The expertise to be found in our National Parks is palpable. As I look ahead, there are undoubtedly challenges but I believe they are dwarfed by the many opportunities."

"During 2019 we celebrated the 70th

anniversary of the legislation that created National Parks. Looking to the future, they are increasingly important and relevant to the nation as we tackle some of society's most pressing issues. We want to see our National Parks protected and enhanced, with a strong connection to the public so that everyone can value and care for these inspiring and beautiful landscapes. With a General Election around the corner National Parks England looks forward to working with a future Government to ensure this happens."

Mr Lis will continue in his current role as Chair of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority.

Well Done Volunteers

I have been asked to include thanks to all volunteers in groups such as the Christmas Lights with the lights and the children's party, the bonfire committee, the knitters, the Plant Pest (held in high esteem) - even the Newsletter—who all help make Hawes and the Upper Dale look so good and be such a great place to live.

I'm bound to have missed out some people and groups. Sorry, you are no less valued!

A.M.

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Wensleydale School and Sixth Form

The right thing to do

This week I have been reflecting on sometimes how 'The right thing to do' is often uncomfortable. As a school we have always challenged students and parents on school attendance, however this year we have definitely ramped up the frequency with which we are tackling low attendance. It is a well known fact that lost days at school have a direct effect upon attainment in national GCSE and Post 16 exam results. The DfE set very rigorous targets in terms of what schools must do to tackle weaker attendance. There are a raft of measures schools can take in order to improve a students' attendance, but we are working hard to avoid taking this kind of action.

Our school has set a high target of 97% attendance across all year groups for the last 3 years. Some Parents and Carers have received very legal and strongly worded letters this term, as a direct result of their child's attendance being below 95%. Whilst I make no apology for this tactic, I do acknowledge that it can be distressing to read such letters. This is why I understand that sometimes the right thing to do is uncomfortable. Please support us by ensuring we are fully aware of any issues surrounding attendance.

On a lighter note, we welcomed the entire governing body into school for a number of key training sessions last month. The day culminated in a Learning Walk around school, so governors could see the school in session. Hats off to the RHS gardening group who, together with Ms Huitson, spent the afternoon completing their model garden design as part of the Green Plan-it award. Governors were extremely impressed with the creativity and dedication of these students.

Julia Polley, Headteacher

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Upper Dales Family History Group

Our October speaker was Anthony Atkinson to tell us about the life of Ada Lovelace, daughter of a short lived and volatile marriage between the science loving Annabella Milbanke of Seaham Hall and Lord Byron, poet, serial philanderer, and 'mad, bad and dangerous to know'.

Byron himself had an unfortunate start in life, his own parents didn't get on, there was a family history of mental instability, debt and suicide and his father died when he was only three years old. The subsequent deaths of his grandfather and mother left him with a title and property but also a great burden of debt. Returning from travelling in Europe he met Annabella Milbanke, who was enjoying her first London Season, and proposed to her. They married in January 1815 and their daughter, Ada Augusta, was born later the same year but within a month Annabella had decided that her husband was insane and fled back to her parents at Seaham Hall, taking Ada with her and threatening to expose 'infamous crimes' which she had uncovered by reading Byron's private papers. He fled abroad in 1816 to avoid the consequences and never saw his daughter again.

Annabella raised their child to be everything her father was not, educating her in mathematics and science and imposing a strict regime. Although often ill, at one stage she was bedridden for around three years, Ada was obviously a gifted student, helped by the quality of her teachers. In spite of all her mother's care however, the genetic influence of her father could not be escaped – in her mid-teens she was found to be planning to elope with one of her tutors with whom she had fallen in love.

After her entry into society Ada married William Turner, later to become the First Earl of Lovelace. Around the same time she met Charles Babbage who was working on an early type of calculating machine which he called 'the difference engine'. This came to nothing but Ada became fascinated by the concept and worked with him on his next project the 'analytical engine'. Convinced that it was capable of far more than he imagined Ada demonstrated how it could be used to work out formulae and translated an article from Italian, supplemented by her own notes, which are often considered to be the first computer program. In a letter to Michael Faraday, Babbage described her as 'an enchantress of number'.

Sadly Ada's personal life was following the pattern of previous generations. Her health broke down after the birth of her second child, she became addicted to strong painkillers and her fascination with mathematics led to an obsession with gambling which led to the breakdown of her marriage. She eventually died from cancer aged only 36, being visited in her last months by Babbage and Dickens, leaving behind a legacy which wasn't fully realised for almost another century with the development of modern computers in the 1940s. Her contribution to something which we now take so much for granted is recognised by a Lovelace Day and the Lovelace Medal.

This was a fascinating glimpse into the sometimes insalubrious life of the early 19th century and into the world of a woman who Anthony summed up as being a brilliant creature but deeply flawed.

Tracy Little

British Legion Poppy Collection for Hawes and Gayle

Stan and Jen would like to thank all local businesses for displaying the annual collecting boxes. Special thanks to Hazel, Jean and Woody, Sue and Gerry and Doug for doing the house to house collections. The total raised this year was £1,474.20. Thank you to you all.

Jen Johnson

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Circuit Training – Wednesdays from 7.30pm to 8.30pm

This is a high intensity circuit based class building strength and cardio vascular fitness. Come along and improve your fitness levels. The cost is £5. Just turn up or contact us on the details below for more information. This course is supported by North Yorkshire Council Stronger Communities Fund.

Strong and Steady – Mondays from 11.00am to 12 noon

This is a 12 week programme delivered through North Yorkshire Sport and Age UK and is for the prevention of trips and falls. It is for anyone who is worried about trips and falls or who has had a fall. Delivered by a friendly and experienced instructor Strong and Steady is an exercise programme to improve your balance and strength and get you up and about enjoying everyday activities. You can join the programme at any time. Have a cup of tea and socialise afterwards. The cost is £5 per session which includes tea and biscuits.

French Conversation – Wednesdays from 10.30am to 12 noon.

Come along for French conversation with experienced tutor Liz Sowter in a relaxed and supportive environment. You don't need to be fluent and it is fine to make mistakes. The emphasis will be on communication but we will work on vocabulary and structure to give you confidence and help you progress. It is not too late to join....the sessions are ongoing and the cost is £40 for 6 weeks or £8 per session.

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Moodbooster sessions – Thursdays from 10.00am to 12 noon

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Sewing workshops – Thursdays from 1.30pm to 3.30pm

Would you like to learn to sew or refresh your sewing skills? Come along and join us for tea and biscuits and like-minded company. There are two sewing machines available or bring your own. Materials are provided but there may be fabric costs later on. The cost is £4 per session.

Gym and Swim!

Remember we have a fully equipped gym with recently purchased brand new weights. Gym membership also includes free swimming at Richmond Pool! We have a number of fitness classes and activities available including Fit for Life, Walking Circuit, Gentle Exercise, Bootcamp, Children's Soft Play.

For enquires about any of the above or for bookings contact Jan on **01969 650060**; email admin@yorebridge-sport.co.uk; website www.yorebridgesportandleisure.co.uk; facebook Yorebridge Leisure; or twitter @yc_leisure .

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Leyburn & District U3A

No speaker this month, just the Christmas Social
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10.00am at Leyburn Arts & Community Centre.

In January the talk is by Jeff Coates from
North Yorkshire Rotters. Come and find out all
about it! **Friday, January 17th, 10.30am** at
Leyburn Arts & Community Centre. All
welcome, small charge for non-members. The
committee will be available to answer questions
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Wensleydale Tournament of Speech and Song

The syllabus for the 2020 Wensleydale Tournament of Speech and Song syllabus for 2020 is now available from Hewson's Newsagents in Leyburn, The Upper Wensleydale Community Office, Hawes and The Corner House, West Burton and also our website www.dalesmusic.co.uk.

We are one of the oldest Music and Speech festivals and it would be wonderful if, once again, we can welcome talented people from all over the Dales to take part.

Julie Greenslade

Anne M (Carperby)

Wishes to thank family and friends for all the cards and presents I have received for my 80th Birthday and congratulations received on becoming a Rural Hero for 2019 Yorkshire Post Rural Awards.

Also for the surprise 80th Birthday bring and share Tea (excellent as always) held in the Institute while the Muker Band played.

Sincere thanks to all family and friends for their gifts and generosity. It certainly was a most memorable day!

Anne Moore



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Hawes—Sedbergh Bus Service

The new Hawes Hopper Service S3 bus service provided by Western Dales Bus allows Sedbergh area based passengers to visit Hawes on our market day; Tuesday. This, in turn, offers an interesting opportunity for Wensleydale folks to visit Sedbergh on Tuesdays.

The first bus to arrive in Hawes from Sedbergh returns to Sedbergh at **10.39am, arriving at 11.20am**. The last bus from Sedbergh to Hawes leaves **Sedbergh at 2.24pm arriving in Hawes at 3.06pm**. This allows a connection to our Little White Bus leaving at **3.57pm** for points east down Wensleydale.

Thus by using both bus services it is possible for Wensleydale based folks, both residents and visitors, to visit Sedbergh for about three hours every Tuesday.

The Sedbergh bus visits both the Creamery and DCM, the times above relate to times at Hawes Market Place.

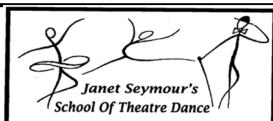
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Sedbergh has, for many years, been known as a place to buy used books. This trade is now concentrated in two major sites. One is a community initiative based in the Sedbergh Information Centre. The other is a very well established bookseller called Westwood, www.westwood.co.uk selling an amazing selection of over 70,000 books; second-hand, antiquarian and new. Both are a must visit for any visitor to Sedbergh with an interest in books.

St Andrew's Church at Sedbergh is also worth a visit. Sedbergh Stitchers formed a group in 1993 with the objective of creating a canvas work panel depicting the landscape, historic buildings and social background of the area. The embroidery consists of two work panels, both of which are on permanent display in St Andrew's Church.

Howard Gibbs supported by Ruth Annison

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Events in Reeth Memorial Hall

Friday, December 13th at 8.00pm - Máire Ní Chathasaigh & Chris Newman - Celtic Christmas Strings (Irish harp, guitar and vocals). Their new Christmas show features a breathtaking blend of traditional Irish music, swing jazz and bluegrass, plus festive favourites – *"Blazing guitar and dancing harp"* (Dirty Linen, US). Tickets £13 (£15 door).

Friday, January 24th - The Seamus Egan Project. This is a real coup as they have only one free date on the way back from headlining at Celtic Connections. Multi-instrumental maestro and co-founder of American-Irish super-group, Solas, Seamus Egan teams up with Kyle Sanna (guitar), Owen Marshall (guitar/mandolin/banjo) and Lúnasa's Trevor Hutchinson. Tickets £15 (£17 door).

Thursday, February 6th – Newberry & Verch – American/Canadian duo who perform an entertaining blend of folk, bluegrass and old time Americana, with ballads, joyful fiddle tunes and poignant original and traditional songs. Joe Newberry is an outstanding clawhammer banjo player, singer, songwriter and guitarist whose award-winning songs have been recorded by artists such as Ricky Skaggs and the Gibson Brothers. April Verch is a world class fiddle player, step dancer and singer, who started dancing aged three and playing the fiddle aged six! Tickets £13 (£15 door).

Friday, February 21st – Megson are Debs Hanna (vocals, whistle, piano accordion) and Stu Hanna (guitar, mandola, banjo). Three times nominated in the BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards and double winners of the Spiral Earth Awards Megson draw heavily on their Teesside heritage to create a truly unique brand of folk music. They bring an infectious mix of heavenly vocals, lush harmonies and driving rhythmic guitars. 'Simply Brilliant' (The Sunday Express). Tickets £14 (£16 door).

Tickets available from **Reeth PO or phone John Little (01748 884759)** or visit www.reethmemorialhall.co.uk – tickets for music events half price for under 16s.



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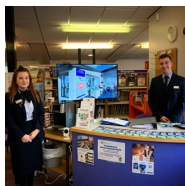
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Newcastle BS—An Update

At the beginning of November, Newcastle Building Society hosted an information stand at the Upper Wensleydale Community Office. A friendly team from the Society were on hand to provide information for prospective new and existing customers on its new community branch and key products and services that will be launched in Hawes. The team were also available to show the Society's new CGI of what the branch will look like when it opens later this year.

Iain Macleod who is a part of the future branch planning team within the Society met a range of interested locals across the open days, said: "Catherine, one of our branch colleagues and I had a really great few days in Hawes – the response was overwhelmingly positive. We had a great



response and lots of enquiries from local people who were generally very pleased to see us coming to their town. They shared a variety of comments and feedback including how they've been left without any financial services, and how frustrating it is having to travel a fair distance in order to carry out basic financial tasks."

"There was a real buzz about the Society being in town, with many locals asking for more information about the jobs on offer. Coincidentally we also held a day of recruitment in Hawes on the day at the Wensleydale Creamery, again this went exceptionally well!"

"We've built a good rapport with the existing team who work in the Upper Wensleydale Community Centre, and their interaction with their customers is very similar to what we see across our branches – so I know we are going to be a great fit. The locals also said they felt we would do very well, and it was a good business decision for us to come to town".

"With everyone wishing us luck and seeming genuinely pleased that we will be there by the end of the year, it really feels like we've done the right thing for this community which absolutely sits with our purpose to connect communities with a better financial future."

The CGI is still available to view within the Community Office until the branch opening.

Amy Nichols

PS Although Amy was unable to provide an opening date, work has already started in the Hawes Community Office and a reliable source informs me that opening should be before the end of the year.

A.M.



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News from Askrigg, Bainbridge and West Burton Primary Federation

Pupils are back from half term, refreshed and ready for the hectic schedule ahead, leading up to Christmas.

Already the Year 5's and 6's have taken part in a High 5 Netball Tournament, hosted at Askrigg Primary, competing with their peers from across the Wensleydale Cluster of Primary Schools. The three teams we entered showed real skill and teamwork as they worked hard together in the cold. As the mini league progressed, the children's determination to succeed never wavered, and we were really impressed with the positive attitude and sportsmanship shown by all.

We have re-launched our Forest Schools programme, starting with the Year 5's and 6's from all our schools (they are very busy this year group!). It took place at Bluebell Wood near Coleby Hall. The children walked a mile each way to get there and as it was the first time at this venue, they explored the boundaries and decided where the forest school site would be for future weeks. It was a great team building exercise, with the children learning the art of cooperating with each other.

For Children in Need day the children's School Council opted not to purchase any merchandise this year in order to save the planet from more plastic and instead asked that pupils reuse items from previous years. On the day they decided that boys should dress up as a girl or a grandma and girls as a boy or a grandad or someone from the opposite sex who they admired. They also made their own Pudsey wrist bands, head bands and masks, made and decorated buns to sell and eat at break time and donated to this worthwhile cause. What a busy day! And what fun! The costumes were amazing – we had children dressing up as their parents, their friends of the opposite sex and many more.

On the 22nd November we will be officially opening The Haven for Children at Askrigg School. This is a space that has been developed to create a safe and comfortable place for

children to relax, calm down and reflect. It has long been our intention to develop this room as an excellent example of using space to address mental health needs.

We have our PTFA Christmas Fair to look forward to on Saturday, November 23rd at Askrigg Village Hall as well as the Askrigg Tree Planting Festival on the same day at the school. We have 400 of them to plant along the new fence, so quite a challenge. Fingers crossed for dry weather!

Once we are in to December we have so much to look forward to – we are off to see Aladdin in Leyburn, we have the BAWB Christmas Buffet Lunch where we invite lots of other people to join us and Santa may pop in, a traditional Christmas lunch and parties on our last day of term, the EYFS and KS1 children will be putting on a production of **It's a Baby!** and the KS2 children will be singing and doing readings at our Christmas church carol service. By the time we break for Christmas everyone will be ready for a holiday!

The Federation is hoping to collect 3500 Books to School Vouchers that will be appearing in The Sun and The Sun on Sunday newspapers up until **18 January 2020**. If any UWNL readers have any they could donate, our schools would be happy to receive them. We could potentially receive 106 books to help re-ignite a love of reading in our children

The staff and pupils of the BAWB Federation would like to wish all the UWNL readers all the very best for the festive season and the New Year.

Karen Raven

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Mystery Picture

Last month's Mystery Picture was of the small square barn at the junction of Harker's Hill and Gaits in Gayle. A couple of people rang to let me know that they had identified it.

Slightly harder this month—get your boots on to identify this one!





Operation Christmas Child

We were pleased to take 88 shoe boxes from this area to Bedale for processing and transportation to Eastern Europe. The boxes will be distributed through local schools, churches, charities and hospitals to some of the world's neediest children. They will probably be the only gifts a child receives this Christmas and will be a real encouragement not only to the children but also to their families and communities.

£370 was donated towards transport and other donations were given on line. Many thanks to everyone who packed a box this year and contributed financially and also to those who knitted hats and mittens for inclusion in the boxes. We are grateful to Hawes Community Office staff for receiving the boxes.

Heather and Nelson Caplin 667625

Hawes Christmas Lights

Thank you to everyone who helped put the lights up on November 13th.

We will be taking them down on **Wednesday, January 8th** if anyone can help us.

Liz Lawson

Let the Good Times Be.....Gin

Monday, December 9th at 7.30pm, a talk by a local Gin Maker. Included in the price, a minimum of 4 free samples, a free Gin & tonic of your choice, plus nibbles. Tickets £12, at Leyburn Arts & Community Centre.

Postal Subs - a Reminder

Just to remind you that Postal and Gift subscriptions fall due for payment in February. Please send them to our treasurer, Mrs Janet Thomson. Details are shown on Page 40.

A.M.

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Heavens Above

After a lengthy absence Venus makes a welcome return to the evening sky this winter. You can't miss it blazing away low in the south-west just after sunset - a beautiful 'Christmas Star' right through the festive season. The planet gets even brighter in the New Year as it pulls away from the Sun and climbs higher in the sky. At its brightest in March and April you should even be able to spot it in daylight on a clear haze-free afternoon.

The Geminid meteor shower is usually one of the best of the year with well over 100 multi-coloured 'shooting stars' an hour when it reaches its peak on **December 13th and 14th**. Sadly, we'll only see the very brightest meteors this year as the display is badly affected by strong moonlight. You might have better luck on the night of **January 3rd or 4th** when the Quadrantid shower reaches maximum. Best time to look (if you can brave the cold!) is after midnight when the first quarter Moon will be out of the way. In a good year you might spot over 40 meteors an hour.



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Now that the long dark nights are here again the southern sky is filled by the bright winter constellations centred around Orion, the Mighty Hunter of the old Greek myths. His broad-shouldered outline with a sloping line of three bright stars forming his Belt is very distinctive. See if you can spot his Sword – a glowing cloud of gas and dust hanging just below the middle belt star. Betelgeuse, a huge red-giant star many times the diameter of our own Sun, marks his left shoulder.

Following the line of Orion's Belt upwards brings you to his old enemy Taurus the Bull whose baleful eye is marked by another red giant, Aldebaran. Taurus is home to two of the best open star clusters in the sky – the 'V'-shaped Hyades (forming the Bull's Face) and slightly higher up, the Pleiades or Seven Sisters – they're both great targets for wide-field binoculars. High above Orion's head you'll find a really ancient constellation – Auriga the Charioteer. Its bright yellow leader, Capella, the She-Goat, is the sixth brightest star in the sky.

Trailing close behind Orion you'll see his two faithful 'Dog Stars' Procyon and Sirius. Procyon sits by itself in the constellation of Canis Minor (the Lesser Dog) to the east of Orion just below the twin stars Castor and Pollux. Sirius, the brightest star in the sky, lies in Canis Major (the Greater Dog). It's unmissable, flashing and glittering like a great diamond low over the southern horizon. To the east of Sirius you'll find the winter Milky Way. It's at its best this month, running right across the sky from horizon to horizon. A lovely sight on a sparkling winter's night. Best wishes and clear skies for 2020!

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Notes from Thorney Mire

Autumn

I'm a bit disorientated this month, having just got back from Patagonia where it's springtime. Dandelions and coltsfoot grow in abundance on road side verges and trees are coming into leaf, but here I have returned to bare stark trees, some of which are just hanging on to a few colourful autumnal leaves. Our grass verges are devoid of flowers, but support shrubs and trees full of bright red berries like rowan, hawthorn and rose hips. In the Tierra del Fuego National Park there are only three types of trees and two of those are beech, so it makes you appreciate the different varieties of trees we have in the Dales. In Southern Patagonia the farmers have to allow one hectare of land for each sheep. I look through the window and see a field full of sheep with colourful markings which suggests they will be expecting a happy event in the Spring. Somehow, I feel as though I've missed the summer. Not that our summer was very good and is probably the reason for so few swallows this year. Normally we see about twenty to thirty sitting on the wires with their little suitcases packed ready to go back to Africa, but this year I saw only three.

Instead of swallows, a flock of jackdaws landed on the telephone wire and post as though they were re-enacting a scene from Alfred Hitchcock's "The Birds". Unlike Tippi Hedren I wasn't afraid, but amused by watching jackdaws trying to stay upright on the wires. They were like overweight acrobats with no sense of balance. They were tipping backwards and forwards trying to stay vertical, but as they were doing this in unison, they looked like grounded synchronised swimmers. After a while they realised they were not built for high wire trapeze, gave up and flew away.

On one rainy day a goldcrest flew into the cherry tree in the front garden. A lively little bird. These smallest of British migrants come from Scandinavia for the winter. In Yorkshire it used to be known as the "woodcock pilot" as it arrived at the same time as the woodcock. The goldcrest is only 9cms compared with a wren which is 9.5cms. It made the blue tits look quite large.

The curlews have returned to their winter quarters and we now have to wait for the Spring for their return, but I could console myself by watching the Black-faced ibis in Patagonia. They are slightly larger than the curlews, with the same long, curving downwards beak, but don't have the same haunting cry. A few days ago I saw a buzzard sitting on a wall. It was small compared to the condors I was watching last week with a wing span of 3.3 metres. Goodness knows what they would look like next to a goldcrest. Not that a goldcrest would ever get close to a condor or buzzard as it would be devoured as a tasty snack first.

During the trapping programme in our wood in September, no grey squirrels were found. If there had been any they would have been caught as they are greedy little creatures and always come for the food. It was also found that there are several hedgehogs in the wood so that is good news on both counts.

The only new flowers to add to my list of flowers found on the verges this year are nipplewort and ragwort. I have not seen ragwort on the verges before. It seems to have appeared where the ground had been disturbed. Bright and cheerful to look at, but it can be toxic to cattle and horses. On the plus side it provides a lot of nectar for pollinators. It is also the national flower for the Isle of Man where it is known by the name Cushag.

During a walk along our lane, a small mouse appeared from the grass verge. It stopped in the middle of the lane and took a look at us. It then ran to my companion's foot where it stopped again. I thought it was going to run up his leg but the mouse thought better of it, (probably thought it was the mouse equivalent of scaling the north face of the Eiger). It then continued to the other side of the road and disappeared into the vegetation. It was so small, probably a baby, but I wondered how anything so small survives the winter? I have seen mice bury themselves into piles of dry fallen leaves. Maybe this is how they keep warm? I prefer a duvet.

Sylvia Turner



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