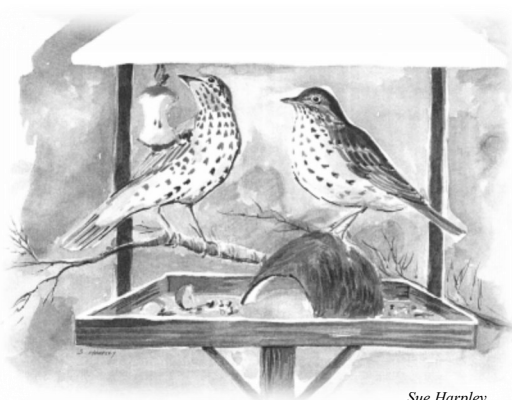


UPPER WENSLEYDALE NOTES

April 2020



Sue Harpley

Because of the Covid-19 restrictions it was decided not to distribute the April issue of the Newsletter and it is unclear when we will be able to go into print again.

There were a number of articles that could not be deferred to a later issue so we have included them in this document. It is not a formal issue of the Newsletter and contains no adverts. We hope you find the contents useful and entertaining.

Note to Postal subscribers :- the renewal date for your postal subscription in 2021 will take account of how many issues have been missed during 2020.

We hope that all our readers stay safe and healthy.

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

Guest Editorial

Wensleydale & Trees

I love trees, even the Ash tree which in various places in the country is called 'Widow's Ash'. If workers are in a field and it is lightning, they go and stand underneath a tree. Without any warning or noise the Ash drops a huge bough often killing those below. So, I am always cautious walking under the Ash.

In years gone by, our Upper Wensleydale was covered in trees. After the end of the Ice Age there was a warming and slowly trees took over virtually everywhere. It was likely that the Birch was the leader of the tree types and possibly, then Pine followed by Elm, Oak and Alder. The earliest of our ancestors will have made some use of these trees for their homes and fires but there were still plenty of trees left. Later, in Wensleydale, William the Conqueror gave land to his followers and those lords were keen to establish their forest for their hunting. The landed people established 'Forest Laws' to keep the common man out. Foresters enforced the rules and, if the common man did not obey, the punishments were severe. The centre for our upper dale was Bainbridge which included the Forest of Wensleydale that covered a huge area right up to the western watershed. If people got lost in the forest at evening time, they could listen for the Bainbridge horn calling and they would find safety.

Later, as the Wensleydale population increased, the woodland was pulled down and replaced with arable land and pastures for animals to graze. As well as the wood being used for housing and fire there were other uses. The trees were sought after for lead mining to prop up the tunnels, charcoal burning, and ship building. In the 1800s the Garth farmers at Crackpot near Low Row were aware of the numbers of trees being cutdown and they started planting saplings. The list is long: 1,100 Ashes, 500 Elms, 200 Scotch Fir, 200 Larches and 100 Oaks. A few years later they were planting again this time 3,600 seedlings. Garth was the Land Agent for the Metcalfes of Hawes and he was asked to plant a large number of seedlings in Skelgill near Askrigg. Most of the Garths' plantations were on steep hillsides or along the

riverside.

In about 1850 a Wensleydale man noted that when he was a small boy in 1800 it was known that a squirrel could get on a tree in Leyburn and was able to stay up high on the trees and only get down to the ground when he arrived at Hawes. But later on such was the number of trees being felled in the 19th Century, the squirrel would have had to run on the ground between the two towns. The felling continued into the 20th century until the Yorkshire Dales National Park (YDNP) was established.

Now that we are understanding the importance of trees and having lots of them, perhaps we ought to put some more in our gardens or in other parts of Upper Wensleydale. With the YDNP offering incentives and helping owners and farmers we are now seeing many more seedlings around.

The Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust (YDMT) seeks to grow trees wherever possible in our National Park. Many people support them either with helping putting saplings in the ground, giving land or donating money. I heard from a friend whose husband had died, that quite a few people contacted her saying that they had bought a sapling/tree in memory of her husband. For her, it was a lovely gesture so now she plants a memorial tree annually.

Christine Hallas

Newsletter AGM

We decided that it would be socially responsible to cancel the Newsletter AGM which was due to be held in the care home facility at Sycamore Hall, Bainbridge. Alternative arrangements will be notified to the public in a future issue of the Newsletter.

Postal Subscriptions

If you would like to receive the Newsletter by post every month the cost is £14 per annum. Please send a cheque for this amount (made out to the Upper Wensleydale Newsletter) plus your full address details to Janet Thomson, Stone House, Thornton Rust, DL8 3AW.

Heavens Above

This month's Full Moon on **April 8th** is the biggest and brightest of the year - a so-called 'Supermoon'. There are 4 Supermoons in 2020 all falling between February and May but this month's is the closest with the Moon lying just over 222,000 miles away compared to its average distance of 239,000 miles. Supermoons occur when the Full Moon coincides with the Moon's closest approach to the Earth in its orbit. This only happens a few times each year as the Moon's orbit is not quite circular which means its closest and farthest approaches vary from month to month. Theoretically the best Supermoon should appear some 30% brighter than the faintest Full Moon but to be honest you might not notice much difference. If you can catch the Moon, however, just after it rises – around **8.30pm on April 8th** - it will definitely look a lot larger due to the well-known 'Moon illusion', an optical effect which makes the rising Moon appear a great deal bigger than when it's much higher in the sky.

Venus has put on a terrific show in the evening sky for the past few months, blazing away in the south-west soon after sunset. It reaches its maximum brilliance - twelve times brighter than the Sirius, the brightest of all the stars - towards the end of April and stays visible until well after midnight. Right at the beginning of the month, on **April 3rd** around **11.00pm** in the evening, we're treated to a rare astronomical event when Venus slowly passes in front of the Pleiades star cluster. Binoculars will show you the brilliant planet surrounded by a host of sparkling blue-white stars – a beautiful sight not to be missed!

On the night of **April 21st and 22nd** you should spot a good few shooting stars when the annual Lyrid meteor shower reaches its peak. These meteors are produced by debris left behind by Comet Thatcher (!) burning up in the atmosphere. They often leave bright dust trails that last for several seconds. There's no interference from moonlight this year so you might see up to 20 meteors per hour, maybe a hundred in a really good year. You'll get the best view from a dark location after midnight. Have clear skies!

Al Bireo

TOM TAYLOR ATV LTD

We are recruiting

for our Hawes Branch

All-Terrain Vehicle Mechanic

Contact Tom Taylor 01904 758105



Eunice the Ewe

Last month while I was still allowed out, I joined the end of the dragon for the dragon dance in the photo on page 11 and the winner of the £10 prize is Ewan Ward of Hawes. I am not in these notes.

Tour de Yorkshire postponed

Peter Box CBE, Chair of Welcome to Yorkshire said: "The race is a great spectacle, but we all know that the health and well-being of everyone across the region, and the country, is frankly more important than a sporting event. Our attention now turns to supporting those tourism businesses across the region, many still reeling from the floods, during this unprecedented crisis."

Welcome to Yorkshire, ASO and British Cycling are working with the UCI (Union Cycliste Internationale) to find alternative dates in the international cycling calendar for the race to take place.

April Quiz

Below are 20 questions where all the answers are a town or city in the UK.

1. Replacement for Noah.
2. Fresh selling place.
3. Possess insect.
4. Snowy refuge.
5. Disallow the funeral.
6. Wise associate.
7. Fortress crossing.
8. Sister cannibalised.
9. Talk meat.
10. Monarch stops horse.
11. Parent in good health.
12. Beloved heavyweight.
13. Farm building fastener.
14. Granny shows nervousness.
15. Where clay worker drinks.
16. South seas greeting.
17. Kiwi chess piece.
18. Grocery date.
19. Inter
20. Ostrich myth like rabbit hole.

No prizes for this quiz. It is for entertainment only.

Advertising

Boxed adverts: £6, £12, £18

There is a big reduction for six issues or more, so for six issues the totals are:

£25, £50 or £75

Greetings etc. £2

What's ons (non-commercial) are free

Contacts for adverts:

For Hawes area and westward:

Barry Cruickshanks, Lilac House, Hawes 01969 667458

For elsewhere: **Sue Duffield, Fellside, Thornton Rust: 01969 663504**

Whilst we try to ensure that all information is correct we cannot be held legally responsible for omissions or inaccuracies in articles, adverts or listings, or for any inconvenience caused. Views expressed in articles are the sole responsibility of the person by-lined. Articles by committee members carry just their initials.

We appreciate being asked before any part of the Newsletter is reproduced.

March Competition Answers

1. Lan caster ton
2. Patrick Brompton on Swale
3. Bent ham bleton
4. Oak wood hall
5. Scar borough bridge
6. Rawten stall ing Busk
7. Tock with ernsea
8. West Houghton le Spring
9. Wy ke ighley
10. Mixen den holme
11. Kettle sing leton
12. Gol car tmel
13. Stan wick ersley
14. Teb ay cliffe
15. Shar ow ler Bar
16. Summer bridge hewick
17. Elter water millock
18. Pot to sside
19. Wils den shaw
20. Sea toller ton

Only one person spotted the places had to be in the north and worked out the cunning missing letter! The lucky winner was I. Halliwell of Hawes who nominated The Stroke Association as his charity. They will receive the £20 prize.

Newsletter Annual Report

This has been another year of steady progress with all key metrics essentially stable.

We were sorry that long time committee member, Sue Duffield, decided that it was now time to retire from the committee. Her contribution to the Newsletter, writing articles, interviewing new businesses and managing the non-Hawes advertisements has been tremendous. We are delighted that Sue decided that she would continue with the non-Hawes ads so contact is maintained and we may be able to tempt her back!

Last year we were concerned about the possible impact of Mason's in Hawes, the biggest single outlet, stopping delivery of the Newsletter (and all other newspapers). This has worked itself out and while people may acquire their Newsletter from another source, numbers are not too far down. It is possible that more now pay for their Newsletter as many considered it to be "free" when delivered with their papers!

Overall numbers are slightly lower than last year with a print run of 1,580 in winter rising to 1,650 in summer. Back in 2017 this would have been up to 1,700 in summer.

We know that a number of people now access the Newsletter on the Web and probably don't buy a paper copy.

Distribution is well managed by Peter Wood and his delivery elves. Thank you, Peter. Derek Stevens in Sedbusk quietly and efficiently gets on with organising our postal deliveries.

We decided to raise the "cover price" – or suggested donation - for a copy from 30p to 50p. As our treasurer will explain this has been surprisingly well received resulting in a significant increase in our takings which will help underpin our ability to maintain our educational awards and grants for the benefit of the youth of the Upper Dale.

- Book and Equipment awards were made to 12 students this year (up from 11 last year). Those qualifying may claim up to £500 in their first year of tertiary education.

- The junior story writing competition was again very well organised by Karen Jones. Take up was mixed with an excellent response from the Askrigg /Bainbridge/ West Burton Federation schools who won most of the awards. Hawes School did not participate. We hope that they will in 2020.

Janet has done a wonderful job of keeping totally on top of our finances despite a very difficult time following the sad loss of her husband, Mike. Our hearts go out to her. With regard to her Newsletter duties, she never missed a beat. Thank you, Janet.

I would also like to thank Barry Wilcox for continuing to audit the Newsletter, again following personal bereavement.

The scheme of receiving guest editorials from a rotating panel of six guest editors seems to be appreciated by our readers. My thanks go to those talented individuals who take time to produce the occasional guest editorial for the Newsletter. If anyone would like to join the group, please get in touch with me.

Barry Cruickshanks has done a splendid job of advancing the use of technology and standards to support the production of the Newsletter. Together with Kevin Davis who functions as the third member of the editorial team we now have a team of three, all of whom are capable of producing a full issue. This enables resilience and holidays! I must thank Barry for his untiring energy, organising us and pushing the Newsletter forward into the 2020s.

Who have I not mentioned? – Karen Prudden who reports on happenings around Bainbridge, has ensured that all our meetings are fully documented and recorded, collecting boxes around Bainbridge and Askrigg are emptied; Neil Piper who has tramped many miles around Upper Wensleydale always putting his best foot forward as well as assisting with distribution down the dale, interviewing local worthies; Malcolm Carruthers who is our artistic and copyright authority.

I thank them all for helping make the Newsletter the success that it is.

A.M.

Newsletter Accounts March 2019 to February 2020

Income

<i>Balances b/f</i> [includes £110 of unclaimed cheques from 2018/19]	<u>14403.80</u>
Donations & postal subs	1275.00
Collection boxes	5121.00
Adverts	10234.00
Interest (Skipton BS)	<u>77.45</u>
	<u>16707.45</u>
	31111.25

Expenditure

Production costs	10119.00
Distribution costs	754.44
Donations	1480.00
Committee expenses & honoraria	350.00
Room rental	8.00
Prizes	595.82
Book grant scheme for students	4559.82
Equipment	418.77
Computer services & hardware	<u>676.00</u>
	18961.85

<i>Balance c/f</i>	<u>12149.40</u>
	31111.25

The accounts were audited and approved on March 12th 2020 by Barry Wilcox, MCMI.

Our financial situation has enabled us to continue providing significant grants to students living in our catchment area who have entered tertiary education and we have awarded prizes (book tokens and trophies) to those primary school pupils who won this year's UWNL Children's Story Writing Competition; their schools also received book tokens.

We supported 12 local students with book and equipment grants this year, amounting to £4559.82, and we donated to several charities on behalf of our monthly competition winners: Great North Air Ambulance, Hawes United Junior FC, Macmillan Cancer Support, Northdale Horticulture, RNLI, Swaledale Mountain Rescue Team, and the Yorkshire Air Ambulance.

Larger donations all supported local organisations:

- £500 Swaledale Mountain Rescue Team
- £250 Sycamore Hall Residents' Amenity Fund
- £200 Wensleydale Chorus
- £100 Guardians of Hawes Graveyard
- £100 Great North Air Ambulance
- £100 Yorkshire Air Ambulance

Each year sees an increase in our expenditure on running costs, especially because of ageing computer hardware and software needing replacement. Accordingly, we are most grateful to our generous readers who continue to send us small donations or who put that little bit extra in our collection boxes – thank you.

J.W.T.

Hawes School News

British Science Week 2020

On Tuesday the whole school took part in an afternoon dedicated to Science to celebrate British Science Week 2020. Every class learnt about something different, in Class 1 they were experimenting with colour and watching colours dissolve on filter paper. In Class 2, we learnt all about how we hear sounds and what factors effect sound. In Class 3, they learnt about reversible and irreversible changes. We all came together later that afternoon to share what we had learnt in assembly and share our new knowledge!



From the Vicarage

To quote Will Ferrell in the 2004 film 'Anchorman'; "Boy ... that escalated quickly!"

News regarding the spread of the coronavirus within our nation is all around us and advice and guidance being offered in an attempt to help us keep free from infection is saturating our media. I have certainly not witnessed anything like this in my lifetime, and from the images on the television news of empty supermarket shelves and ever increasing queues of hopeful shoppers gathering outside the stores in an attempt to forage what might be there, it's not difficult to see why some folks are getting rather anxious.

The words, 'Do not be afraid' appear in the Bible over 300 times. As such it's arguably one of the most common instructions from God towards mankind. Whatever we face in life, the Bible speaks constantly of God being greater than it and when we feel worried He gives us clear guidance as to what we should do with it. Give it to him. 'Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.' 1 Peter 5v7.

Our government has called for us to recognise the need for 'social distancing' and 'self-isolation' as we seek together to help reduce the impact of the virus upon ourselves, our communities and our loved ones. Hard choices are having to be made, and, living as we do in an area that provides hospitality, rest and recreation for so many visitors, the economic impact will be noticeable. In the three years we have been living here, we have noticed that the community of Upper Wensleydale is blessed with a strong sense of community and care for one another. It is palpable and will certainly be needed, and tested, as we walk into unchartered territory together.

Along with advice for us to avoid gathering in our much loved cafes, restaurants and public houses, I have, whilst writing these words, received instruction from the Archbishop's of Canterbury and York, that all usual patterns of Sunday worship and midweek meetings in churches, be suspended until further notice. The church buildings in Upper Wensleydale will, however, remain open for private prayer and I encourage you, if you're able, to make use

of them, during this time.

You may have already received through your door a card from the 'Good Life' project in the dale providing you with a telephone number to call if you are in need of assistance. This is an excellent example of the community spirit I referred to earlier. Spiritual and pastoral help is still available from the churches in the dale, and if you require assistance in anyway or know of anyone who might, then please contact the numbers provided below. If you're on line, the churches of Askrigg, Hawes, Hardraw and Stalling Busk will seek to provide materials to help with personal reflection and worship through their social media channels as we continue to walk through Lent towards the celebrations of Easter.

The 'Open Pantry' foodbank remains open both in St Margaret's church in Hawes, and in St Oswald's church in Askrigg.

Life is going to look and be experienced differently for a while, but amongst so much uncertainty, one thing remains steadfast and certain – the love of God.

In the meantime, be assured that the church holds you all in prayer.

Rev. David. Clark

Police Report

In line with the continuing horrendous weather, the last month has not been a particularly good one I'm afraid.

Around midday on February 18th a Volvo car parked near Hawes Auction Market was entered and cash and a Makita cordless drill were stolen from within. Please avoid leaving valuables on view in your vehicle.

Overnight on February 23rd to 24th, a green Can-Am was stolen from a gamekeeper's yard in Grinton. Over the following week two more similar 'mule' type off-roadsters were stolen from the Dales, one from Bainbridge, overnight on February 24th to 25th, and one from Agglethorpe in Coverdale, overnight on February 29th to March 1st. There is believed to be a connection to recent quad bike thefts in Upper Wharfedale and Wensleydale with thieves from the West Yorkshire area targeting the Dales. Although a number of arrests have already been made this year, the rate that we are seeing these thefts compared to just over a year ago is quite staggering.

Please continue to call the police with sightings of suspicious vehicles and people at the time when you see them and do try to get the Vehicle Registration Numbers (reg. plate) as this is vital when ringing in reports. Owners of such vehicles please take a few moments to check your security. Where possible lock them away in secure buildings overnight, preferably covered by CCTV / alarms / security lighting. Fitting a Tracker means that if stolen you greatly increase the chances of getting your vehicle back and I know a certain local garage in Hawes will be more than happy to assist you with this! We are continuing as best we can to patrol our most remote areas and, as always, ably assisted by our invaluable Rural Watch Groups.

Overnight on March 1st to 2nd thieves entered a barn at Sharp Hill Farm in Middleham and stole a number of power tools from within. Many are identifiable by being marked with the names Wheeler or Weedall. Please contact us on 101 should you be offered these tools or spot them for sale on social media sale sites/auction sites etc.

Around March 9th a number of lawful vermin control snares have been damaged in the area of Preston Moor. If you see traps or snares that you are unhappy with, please don't take the law into your own hands (as in this case, this was criminal damage) but instead call the police and PC Julian Sutcliffe (our local Wildlife Crime Officer) will check them to ensure they are compliant with wildlife legislation.

I'm not going to mention Coronavirus here in any kind of guidance or advice capacity, only to say, can everyone make an effort to keep an eye out for each other/neighbours etc, especially those that may be vulnerable and/or be more adversely affected by the crisis.

I'm just leaving this here again as apparently the message to some still hasn't quite sunk in, as was apparent just this week at an incident near Carperby - As we're heading into lambing time, it is my yearly reminder to KEEP DOGS ON LEADS when around sheep whether they have lambs or not as worrying a pregnant ewe can result in them losing unborn lambs. Sheep worrying is taken extremely seriously by North Yorkshire Police and we will deal with the issue robustly. No dog is 100% predictable around sheep (or any other livestock) and the owner or landowner has the right to shoot any dog worrying sheep, on sight.

**PCSO Lucy Osborn
Leyburn and the Dales
Safer Neighbourhood Team**

A Good Life



There will be many people in our communities who may struggle over the next few weeks with various things, due to the Coronavirus outbreak.

Several local groups, choirs, bands and other organisations have taken the hard decision not to meet until further notice, which will be difficult for many who may begin to feel lonely and isolated. It may be that there are those within our villages who are having to self isolate and need help with general day to day shopping, or maybe even just a chat.

A Good Life Project hope to offer help and services from local people and businesses and for those who also need help to be able to reach out to people here also. Please invite anyone you wish, who has access to Facebook to visit A Good Life page and SHARE this group so we can all reach as many people as we can.

If you are able to offer help, goods etc where you can - or if you need help with things like picking up prescriptions, getting hold of food etc please ask. Please feel free to offer suggestions and information on this page also.

We all know how great the Upper Dales are for community spirit - this is a crisis - let's all come together to help each other if we can.

Julie Greenslade 07817 711227

Prunings

I have a lovely dark, dusky, pink Hellebore near the porch. It has been there a few years and today (March 11th) it has more than 20 nodding drooping heads with more still to open. I once saw some in Harrogate in a raised bed where the inside of the flowers were more visible. I have been tempted to move mine to a more elevated position, but judging by the state of my raised bed, I am glad I left it in its sheltered spot. The wind and rain would have destroyed it.

Looking out from a bedroom window one snowy morning I couldn't fail to notice the discrepancy in the width of our two old box hedges. We've clearly got the clipping wrong in the past, and now there is more than 6 inches difference. - It might take some sorting out! Accepted wisdom suggests that box should be cut around Derby day. At that time of year it will have done its Spring "spurt" and you can get away with one clip. To solve my problem I think we shall have to give it an early clip on the leeward side as we may have to cut back into the wood to straighten it out. Hopefully it will then have a bit of recovery time, although it is sure to look sparse for the rest of the year.

Last week we were visited by some Canada Geese. I've seen them flying over before, but this is the first time they have ever landed. I imagine that the amount of rain that has fallen and saturated the land will have brought invertebrates to the surface for them. It is also possible that some of their other landing sites have been flooded.

I hope that my bird feeding regime is not putting the songbirds at risk. We are now having occasional visits from a Kestrel. It sits on top of one of the feeders, and although I have never seen it attack anything, all the regular visitors beat a hasty retreat.

I am interested in experimenting with growing shrubs in pots. I've already established dwarf Rhododendrons and Azaleas as they need ericaceous growing medium and our soil has too much lime. In addition, they don't produce a large root-ball and so thrive without too much help. My two Hydrangeas have also done well but may need topping up with fresh compost this spring - for blue flowers its ericaceous and

normal for pink. Larger shrubs need very large pots which are not only expensive, especially if you go for ceramics, but when filled can be incredibly heavy. It's a bit of a myth to assume that pots give you more flexibility unless you have a team to help when you want to move them. Some Roses thrive in pots, but always choose varieties recommended for containers and remember that you need something in excess of 30cms. (1 foot) in diameter.

Finally, Good Luck to everyone. If we are locked down most of us will still be able to work in the garden and the consolation is that whatever happens, the roses will still be beautiful. Good luck! And whatever you grow, take time to enjoy it.

Rose Rambler

Garsdale to Hawes: Making the Connections

Investigation of the reinstatement of the railway from Garsdale to Hawes, the only branch line of the Settle to Carlisle Line, continues.

The purpose of any railway is to provide travel opportunities that bring benefits of all kinds to the communities through which it passes. In the case of Garsdale to Hawes, the Upper Wensleydale Railway (UWR) team is studying a range of connections that the new railway might enable. In particular, the team is investigating the potential of the service that currently runs to Hellifield, between Skipton and Settle, from Lancashire on Sundays, but terminates at Clitheroe at other times.

Extending this service to Settle, past the Three Peaks to Garsdale and ultimately to Hawes has the potential to provide new connections of wide benefit to the local communities along the route. In addition, visitors who must otherwise travel by road will have the chance to reach the Dales by train. The UWR team is presently engaged on quantifying these benefits as part of the reinstatement project.

The UWR has created a website to provide further information. You are invited to offer your comments, assistance or support at: www.upperwensleydalerailway.org.uk.

Andrew Longworth UWR



BAWB Federation

News from Askrigg, Bainbridge and West Burton Primary Schools – Proud to be part of the BAWB Federation.

Mid-March we said farewell to our School Business Manager. We wish her well in her future endeavours and thank her for all the work she has done in our three schools over the past year.

On World Book Day the children and staff had a lovely day, coming to school dressed in their pyjamas and taking part in a book swap – always a popular event. Our PTFA organised a story telling evening so the children and some parents came back to school, armed with pillows, blankets and teddies to sit in front of a video of a roaring fire and listen to popular bedtime stories read by teachers. Hot chocolate and cookies were served. There were some sleepy children by the end of the evening but a good time was had by all.

Along with everyone else, the Federation are taking the threat of the Corona Virus seriously, but at the same time trying to make the vigorous hand washing regime fun for the children. They are encouraged to wash their hands regularly throughout the day for at least 20 seconds, singing Happy Birthday twice as they do so as a good benchmark! Staff and visitors also have to adhere to our handwashing rule. We are monitoring the ever changing situation closely.

On Friday, March 6th, our Year 6 children went to Leyburn Primary School for the cluster schools 'Diversity Day'. It was an informative and enjoyable day for students and they enjoyed working with their peers from other local schools. We are extremely grateful to Sarah Beveridge for organising this event and inviting us to participate. The day covered varied subjects, including mental awareness, diverse relationships and families and stereotypes. The children also listened to talks about Nepalese and Fujian cultures.

We are hoping that April will bring some lovely Spring weather, since so far March has failed to deliver!

Here She Is! - Cheesemaker Revealed

Two brothers from County Durham yesterday deepened the story behind one of the treasures of the Dales Countryside Museum (DCM), a nineteenth century farm account book. Kevin and Gary Tallentire from Middleton-in-Teesdale had come across a blog about their great, great grandmother Jane Elizabeth Thwaite's 1890s account book, which had been put on display as part of the museum's Diary Days exhibition. In the book, Mrs Thwaite had recorded in detail her sales of cheese and butter, made on her farm at the head of Walden near Wensleydale.



On the farm in Walden Jane Elizabeth Thwaite, centre, surrounded by family and dog.

The DCM had only scant information on Mrs Thwaite until the brothers visited the museum carrying photographs of their ancestor. Kevin Tallentire, an office worker, took hold of the account book and said: "It's a strange feeling to know that she held this. It's just amazing that it has survived - to think that it was written before the Titanic had sunk. All I can say is that her handwriting is a lot better than mine, and that my job today is a bit different to making butter and cheese. That side of the family is still in farming. My uncle's farming in Teesdale. It's good to know where you come from and what your ancestors did."

Museum Manager Fiona Rosher said: "How brilliant that Kevin and Gary came across the blog and made the trip to the museum. I loved seeing the photographs of Jane Elizabeth - I had no idea that any existed. The account book is a special object, a relatively rare survivor, illustrating a time when farmhouse cheese and butter making was a really big part of the local economy." The brothers went on from the museum to find Jane Elizabeth's final resting place in the graveyard of St Andrew's Church in Aysgarth. She is buried with her first husband (Richard Thwaite d.1908) and second husband (Richard Wilkinson d.1916).

Best Foot Forward

A Taste of Spring in Winter

After such a wet February (the wettest on record apparently) it has been a relief to see some sunshine in March. Opportunities to get out for a good leg stretch have been a bit limited but March 4th dawned bright and clear, so a day in the hills beckoned. Snow on the tops looked to be receding, although there is always more up there than it appears from the valley.

Leaving Thoraby in Bishopdale the walk went past West Burton to Cote Bridge in Walden and then up the road to Whiterow Farm. There was ice on the road so care was needed. Above the farm there is a track which leads over to Coverdale. With the sun shining and no wind, spring was definitely in the air. Sheep were bleating but there were no lambs here yet. Lapwings were diving and calling their peewit names and curlews could be heard too, calls which are both signature sounds of the dales. At about 1200 feet snow started to appear in patches on the track. Icy puddles had intricate patterned rings, created as the water beneath drained away. They had a hollow sound when walking near them. It is a lovely green track across the moor with fine views down to Fleensop. Crossing Fleemis Gill is slightly tricky: a choice between dancing on slippery stones or getting wet feet. I usually opt for the latter to avoid serious injury.

Dropping down into Coverdale there are good views of the ridge opposite, which culminates in Great Whernside. Plenty of snow was visible up there. Nearby a skylark was singing – the first I'd heard this year – but I couldn't see it. Down by the River Cover there is a delightful path from Braidley to Woodale. It doesn't get walked very much, probably because it doesn't link up with any other network of paths. Woodale is the last hamlet going up Coverdale, the only other habitation being at Coverhead Farm. Here I followed the road for over a mile without a single vehicle passing me. In a steep dip in the road lies Cover Bridge, though not the one we are familiar with at the other end of the dale. This whole area feels very remote.

To get onto the Great Whernside ridge I opted to follow Burn Gill, which comes straight down

the hillside. There is a hint of a path beside a wall, which happens to be the boundary of Open Access. Half way up the slope I saw a quad bike coming down on the other side of the wall. The young farmer sat astride it asked if I was lost, a not unreasonable question as he'd probably never seen a walker in that location before. Our shouted conversation (he was at least twenty yards away) was punctuated by his furious attempts to stop his dogs barking. These were border terriers, not the usual collies, and were very well camouflaged in the peaty heather hillside.

Onwards and upwards, eventually the boundary fence was reached as well as the snowline. So far the snow had only been wet and patchy but along the wall side ahead were considerable drifts two or three feet deep. The intention was to cross the boundary fence/wall (which incidentally divides Richmondshire and Harrogate Districts) and walk on the sunny side but a few steps in the soft snow were enough to demand a return to the north-west side. Even there it was barely firm enough to support my weight and every few steps the crust would break. I find walking on snow is exhilarating but it can be exhausting after a while if it keeps giving way. Things got firmer as I went higher. The quad bike trails and footprints disappeared and the final climb to the top of Nidd Head opened up expansive vistas into Wharfedale.

It was never my intention to go on to Great Whernside summit, preferring instead to drop down the tourist route to Park Rash. Here for the first time that day there were one or two other walkers. It was a bit of a wet trudge up the slope towards Buckden Pike, but the weather, which had looked a bit threatening in the west, stayed fine. I decided that the old mining excavations at Hard Rake Quarries (presumably lead workings) were the only dry place to sit for lunch and despite being only 100 feet below Buckden Pike summit there was hardly a breath of wind. Thoughts turned to the poor miners working long hours up there in freezing conditions perhaps a couple of hundred years ago. It was a hard life then.

The descent path across the broad east flank of Buckden Pike is never easy to follow and under snow it is even more difficult. However,

with clear visibility it is possible to just yomp across the moor. This led to some floundering in deep snow and bogs at times but at least it was downhill. Once down to the tree line walking became easier. A woodcock sprang out of the grass a few feet away, sheep were grazing, birds calling and suddenly it was back to civilization.

The path down Walden is always a pleasure and the climb back over to Bishopdale not very significant, so returning home presented no difficulties and was a time to reflect on a good long day in the hills.

As with all these walks for the newsletter, memories of the late Alan Watkinson, the newsletter's founding editor, are never far from my mind. It was he who started the Best Foot Forward articles. He may be gone but he is not forgotten.

N.P.

Become a Musician!

There is a great tradition of brass banding in the Dales dating from the lead mining days in the 19th century. Bands now play an eclectic selection of melodious music and a noticeable trend is for older players to start playing with no previous musical experience and join local bands.

“Brass banding is structured to make it relatively easy to play to an acceptable standard in a band” says Stan Roorcrot MBE conductor and director of Hawes Silver Band. “Anyone with a reasonably musical ear can learn and make useful contribution in a band and a number of people have retired to the area have done just that. Instruments can be lent and help with tuition. Anyone who would like to give it a try will get a warm welcome at Hawes.” And just to clear a common query, a silver band is the same as a brass band. “The difference is cosmetic, not musical” says Stan.

To contact Hawes Silver Band, e-mail stanleyroocroftmbe@btinternet.com or ring **01969 667342**.

Mystery Picture

Last month's Mystery Picture was of the old railway bridge remains near Yorebridge which was correctly identified by some readers.

Where can you find this gate?



Bainbridge Vets

With the outbreak of the coronavirus across the world, we thought it would be a good opportunity to remind people that their pets can't contract the virus. We will be open as usual but we have implemented extra hygiene measures and we provide the use of hand sanitiser and hand washing facilities if you come into the surgery.

If you are feeling at all unwell and are worried about your animal, if you ring us at the surgery we will be able to give you the best advice as to whether or not we need to see your pet or if we can advise over the phone. We would also really appreciate it if you could ring for medication and then we can have it ready to collect when you arrive. Best wishes Bainbridge Vets **01969 650263**.

Doctors' Rotas as supplied by the Health Centre

HAWES SURGERY ROTA					
Wb - week beginning					
Wb	Mar 30th	Apr 6th	Apr 13th	Apr 20th	Apr 27th
Day					
Mon	P/M	P/M	P/M	P/M	P/M
Tues	S	S	S	S	S
Wed	P	P	P	P	P
Thurs	M	M	M	M	M
Fri	S	S	S	S	S
Doctors: S - Scott, P- Pain, M-Morrison (ANP), C - Closed Morning Surgery: 9.00am-10.30am Afternoon Surgery: 3.30pm – 6.00pm appointments only <i>For appointments and all enquiries ring 667200</i>					

AYSARGARTH SURGERY ROTA					
Wb - week beginning					
Wb	Mar 30th	Apr 6th	Apr 13th	Apr 20th	Apr 27th
Day					
Mon	S	S	S	S	S
Tues	PMS	P/M	M	M	M
Wed	S	S	M am	S	S
Thurs	M	M	M	M	M
Fri	S	S	S	S	S
Doctors: S - Scott, P- Pain, M-Morrison (ANP), C - Closed Morning Surgery: 9.00am-10.30am Afternoon Surgery: 3.00pm – 5.30pm appointments only <i>For appointments and all enquiries ring 663222</i>					

Important Announcement From The Central Dales Practice

As you will all have seen in the news the Coronavirus has now reached international pandemic stage. With this in mind and following national guidance from Public Health England we need to make some changes in the way we deliver our services to ensure the safety of our patients and practice team. We have made the decision to amend how we run our morning Open Access Clinics with effect from **Monday, March 16th** as a temporary measure.

With effect from **Monday, March 16th** we will no longer operate our standard Open Access Clinics, instead we will be asking for patients to call us, we will take your details and the best number to contact you on and a GP/ANP will call you. This prevents patients waiting in the waiting room which increases the risk of spread of the virus and also help minimise the risk to our patients who are immune-suppressed and at greater risk of getting the virus.

The vast majority of conditions and illnesses can be diagnosed over the phone and dealt with, without you needing to attend the surgery. Where this is not possible, you will be asked to attend the surgery at a designated time, again reducing the amount of patients sitting in the waiting room at any one time (or where appropriate, will be offered a home visit later that day).

Medications will still be issued and dispensed for collection as usual. Please try and order 2 weeks in advance so that you have a supply in the event our deliveries from our suppliers are reduced due to sickness. (We have increased our stock levels and continue to monitor the situation).

We would ask that in the present situation, anything non-urgent that could be dealt with at a later date not be dealt with in the morning clinics.

If you have a fever and a persistent cough we would ask that you call 111, not the practice as they will need to triage you and if Coronavirus is suspected, will deal with screening etc. We cannot do this in practice and if you attend the surgery you are putting other patients and staff at risk and it may even result in the temporary closure of the practice.

We are taking these steps as a preventative measure to try and minimise the spread of the virus so that we can remain open and continue to offer full primary care services. We anticipate you will understand that we do not want to risk getting to the point of having to temporarily close the practice. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your patience, understanding and support in this difficult time.

**Dr Pain, Dr Scott, Fiona Morrison
and Lynn Irwin
Central Dales Practice**

Dales People Engage in Local Plan Process

People in the Yorkshire Dales National Park have responded in good numbers to an invitation to help shape a new set of planning policies.

A total of 249 people, as well as 26 organisations, submitted comments to 'Consultation No. 1 – Setting the Agenda', which ran for 10 weeks to the 14th of February this year. The response rate compares favourably with the last time the Local Plan was renewed, in 2013, when 17 people and 35 organisations responded to the first consultation. The responses received included comments on a wide range of issues, including affordable housing provision, renewable energy and biodiversity gain.

The comments will set the agenda for the new Local Plan, and help the National Park Authority put together 'Consultation No.2 – Exploring our options'. This second consultation, to be launched later this spring, will ask people to consider a number of development scenarios and ideas.

YDNPA Member Champion for Sustainable Development Chris Clark said: "I'd like to thank all the individuals and organisations that have responded to the first consultation, and I would also like to thank the local media for helping put the word out. It is interesting to read through the responses. New affordable housing is clearly a priority for many people, with one parish council suggesting that consideration should be given to creating an entirely new village. Barn conversions remain a hot topic, with some saying the policy should be loosened further, while other people say there should be no further conversions at all."

"There is a wide variety of views on tourism, too, with some people calling for a halt in the growth of the industry, while others have requested specific policies for tourism-led development, with one person suggesting a new major tourist attraction on the scale of Eden Project is needed to create new jobs."

"The Authority will carefully weigh up the responses, including with a debate at its next full meeting at the end of this month. The process to create a new Local Plan is a long one, but we've

made a great start. I hope local people will continue to engage in the process. The National Park Authority, as the local planning authority, is looking to empower local people to shape the development of the area in which they live and work."

Andrew Fagg

New Patron for Askrigg Foundation

The Bishop of Ripon, Dr Helen-Ann Hartley, has become a patron of the Askrigg Foundation, the charity set up in 1971 by former vicar of Askrigg, Malcolm Stonestreet. The bishop joins Richmond MP Rishi Sunak, and Geoffrey Baber, chairman of the Holiday Property Bond, in supporting the charity's work as patrons.

The Foundation is converting its three-storey building in the centre of Askrigg into three affordable homes for rent under the government's Community Led Housing scheme and building work is expected to start next month if agreement can be reached with planners over the installation of suitable windows. There will also be a refurbished commercial space on the ground floor.

Bishop Helen-Ann said she was "honoured" to accept the invitation to become a patron. "It is encouraging to see a local charity working so actively to support the community within which it is based, particularly with the focus on affordable housing which is one of the key factors in keeping the Dales alive," she said.

The vicar of the Upper Wensleydale Benefice, the Revd Dave Clark, who is a trustee of the Foundation, said: "The charity has its roots firmly in the Christian faith which we believe touches every aspect of people's lives. Providing homes for people who could not otherwise afford to stay in the Dales is part of this commitment and to have Bishop Helen-Ann's support as a patron is invaluable."

A grant of £175,000 towards the cost of the project - roughly 50% - was made available by Richmondshire District Council under the government scheme, and the Foundation has also received £9,535 from the National Lottery Awards for All Community Fund.

Betsy Everett

Sustainable Distillery Celebrates International Day of Forests

Cooper King Distillery, a self-built, crowd-funded whisky and gin distillery near York, is celebrating an exciting milestone in their support of environmental charity Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust (YDMT). Ahead of International Day of Forests which was on March 21st, the Yorkshire-based gin and whisky distillery has now supported the creation of 10,000 square meters of woodland - a whole hectare.

Since August 2018, Cooper King Distillery have pledged to donate at least 1% of their gin sales towards YDMT's tree planting work as part of their commitment to producing industry-leading sustainable spirits. To date they have far exceeded that figure, donating more than 2.5% of all gin sales to the charity. Each bottle of their international award-winning Dry or Herb Gin sold contributes to the creation of one square metre of woodland in the Yorkshire Dales and surrounding areas. Cooper King Distillery are the first in Europe to join the environmental initiative 1% for the Planet, are one of a handful in the country to run on 100% green energy, and source all the wheat and barley for their spirits from Yorkshire farms.

Co-founders Chris Jaume and Abbie Neilson are committed to producing sustainable spirits whilst supporting the planting of native broadleaf trees with YDMT. Abbie said: "Producing flavour-driven sustainable spirits is at the heart of what we do, because we believe drinking good spirits needn't cost the earth. Working with YDMT has ensured this ethos becomes a reality as we lead the drinks industry in terms of sustainability. We've loved supporting YDMT, not just by giving donations but also through getting involved in their tree planting and woodland walk events. We're proud to have supported the planting of a hectare of woodland, and a huge thanks is owed to our customers for continuing to help conserve and protect the environment."

Carol Douglas, Woodland Officer at YDMT, added: "Through our 'Together for Trees' campaign we are working with many supporters and partners such as Cooper King Distillery to

plant 100,000 additional trees across the region. "Trees are hugely valuable as a habitat for wildlife and support some of our most endangered woodland animals, like red squirrels, dormice and cuckoos. They are also important for our mental health and wellbeing and we believe that everyone should have access to them. The appeal aims to raise funds to create beautiful woodlands that everyone can enjoy for years to come."

Sarah Hodgson, Development Officer at YDMT added: "We're really grateful to Cooper King Distillery and all their staff and customers for their support in helping to restore native woodland to the Yorkshire Dales. We look forward to continuing this exciting partnership."

With the Trust having supported the planting of close to 60,000 trees since the appeal was launched in summer 2018, they are well on the way to reaching their 'Together for Trees' target of 100,000 over the next two years.

To date, the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust (YDMT) has helped to deliver inspiring projects worth around £28 million in the Yorkshire Dales and surrounding areas.

The Business Association (Wensleydale) Ltd - Time to Say Goodbye...

It has been a while since we last reported on our activities serving the business communities of Upper Wensleydale. In 2016 our membership was decreasing along with Tourist Information Centres and other outlets which displayed our popular Welcome to Wensleydale and Accommodation Guide leaflets. Renewed energies were focussed on the emergence of Town Teams and Business Development Zones which brought new enthusiasm for businesses to engage, a new voice to lobby for change and promote the area. In the spirit of cooperation and partnership we offered guidance and support as new initiatives were developed and welcomed the opportunity for some of our dedicated volunteers to take a step back for a well-earned breather.

Alongside this, technology continued to advance at a rapid rate, the emergence of easier to list accommodation sites accompanied by national marketing campaigns helped change consumer habits and find new ways to drive visitors to the Dales. Our website Wensleydale.org held its top-ranking positions in search engines and signposted to sources of help and support on a range of topics. Inevitably, without the swell of volunteers and member subscriptions, the task of keeping the content current and linked into other websites and editorials saw the information soon start to become dated and obsolete. In 2018 the site needed major upgrades and security patches - we were advised it would be better to build a whole new website from scratch so we had to take the tough decision that the site was no longer a viable option and its role serving the area was complete. The Upper Wensleydale Newsletter archive was transferred to its new stand-alone website and a sign-posting page to event and attraction listings took its place.

The Business Association (Wensleydale) Ltd is a community company limited by guarantee without a share capital. Colin Bailey and Jennifer Fawcett are the remaining directors who now feel it is time for them to step back too and draw things to a formal close. In doing so

there are many, many people who need to be thanked for their tireless dedication over the years serving on the management committee, working groups, attending meetings to represent the business community and local voice, recruiting members, providing training, delivering Yorelink – the last minute booking system which faxed a daily list of vacancies to Tourist Information Centres, envelope stuffing and posting information packs to TICS, Coach operators and individuals, coordinating projects, offering advice and support and keeping Wensleydale on the map especially during the outbreak of Foot and Mouth and the subsequent regeneration initiatives that were developed.

There are too many people and organisations to thank individually for the time they have given, and continue to, supporting the prosperity and promotion of the area. The Upper Dales has always been fortunate to have interested individuals and groups representing business and we know it won't be long before a fresh collective assembles with the freedom to define, articulate, discuss and agree their priorities and aims for supporting the local business community.

Colin and Jennifer

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**Founded in 1995
by the late Alan S. Watkinson**