

THE UPPER WENSLEYDALE NEWSLETTER

Issue 266

March 2020

Donation please:
50p suggested



Stacey Moore

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

Guest Editorial

It is a big challenge for any organisation to lose a long-standing chairman who has driven growth in the scale and range of services that it provides. In the case of the late John Blackie the Upper Dales Community Partnership has also lost a man with unrivalled links to the County Council, the District Council, the Parish Council and the National Park. All of us living in the area were aware of his talent for publicity and how that benefited all of us. It would be entirely understandable if residents in the upper dales were a little anxious about whether it would still be business as usual. I am taking this opportunity to reassure everyone that the new board are determined to maintain and develop the services that we have all come to rely on.

The new expanded board was spelt out in last month's issue. It includes HR expertise, a senior accountant, an experienced lawyer with strong local connections, a parish councillor whose working life involves transport and, not least, a member of both the County and District Councils. Several members have links with the National Park.

Everyone on the new board has committed to giving time and effort to helping the partnership to continue successfully. For the time being, as we seek to get on top of the job, that includes a long board meeting every month and a lot of other activities between the meetings.

The plan to make space for the Newcastle Building Society dates back to John, but we have been busy in the second half of 2019 sorting out all the details. We are delighted that the new branch is formally open. The early evidence is that it is meeting a real demand in the community and will not be short of customers. There is slightly less space for internet access for members of the public and slightly less space for the library but not to the point where either service will suffer.

The library, the internet cafe, the post office, the management of the business units at Raynes Court, the scheduled bus routes, the monthly day trips on the bus, the school buses and Dale Head Garage are all in good shape. There are always fresh challenges but none which threaten the loss of any of these services.

One of the challenges, of course, is financial. The great expansion in the services we provide was linked to the financial cutbacks felt by the various public bodies who did provide the services. We have been helped by both councils and they are still very supportive but we now receive almost nothing for the cost of staff to run the library. The Post Office funding model, which is not connected to the councils, means that we receive considerably less income from the Post Office than it costs us to run the branch in the community office. In most cases post offices are in retail outlets which benefit from increased footfall. We need to have enough surplus on other services to make sure that we can cover the shortfall on our library and post office.

We are reliant on a strong staff team who show their commitment to serving the public every day. We are just as dependent on volunteers who drive buses and serve the public in the garage. It is obvious that financial stability depends on getting the right balance between paid staff and volunteers and their continuing to work well together.

In 2020 we plan to recruit volunteers to help us in the community office itself, for example, with the library. For a variety of reasons volunteers have to stand down from time to time. It will make a real difference to us if some readers of this article were to volunteer to help us as a driver, in the office or at the garage. Appropriate training will be provided. No-one will be tied to a rigid, inflexible timetable. Any new volunteers will quickly experience the great sense of satisfaction from serving the community that our present volunteers enjoy. To talk about it make contact with Abbie Rhodes by calling in the office, phoning **667400** or emailing abbie@udcp.co.uk.

Some hard work is going on to provide a useful new website that will help customers to

Submission of articles

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use our existing services and will also help other organisations to make contact with the whole community in the upper dales. I hope that we will be able to provide fuller coverage of this initiative in another issue.

UDCP exists for the benefit of everyone living in the upper dales. We want to do that successfully and we want to improve. If you would like to offer us comments or suggestions please speak to one of our directors or write to me at the community office.

Joe Pilling (Chairman, UDCP)



Eunice the Ewe

Last month I was on the pub sign of the Moorcock Inn advert on page 17 and the lucky winner, drawn from the hat, of the £10 prize is Lexi Rose Metcalf of Wensley.

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

Note from Betsy Everett

For the record, the meeting of Hawes parish council I referred to in the February Guest Editorial was held in December, not November. Apologies.

An Evening with Marie Little



As part of the ongoing fundraising efforts to save St. Oswald's church tower, the acclaimed and well-known North-East folk artist – Marie Little, will be sharing her talents with us on the evening of **Saturday, April 25th** at

Askrigg Village Hall (**6.30pm for 7.15pm**). Marie plays guitar and sings songs that can be sad and thought provoking one minute, then have you howling with laughter the next. Her material ranges from industrial and contemporary songs of social significance, through music hall and country, all of which she performs with her own unique style.

To make the evening even more special, Elizabeth Fawcett of Humble Pie Cookery Kitchen will be providing and kindly sponsoring a two course hot supper. There will also be a bar and raffle with great prizes donated by local suppliers. Tickets are priced at £15 and will be available from the beginning of March from Sykes Shop in Askrigg, Bainbridge Village Store and Three Peaks Shop in Hawes (or by emailing caseymal@live.co.uk).

So put the date in the diary, get your tickets early and come along and enjoy some great entertainment, wonderful food and help us raise funds for the vital repairs necessary to St. Oswald's Church Tower. For more information on Marie and her music, visit her website <http://www.marielittle.co.uk>.

M.C.

In This Issue

Page

Guest Editorial	2
Competition	4
Story-writing competition	6
Humble Pie in Hawes	10
Wensleydale Concert Series	12
Footpaths Follow-up	15
David Poole MBE	16
From the Archives	18
Whats Ons	20
Doctors' Rotas	24
Police Report	25
Mystery Picture	26
Dark Sky Support	27
Tour de Yorkshire	36
Thorney Mire Notes	39

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

**TUESDAY MARCH 17th
(Unless we are full earlier)**

PUBLISHED ON MAR 27th

March Competition

Below are twenty missing places of the North!

Fill in the link:

Eg Black ---- ey Bridge. Answer: pool

- 1 Lan ---- ton
- 2 Patrick ---- on Swale
- 3 Bent ---- bleton
- 4 Oak ---- hall
- 5 Scar ---- bridge
- 6 Rawten ---- ing Bus
- 7 Tock ---- ernsea
- 8 West ---- le Spring
- 9 Wy ---- ighley
- 10 Mixen ---- holme
- 11 Kettle ---- eton
- 12 Gol ---- tmel
- 13 Stan ---- ersley
- 14 Teb ---- cliffe
- 15 Shar ---- ler Bar
- 16 Summer ---- hewick
- 17 Elter ---- Millock
- 18 Pot ---- sside
- 19 Wils ---- shaw
- 20 Sea ---- ton

Please send in your answers to arrive no later than **Tuesday, March 17th** for a chance to win the £20 prize which will be sent to your nominated charity.

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 Westholme	624165
Thoralby:	Sandra Foley, Shop	663205
West Witton	Christine Barker, Chestnut Garth	624934

Answers to February Competition

1. Pisces
2. February 2nd
3. Charles Dickens
4. American Pie
5. Catherine Howard
6. Speak in parliament
7. The structure of DNA
8. Boudicca
9. Malcolm Campbell
10. 2004

There were lots of correct answers this month and the lucky name drawn out of the hat was Jane Hepworth of Muker who nominated Perennial: Gardeners' Royal Benevolent Society as her charity. They will receive the £20 prize.

Churches Together in Upper Wensleydale

World Day of Prayer

This year the World Day of Prayer Service has been written by Christians in Zimbabwe. We will be gathering on **Friday, 6th March at 1.30pm** at Gayle Chapel for refreshments before a **2.00pm** service. Everyone is welcome to come along.

Lent Lunches

All are welcome to our Lent Lunches being hosted at Gayle Church Schoolroom, on **Tuesdays, March 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st at noon**, for a hearty soup and crusty bread lunch followed by a short reflection. Please come along to all or any, join us and start to prepare yourselves for Easter.



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BAWB Federation

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

Our Spring term got off to a hectic start with many activities taking place. We have two new School Administrators at West Burton and Bainbridge respectively. We had ten children join the Nursery at Bainbridge in January and they have had a great start to their time with us and it has been wonderful to see the older children in the Robins class helping them to learn routines and support them.

Writing Competition

We were treated to a wonderful presentation for the Upper Wensleydale Newsletter writing competition. The editor of the Newsletter and the competition judge came to congratulate all our Year 5 and 6 children for their wonderful stories on the theme of 'A Night to Remember'. Benjamin and Charlie had won their age categories and they each received an individual trophy and book tokens worth £50. Mary was runner up in her category and received a certificate. Our schools also received a total of £200 worth of book tokens, for which we are very grateful.

Ann Pilling, a local author who judged the competition, gave the children some fantastic feedback about their stories and this proved to be a real inspiration - we spent the rest of the morning having lots of fun writing stories for BBC Radio 2's famous 500 words competition. We'll let you know when we receive our invitation to Buckingham Palace (the first prize)!

Cross Country



One of our parents - Heather – has resurrected our very popular cross country club at Askrigg School. All of our KS2 children have the opportunity to take part in the club, as do staff and parents,

which happens every week. The children are really enjoying this activity and come back for lunch ravenous!

Big Birdwatch

Children across the Federation took part in the national Big Birdwatch, recording the different types of birds observed at our three schools. The children enjoyed identifying the birds and KS1 children will be interpreting the data.

Skip2Bfit

On Monday 10 February, despite the dreadful weather, our Y1/2 children met their peers from across Wensleydale at Catterick Leisure Centre to take part in the fantastic Skip2Bfit event.

The energetic instructor led the children in an enjoyable warm up session, discussed endurance and perseverance with them and also had a good chat about believing in themselves. We then moved on to using the counting skipping ropes, and the children (and staff) were challenged to improve their scores over several 2 minute sessions. It was fantastic to watch the children working hard and having such great fun at the same time.

Y1 Geography trip

On Tuesday 11th February, the KS1 children visited Richmond to compare the human physical geography of a town with that of their local village. The children visited an impressive example of human physical geography, St Mary's Parish Church, before walking around Richmond, recording the human features of Richmond town. In spite of the snow the children had a great time. The children were very excited to visit another example of human physical geography, a play park. "It is a bigger park as it is in a town," explained Sam.

World Book Day Story Evening

In March our PTFA are arranging a World Book Day Story evening where the children will come back to school in the evening to listen to a story being read by one of our teachers. The children can come in their pyjamas, with a blanket and a teddy bear and will be served hot chocolate and a cookie. Children will also be dressing up for World Book Day and having a 'book exchange'.

We are hoping that March will bring some lovely spring weather!

UWNL Children's Story Writing Competition 2019

And the runners-up are.....

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

7-9 Category - the runner up was George Adams from Hawes Primary School.

10-11 Category – the runner up was Mary Cooper from the BAWB Federation of Primary Schools.

The awards were presented by our judge Ann Pilling in January.



George Adams

A Night to Remember

On a cold night I was looking at the beautiful stars then suddenly I saw a gigantic, hideous spaceship. Then I felt like I was floating. I looked down beneath my feet I wasn't touching the ground I then felt like I was

superman, but then something was weakening me, I started to go to sleep while floating to the aliens' terrifying spaceship...

Then when I finally woke up I saw that I was in a metal covered room with flickering green lights and different coloured buttons. Then something caught my eye it was the ugliest thing in the world, it was an alien! Then I found out that the aliens, who I still didn't believe were real, were doing tests on me. I asked the aliens what they were doing, they said "we are trying to understand more about humans and why they are destroying such a beautiful planet." I replied "what do you mean?" then the alien said "follow me."

He took me to the control room where I met another alien. "look" he said, pointing out of the window. Then I looked out of the window and I saw a sphere of blue and green blobs and when

we got closer one of the aliens pointed out the places which have been affected by global warming or damaged by humans. They showed me the melting icecaps in Antarctica and South Georgia, the plastic in every sea and ocean and the wildfires in the Amazon rainforest. Once we had finished looking I was astonished to see how much damage humans had done to the once lovely planet.

I asked if I could go home. The aliens said they would only let me leave if I made a promise and kept it forever. The oath was to keep the planet safe and to do all I could to fix the damage. I said "YES!" then the aliens started to fly down to Earth. Just then I woke up in bed wondering if it was a dream or if it was real. Whatever it was, it was truly a night to remember!

George Adams

A Night to Remember

This was a night to remember! I remember I was waiting for my mother to come back from foraging when I suddenly felt a cold drop of a liquid on my tail (I'm a deer fawn). 'It must be raining' I thought and settled down again. But there it was again! I felt it this time, but it wasn't rain, it was something slimy. That's it! It's slime! It's real-life ghostbusters; I started dancing, humming the theme tune.



Mary Cooper

Then there was a deafening roar! I looked around but I couldn't see anything, so I began dancing and humming again. I gasped! Something had moved, something tremendous had moved, something tremendous and shaggy had moved! At this point, I had stopped dancing, stopped humming, and was now feeling scared, scared of something I couldn't see!

'MUUUUUUUUUUM!!!!!!' I had wailed, 'HEEEEEEEELLLLLLP!!!!'

I was cowering away when I bumped into something soft. Then I screamed! I ran and ran and ran until I got to another clearing like the first one where it all started. I stayed there for a

while, I don't know how long (I'm a deer fawn, how can I learn maths never mind tell the time?) and then I crept cautiously back through the trees in the wood then I saw what had been troubling me all along ...

My Mum! Yep! My Mum had turned evil and she was stepping towards me smiling and saying, 'Come to Mummy, come to Mummy!' in a really creepy voice that sounded like a zombie crossed with a witch! I did not know why my mum had gone like this! Then I discovered something, that my mum was the one who made that wet patch of liquid on my tail. It was her spit! Her coat was horrid and parts of it were coming away and I could see all her insides! At that point I was almost green!

I pressed my mini body to the floor and started shuffling backwards along the floor. Then swung around and darted away! OH, how I ran, I was going so fast it felt like I had wings on my feet and was flying! But she followed me and being bigger caught up with me easily grabbed me on the scruff of my neck! I was squirming, writhing, wanting to get free! But she held me and opened her gaping mouth and...

I sat upright in bed, sweat dripping off me and mum saying, "Are you alright? Are you alright?" and I answered, shuddering the thought out my mind, "That was a night to remember!"

Mary Cooper

Askrigg in Pictures

A slide show with Christine Hallas

Tuesday, March 24th in Askrigg Village Hall at **7.00pm** - £5 entrance

Refreshments and Raffle

Proceeds to be shared between St Oswald's Church and Askrigg Village Hall.



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The Arts Society, Wensleydale

Talk 'Artists, Illness and Creativity'

Retired country doctor, James Grant, shares his passion for medicine, its history and its relationship to art and artists at Tennants Garden Rooms, Leyburn on **March 10th from 2.00pm to 3.00pm**. He argues that both physical disability and mental health issues can affect the creative process, acting as a stimulus but also as a major modifying influence on an artist's perception of the world. This lecture seeks to explore this relationship in artists such as Durer, Goya, Monet and Kahlo endeavouring to understand better how disability influenced their genius.

Dr Grant, a popular Arts Society lecturer has spent his working life in the NHS both in hospital and in rural practice and draws upon his professional expertise in a stimulating and informative way.

Tickets are £10 (refunded if you join TASW). Members of other Art Societies, pay £5 on production of their membership card. Contact wensleydale@theartsociety.org or **01845 567489** for tickets which are also available immediately prior to the lecture. Full details of the 2019-2020 programme are at <https://theartsociety.org/wensleydale>.

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We have had a few more new starters this month who have all settled in really well and made new friends. It is lovely to see the other children helping them to settle in and making them feel happy and safe. The children have been busy enjoying activities based on the themes Valentines, The Gruffalo story and The Gingerbread Man. To see some of the fun activities they enjoyed take a look over at our facebook page. We have been making pancakes and developing our flipping and catching skills - I think we may need a little more practice in this department though. In March we will be celebrating World Book day by sharing some of our favourite stories. We will be dressing up and we are planning to have a visit to the library.

Dalesplay is now accepting admission forms for funded places to start after the Easter holidays. If your child turns three before **March 31st** they are entitled to 15 hours funded provision and some children are entitled to an additional 15 hours. For more information and to apply for the additional 15 hours please visit www.childcarechoices.gov.uk or you can speak to Joanne or Louise at Dalesplay who can offer some advice. We urge parents to apply early in the term for the following term to ensure a place is available and all the relevant codes are acquired. **Contact Joanne or Louise on 01969 667789** or email dalesplay1@btconnect.com.

Dales Archaeology Day 2020

Saturday April 25th at Leyburn Methodist Church. 10.00am to 4.00pm.

This year's event will feature talks, displays and a book stall. If you are interested in the historic environment of the Dales then this annual event is not to be missed.

Tickets are available via our website <https://retail.yorkshiredales.org.uk/collections/events/products/archaeology>. Tickets will also be for sale on the door at a cost of £15 with a concessionary rate of £12.50 for full-time students and Yorkshire Archaeology and History Society members. Includes refreshments but not lunch.

West Burton Charity Concert

Wednesday, March 18th at 7.00pm
West Burton Chapel, DL8 4JX
Fourumfolk in Concert "Singing the Dales" in
aid of Action for Children
Tickets £8, including refreshment, from
Julie Pledge. 01969 663481

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Cooking Up Humble Pie in Hawes

At the end of February Elizabeth Fawcett launched the new Humble Pie Cookery Kitchen above Bear Cottage Interiors in Hawes. She is offering cookery experiences for up to six people at a time in her new bespoke teaching kitchen. Elizabeth explained that the atmosphere will be very relaxed and informal where people can learn new skills and then share what they make with fellow cooks round the kitchen table. Elizabeth said she would describe her food as modern farmhouse cooking that people will be able to reproduce at home using her hints, tips and recipes.

Elizabeth has been developing the idea of a teaching kitchen on and off for about 10 years and when the lease was up at Humble Pie Café in Askrigg, she saw the opportunity to make her idea a reality. Her passion for cooking was inspired by her mum who was a cookery teacher and Elizabeth has always enjoyed sharing her passion with others. She realised that many of the cookery courses on offer were taught by professional chefs creating 'high end' food and there was a gap in the market for teaching great home cooking skills. She soon found the right premises and location in Hawes where she had a blank canvas to design the ideal space for her cookery kitchen.



She is eager to share her knowledge and experience with others and hopes that people coming on the courses will share their ideas with each other too. She feels cooking should be fun and can be very therapeutic. Elizabeth still gets a great buzz when a new recipe is successful or a cake rises perfectly.

Elizabeth is offering half day courses

concentrating on baking and puddings and full day courses to experience the full 'Joy of Humble Pie' cooking. She is working with local producers to develop courses using local produce. The first of these is Wild about Wensleydale, where she is partnering with The Creamery. She can also offer bespoke days or short courses for small groups aimed at developing team building or problem-solving skills or even bake-off style competitions. Elizabeth hopes to bring more people into the Dales by encouraging visitors to book her courses as part of their holiday experience. Every month she will also be offering charities the opportunity to experience a fun morning of cooking together followed by lunch for only £10 a head.

Elizabeth is a great listener and believes cooking together can really help people open up and relax. She will be offering "make it mindful nights"- baking sessions to help people de-stress by taking time out to focus on a group activity. She hopes to develop her counselling skills so she can offer more 'cooking therapy' style events in the future.

She has some great ideas in the pipeline which include a 'pop in scone day'-where you can join a group for an hour and make a batch of scones to take away and special 'cooking buddies' events aimed at families. Elizabeth has already got her first bookings in and the vouchers for Humble Pie Cookery Kitchen are proving a popular present; so keep an eye on her www.humblepieyorkshire.co.uk to find out what she is cooking up next.

K.J

Askrigg Flower Festival

Easter at St Oswald's Askrigg will be extra special this year. We are planning to hold a Flower Festival entitled 'A Celebration of Spring' which will begin on **Easter Sunday, April 12th** after the Easter Holy Communion Service and continue until **Friday the 17th from 10.00am to 4.00pm** each day. Refreshments will be served.

Please join us for Songs of Praise **6.00pm to 7.00pm on Monday, April 13th**. We look forward to seeing you in Easter Week.

Hawes School News

Chinese New Year Celebration Lunch



To celebrate Chinese New Year, Becky, our cook, cooked a Chinese lunch and the children were given chopsticks with which to eat it. They were also given a fortune cookie. Children in Nursery and a few Year 6 children made a dragon costume and performed a dragon dance together.

Netball Final

We played against three teams but unfortunately, we didn't win any of the matches. Nevertheless, we all enjoyed the experience and were extremely proud to get to the finals. Mrs Guy said we were the best-behaved team and she was so proud of us. Thank you for taking us, Mrs Guy.

By Grace and Olivia

Local MP visit

We have invited Rishi Sunak into school on **Friday, February 28th**. He will attend the celebration assembly in the morning and will then talk to children in Class 3 afterwards.

Thank you - We are very grateful to the Rock and Gem shop and Gayle Whist Club for their kind donations to school - £100 and £50 respectively.

Wanted - Does anyone have a piano stool they no longer want that they would be willing to

donate to school. We would be very grateful. Thank you.

Come and Join in the Fun – Saturday, March 7th at 10.00am

The BBC Sports Relief Team are pushing their 'Red Sofa' from Hawes to Kettlewell and on the way they are popping in to see the pupils of the school who will be doing a sponsored run to raise money for Sports Relief.

There will be a refreshment stall and music. Come and cheer the sofa pushers on. The great sofa push will start at Hawes Market Hall at **10.00am** – please come along and support us.

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Wensleydale Concert Series

As we start our fifth season of concerts on **April 18th** we have some exciting news and special offers for you. The concert series started almost accidentally when I invited a professional concert cellist friend to give a concert in May 2015 – so impressed were the audience that I was repeatedly asked when the next concert was going to be and the series was born. Since then we have had seven or eight concerts each year in upper Wensleydale. In 2017 we became a registered charity and began to provide additional events for young people in schools, elderly people in care homes and occasionally in private homes.

Co-op Community Fund

This year we are proud and pleased to have been chosen to receive funding from the Co-op Community Fund. If you shop in the Co-op and have a Co-op card please visit our community page (at www.tinyurl.com/wcs-coop) and select to support our work every time you go shopping. Co-op then makes a donation to our cause for every Co-op product and service purchased during the coming year.

One of the problems locally is that many people do not find evening driving easy and there is virtually no public transport. We plan to use some of the money to provide transport to concerts (by buses and local taxis) from Leyburn and Hawes (and possibly other locations if there is sufficient demand). Please get in contact with us as soon as possible if you would like to register your interest.

The second activity we wish to fund this year is a free daytime mid-week educational event and performance in the summer term for young people and another for the general public, and particularly housebound elderly people and those in residential care, by inviting professional musicians specifically to perform for them. More information will be on our website later in the year, so please sign up for our email newsletter to keep up to date.

Programme and tickets for 2020

All of our programmed concert tickets are £15 for adults (£1 for children and students) but until the end of March we have a special Early Bird Season Ticket for £60 for all seven of this year's

concerts. These can be ordered by printing the form available for download on our website. During April the Season Ticket price increases to £70 and if you have bought a ticket to the first concert and would like to upgrade to a season ticket on the night you can do so by paying the difference (£55).

This year we have also introduced a £20 discount for purchases of six or more tickets in one order (again by post) which applies throughout the year. Individual tickets can be purchased by post, online or by the booking line phone number on our website.

We are really pleased to welcome a variety of musicians – a piano duo from Spain (flying over in April especially to play for us); two more piano recitals; a cello and piano recital; a cello recital from Tanya Anisimova from Washington DC (who gave an astonishing performance in 2018) and a wonderful guitar recital. There will also be a special chamber concert in July bringing together four musicians to perform Messiaen's Quartet for the End of Time in a concert to remember the life of Grete Buck, who was a close friend and ardent supporter of our series. Full ticket and ordering details are on our website (www.wensleydaleconcertseries.co.uk) and if you have any other enquiries please call **Carol Haynes or Liz Sowter on 01969 663026.**

Carol Haynes

Events at Reeth Memorial Hall

Friday, March 20th – Kerr & Fagan – Twice BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards winners for Best Duo. Nancy (2015 Folk Singer of the Year) is one of England's best known folk fiddle players. James sings and plays bouzouki, mandolin and guitar. Tickets £14 (£16 door).

Tickets from Reeth PO, visit www.reethmemorialhall.co.uk or phone **John Little (01748 884759)** – tickets half price for u16s. Doors open **7.30pm for 8.00pm start.**

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The Faceless Heads

Estimated to have been built in 1325, the evidence of corbels in the walls show that St Oswald's Church in Castle Bolton would have at one time been divided by a rood screen.

In 1969, when two members of the Peacock family, who were stonemasons from Castle Bolton, were repairing part of the church, they found the oak beam. The beam had been divided into two parts and then butted together.



When separated, the beam revealed the carved roses alternating with carved heads and was probably part of the original rood screen. Each of the heads had the face removed. This is an example of iconoclasm probably carried out by Parliamentarian troops when the castle was being besieged in 1645.

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Swaledale Festival 2020

This year's Swaledale Festival runs from **Saturday, May 23rd to Saturday, June 6th** and the full programme is now online! 2020 highlights include the European Union Chamber Orchestra playing Vivaldi's Four Seasons on **Sunday, May 24th**, Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain on **Wednesday, May 27th** and folk stars The Young'uns on **Saturday, June 6th** – all at Tennants in Leyburn. The world famous Brodsky String Quartet and the superb RUPA vocal ensemble with poet Ben Okri are performing in Bedale Church.

There are two afternoon concerts in the delightful ballroom at Bedale Hall, two film screenings and an exhibition at Leyburn Arts Centre, and folk duo The Hut People are appearing at Raygill Farm near Hawes on **Wednesday, June 3rd**. There are two shows at The Georgian Theatre Royal: comedy from The People Show and contemporary dance from Miranda Tufnell's Pneuma Dance Project.

General booking opens on **Monday, March 9th**. Details are at: www.swalefest.org. Book early to guarantee your tickets!



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Charity Coffee Morning in Preston under Scar

There will be an extended Coffee Morning/‘Arty Day’ on **Saturday, March 28th from 10.00am to 3.00pm** at Ben and Hilary Grisewood’s house at Spindrift, Preston under Scar, to raise money for Mary’s Meals. (The house is the first bungalow at the far west end of the village, and will be signposted).

Some of the rooms will be pop-up galleries with pictures for sale, contributed by residents of the village and others. Jewellery, textiles and craft items will also be on sale. There will be tea, coffee, cake and a cake stall.

Please come and support this event, and bring your friends; all contributions of cake, preserves, etc will be very welcome. More information about Mary’s Meals, who now provide meals in school for 1.5 million children worldwide, can be found at www.marysmeals.org.uk.

Leyburn & District U3A

Leyburn & District U3A’s monthly meeting and talk will be on **Friday, March 20th from 10.00am**. The speaker is Dennis Brickles on the Ribbleshead Navvies at **10.30am**. All welcome, small charge for non-members. Information from the Committee is available about the interest groups.

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More Public Footpaths in Upper Wensleydale?

I have just read Andrew Fagg's very interesting article in the February edition of the Newsletter on the footpath surveys in North Yorkshire in the early 1950s, and the bureaucratic failure to register as public footpaths many of those in use in the Hawes area at the time under the legislation then being enacted. Andrew finishes his article by saying "To end on a positive note, perhaps some of these paths could come back, or new ones created, not as public footpaths, but as permissive paths?" I think Andrew and your readers may be pleased to learn that there is still a possibility to record some of the old footpaths around Hawes and elsewhere in Wensleydale as historic public footpaths, an action which may have the result of bringing old footpaths back into public use.

As Andrew tells us, the story starts in 1949 when the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act was passed which required local authorities to keep an official record of public rights of way. These records are the source of the public footpaths marked on OS maps, in particular the paths marked in green on the 1:25,000 maps used by walkers and others today. As Andrew says in his article, the production of these definitive records proved difficult and throughout the country took from 1950 to 1982, and the work still missed many public rights of way. The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 then introduced a cut-off date of 25 years for adding historic paths to the existing definitive maps. This means (states the website of The Ramblers charity) that "paths (footpaths and bridleways) which existed before 1949 and which aren't recorded on definitive maps on 1 January 2026 will be extinguished".

The Ramblers charity is determined to see that as many footpaths as possible are added to the definitive lists by that time. It is making the job a lot easier by asking the public to plug into their website (dontloseyourway.ramblers.org.uk) where, for any area in the country, you can compare today's OS 1:25,000 maps with the OS six-inch 1888-1913 maps, and so find and report "missing" footpaths. Can I suggest that interested residents of Hawes and the

surrounding area find time to have a look at these maps and let The Ramblers know of any local paths that previously were used by the public but which don't appear on today's definitive maps? The charity or local walking enthusiasts can then consider initiating a legal process to get these footpaths re-established as public rights of way. I think this is done by applying for a Definitive Map Modification Order (DMMO) as set out under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 – but that's a step in the future!

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David Poole MBE

On February 5th this year David Poole of Newbiggin (Bishopdale) was presented with an MBE for services to the business community. The announcement was made last year as part of the Queen's Birthday Honours List. The presentation, which was at Buckingham Palace, was made by Prince Charles. It behoves this newsletter to congratulate David on his award.

Ostensibly the MBE was for David being such a driving force behind the reorganisation of the Lower Wensleydale Business Network, which supports new and existing businesses in the Leyburn and Bedale area. But it also reflects a long and successful career in business, often at the cutting edge of telecommunications. Over the years he has developed many skills, which together with a natural business acumen, have enabled him to create and direct a number of electronics companies.

David was born and grew up in Sheffield. Even as a boy he learned a lot about business from his father, who owned a number of companies. Work moved the family to Leeds where David attended Leeds City High School and then went on to Retford in Nottinghamshire. He left school at 16 to join the RAF and quickly became trained as an electronics engineer. During his fourteen years in the RAF he travelled all over the world and he says it shaped his life. He mentioned so many places – Aden, Kuwait, Syria, Kenya, Hawaii, to name but a few – that I began to wonder if there were any countries he hadn't been to. Soon after becoming engaged to Jean, his future wife, he was posted to Christmas Island in the Pacific Ocean. It was the cold war era and the RAF was on Christmas Island to determine the effects of the atomic bomb. The arrangements for their wedding were all conducted by long distance letter – no emails in those days. Subsequent postings meant more travelling, often without Jean, although they did manage to have three children. David commented that they were all born in military hospitals, one RAF, one army and one navy.

On leaving the services he was encouraged to apply for a job with Racal Electronics. Much of their work was for the military in radio and communications. The company's philosophy



was very much to promote new start-up businesses, where everyone knew what everybody else was doing and the focus was kept sharp. David still believes in that today: “keep it small” he said, “many businesses get too big”. He was managing director of many of these companies. Probably

the best-known development was Vodafone (Voda is short for voice and data). Back in the 1970s there were few mobile phones and none with any substantial range. Although they didn't make their own hand sets, they pioneered the technology to develop a network, so Vodafone expanded rapidly. As production director this meant yet more world travelling for David.

Racal was also instrumental in the privatisation of British Rail and in the installation of electronics in the Channel Tunnel. Once again David was heavily involved in directing the execution of both these projects. Racal was an immensely successful group of companies but in 2000 it was decided to sell the business to maximise shareholder value. After the sale, David's last job was to supervise the integration of the Racal group of companies with those of the new owner before his retirement in 2002.

He and Jean spent much of their lives in the south of England but had always wanted to come back to Yorkshire at some point. For a while they had a holiday house in Middleham but moved into the house in Newbiggin when it became available. Unfortunately Jean died in 2014, although David has some of his family not far away in Bedale. He divides his time between the Leyburn Arts and Community Centre where he is the Financial Director and the Lower Wensleydale Business Network which aims to support existing businesses, promote new businesses and create the right environment for business to thrive. David is passionate about giving young people the opportunity and enthusiasm to set up their own

businesses and spends much time in Wensleydale School and Sixth Form working with students and introducing them to people from the business world. He feels strongly that they should be given the resources and opportunity to encourage them to make their careers and future in the Dales.

Lower Wensleydale owes much to David's commitment to the business world. He has achieved a great deal in his life and is continuing to use his skills to help local enterprises.

N.P.



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From the Archives

Here is a very interesting and prophetic article written by Rima Berry which appeared in the November issue of 1998:-

This month, as a result of recent conversations, I will tackle the subject of global warming and try to dispel a few myths.

Forget Britain for a while. The world's hottest years this century have occurred post 1980's; temperatures have risen by 0.5 C. Yes, in the past there has been warming and cooling (ice-ages etc.) but the warming that is now occurring is greater and faster than anything ever recorded. Global warming is happening-fact. The uncertainty lies in predicting what changes and how soon they will occur.

Unfortunately, it is certain Britain will not turn into a blissful tropical style island full of sunshine and bananas. Sorry, but if you're stocking up on sunblock, forget it. The following is typical scenario given that most climate prediction models cite 1C minimum rise by 2020.

An overall rainfall increase of 10%, heavy rainfall events, an increase in high winds in the north. Coastal areas in the south will be more prone to flooding (through the rise in sea level and storm surges). Unseasonable temperatures, unpredictable patterns of rainfall. (Sounds familiar!). An earlier growing season (over the

past decade it has advanced 8 days), earlier spawning of amphibians and egg laying in birds (again, already recorded). An increase in hot and frost free days; long periods of drought.

In other words-more extremes of the weather we already get. Being a weather man in 2020 may be an exceedingly demanding job.

So, no bananas and coconut, just more frequent extreme weather for Britain. We can make a difference though. Be aware of your energy consumption-the burning of fossil fuels (coal, oil etc.), wood-and lobby for better and different standards from the local government on issues like refuse landfill.

It isn't doom and gloom-but the days of living in 'isolation' and blaming industry are over. We all make the difference every time we switch on a light, the television or put the rubbish out.

Rima Berry

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Helping an Askrigg History Walkabout

I have been asked to offer HPB visitors weekly (as that is their usual turnover) a historical walkabout in Askrigg. I cannot do every week and, therefore, I am looking for anyone who has a strong voice to, occasionally, do the walk. Of course, I would give you a walkabout induction and I will give you a detailed crib sheet.

Ideally, I would like at least five folk to be on the group. The money given by the visitors will go into Askrigg Church Tower fund as the tower is in a dire state.

If you can help or want to find out more about it do contact me.

Thanks.

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MARCH WHAT'S ON LISTING;
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February

29 Tombola. Thorlby Village Hall.
 10.30am. See this page below.

March

- 2 Lent 'Food for Thought'. Berry's Swinithwaite. 6.30pm. See p.24.
- 3 Riverdance - 25th Anniversary Show. Filmed live at the 3Arena, Dublin. Leyburn Arts & Community Centre. 7.00pm. 120mins. £12.
- 3 Coffee Morning. 10.00am - noon. Fernlea, Thorlby. Cakes and book sale in aid of Mission Aviation Fellowship and church.
- 4 Church Coffee Club. 10.30am. The Old Police House, Redmire.
- 6 Theatre by Bus last booking date for Harrogate trip. See p.22.
- 6,13,20 Lent lunches. Various locations. Noon. See p.29.
- 6 World Day of Prayer. Gayle Chapel 1.30pm. See p.4.
- 7 BBC TV 'Sofa Push'. Hawes Market Hall 10.00am. See p.11.
- 7 C&W evening. 7.30pm. Tickets £8. Leyburn Arts & Community Centre.
- 7 Coffee Morning. 10.00am - noon in Askrigg Village Hall in aid of St Oswald's Tower Fund.
- 7 Heritage Skills Experience Day, Gayle Mill Trust, Raygill House Farm. 9.00am to 5.00pm.
- 8 Soup Lunch. 1.00pm - 2.30pm. St Matthew's Church, Stalling Busk.
- 8 Choral Evensong. 4.30pm. St Andrew's Aysgarth. See p.30.
- 9 Booking office opens for Swaledale Festival. See p.14.
- 10 Arts Society. 2.00pm. Leyburn. See p.8.
- 10,17,24,31 Lent Lunches. Gayle Church Schoolroom. Noon. See p.4.
- 14 Introduction to Stained Glass, Gayle Mill Trust, Raygill House Farm 10.00am to 4.00pm.
- 16 Lent 'Food for Thought'. Berry's Swinithwaite. 6.30pm. See p.24.
- 16-20 Wensleydale Tournament of Song - Speech. Methodist Hall and Tennants, Leyburn.

- 17 Local History Group talk. 2.00pm. Middleham. See p.31.
- 18 Penhill Ladies. Carperby Institute. 7.30pm. "Pinnies and Pearls - with cake!"
- 18 West Burton Charity Folk Concert. 7.00pm. See p.9.
- 18 Newsletter AGM. Sycamore Hall. 7.30pm. See p.32.
- 18 Wednesday Club Afternoon Tea. 2.00pm. Redmire Village Hall.
- 19 Bainbridge W.I. talk. 7.30pm. Bainbridge Village Hall. See p.35.
- 20 U3A talk. Leyburn. 10.00am. See p.14.
- 20 Kerr and Fagan concert. Reeth Memorial Hall. 7.30pm for 8.00pm. See p.12.
- 22 Mothers' Day Tea on the Wensleydale Railway. See p.34.
- 23 Prayer Fellowship. 7.30pm. The Vicarage, Carperby.
- 23-27 Wensleydale Tournament of Song - Music. Methodist Hall and Tennants, Leyburn.
- 24 'Askrigg in Pictures' Slide-show. 7.00pm. Askrigg Village Hall. See p.7.
- 26 Jonas Kaufmann - My Vienna (Cinema Live). Leyburn Arts & Community Centre. 7.00pm. £12.
- 26 Bainbridge W.I. Book Club. See p.35.
- 28 Michael Ball & Alfie Boe : Back Together (Cinema Live). 7.00pm. £12. Leyburn Arts & Community Centre.
- 28 Charity Coffee Morning. 10.00am. Preston under Scar. See p.14.
- 28 Quiz Night. Thorlby Village Hall. 6.30pm. See this page below.
- 31 History Wardrobe talk. Leyburn 2.00pm. See p.23.

April

- 1 Fools Race Bike Ride. See p.26.

Thorlby Village Hall Events

Saturday, February 29th

Brunch and Bottle Tombola. **10.30am to 1.30pm** in aid of Alzheimer's Society.

Saturday, March 28th

Quiz Night and Hot Supper. **6.30pm for 7.00pm**. Bar available. Tickets £8. Ring **Phil 663875 or Liz 663747**.

DCM What's On

All events and exhibitions are included in museum admission. £4.80 adults, £4.30 concession, free U16.

Exhibition

Teeswater Year: Farm • Fleece • Fashion
February 28th - April 22nd.

This exhibition features the work of Nidderdale based photographer Melissa Peakman and textile artist Yvonne Le Mare. Melissa documented Teeswater Sheep and their breeders over 12 months, in fields, barns and showrings. Her often gritty images contrast with Yvonne's beautifully crafted, colourful feltwork, which transforms humble fleece and locks into sophisticated stylish textiles. The Teeswater fleeces used by Yvonne are from Andrew Fisher, of Low Laithes.

March Events

2, 16 and 30 Mind Matters Project.

10.00am - Noon.

Charity Mind Darlington is offering drop-in creative activities to help improve your mental health and wellbeing. A team member from Mind will be there to talk to anyone who is struggling. Call **01609 780758** for more info. No need to book, just come along and join in.



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20 Iron Age Trackways to Motor Ways.

7.30pm.

A Friends of the Museum talk by Graham Hooley from Lunesdale Archaeology Society about the Iron Age settlement in the Lune Gorge. Free - donations welcome.

31 Hands-on History - Victorian Childhood

1.00pm to 4.00pm.

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Monday 6th April - Adult £13/Child £6

Leyburn 8am update Hawes 8.45am.

Halifax & Shibden Hall

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Furious with Valentine's disappointment after their reunion Phoebe pops on her ball gown and creates a younger, wilder, flirtatious self.

Discover what happens next in Northern Broadside's revival of J M Barrie's Quality Street. Written in 1901 before Peter Pan this delicious farce was so popular they named the chocolates after it. Quality Street chocolates have been made in Halifax since 1936 and this rare revival will feature a commentary from current factory workers on their romantic mishaps.

You can see this matinee performance at Harrogate Theatre on **Saturday, May 23rd**. The coach leaves Middleham and picks up at Leyburn, Crakehall and Bedale, the cost for ticket and coach is £30.

Bookings are needed before **March 6th, ring 01969 663259**.

Shopping in Harrogate's Quality Streets

There are often spare seats on the coach. If you want a shopping trip to Harrogate ring **01969 663259** to find out more.

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Defra Seeks to Appoint New Members to YDNPA

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) is looking for two 'passionate and committed' individuals to join the board of Members of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (YDNPA).

The vacancies have arisen because current Members Jocelyn Manners-Armstrong, from Dent, and Judith Donovan, from Kirkby Malzeard, are reaching the end of their four-year terms.

The YDNPA board of 25 Members is made up of 10 people appointed by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and 15 people appointed from local councils. The role of a Member is to contribute to the leadership, scrutiny and direction of the National Park Authority and further its statutory purposes. The positions are non-salaried but certain allowances are available if needed.

Defra minister Lord Gardiner, speaking about recruitment across a number of National Park Authorities in England, said: "I am looking for a diverse group of passionate and committed individuals who want to help shape the strategic direction of our National Park Authorities. As a Secretary of State appointed Member, you will have the opportunity to help conserve and enhance our most treasured landscapes now and for future generations."

For full details of how to apply visit <https://publicappointments.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/appointment/national-park-authorities-and-area-of-outstanding-natural-beauty-conservation-boards-secretary-of-state-members/>.

The Wensleydale School and Sixth Form

This week I have been giving assemblies to all year groups about respect. Over the last few weeks we have tightened up on uniform, poor language and lateness to lessons, which are demonstrations of respect (or not) to our community and each other. A few years ago we reduced our ten key behaviours to just three;- Positive, Hardworking and Respectful and we are working hard to ensure these are demonstrated by everyone in our school.

Respect is vital to our sense of wellbeing, it gives a positive feeling of esteem for a person and it is reflected back when we show respect through our actions - something as simple as holding a door open is a true mark of respect. Respect can be defined as allowing yourself and others to do and be their best. So the value of respect in our school cannot be undersold.

It is our goal to create a mutually respectful atmosphere between all individuals involved within our school, including administrators, teachers, students, parents and visitors.

As such, everyone is expected to remain respectful to each other at all times. Students and teachers especially are expected to greet each other with kind words and student/teacher exchanges should be friendly, in an appropriate tone, and remain respectable even when a C3 has been issued. There is no doubt that this is not always easy for either staff or students. However, the vast majority of student/teacher interactions are positive.

Also please check out our website - there is a weekly blog there about what's happening at school and it gives a real flavour of life both in and around our school. <https://www.wensleydale.n-yorks.sch.uk/>.

Julia Polley, Headteacher

History Wardrobe

The inimitable Lucy Adlington returns to Leyburn with her show 'Ready for Action' **Tuesday, March 31st at 2.00pm.** Tickets £12 to include coffee and cake from Leyburn Arts & Community Centre.



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HAWES SURGERY ROTA Wb - week beginning					
Wb	Mar 2nd	Mar 9th	Mar 16th	Mar 23rd	Mar 30th
Day					
Mon	P/M	P/M	P/M	P/M	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 No appointments

Afternoon Surgery: 3.30pm – 6.00pm
appointments only

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

AYSGARTH SURGERY ROTA Wb - week beginning					
Wb	Mar 2nd	Mar 9th	Mar 16th	Mar 23rd	Mar 30th
Day					
Mon	S	S	S	S	S
Tues	P/M	P/M	M	M	M
Wed	S	S	M am	S	S
Thurs	P	P	P	P	P
Fri	M	P am	M	M	M

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

Morning Surgery: 9.00-10.30am ; no appointments

Afternoon Surgery: 3.00pm – 5.30pm
None on Mar 31st. Appointments only

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

Food for Thought in Lent 2020

Venue: Berry's, Swinithwaite. **Time: 6.30pm for 7.00pm**

Monday, March 2nd: Salmon-en-croute in a lemon butter sauce, new potatoes and vegetables (Vegetarian option on request).
Speaker - Very Rev. John Dobson, Dean of Ripon.

Monday, March 16th: Chicken Chasseur with pomme-puree and seasonal vegetables (Vegetarian option on request).
Speaker - Dr. and Mrs Rick Thomas, from Leeds.

Cost: £15 (to include main course, and tea/coffee). Drinks available over the counter. Home-made desserts, arranged by Anne Day, will be available on a donation basis, as previously, to be given to the charity chosen by the speaker.

Email davs.gordonlodge@btinternet.com for tickets or phone **Anthony Day 01969 624171**.
Cheques payable to Bolton-cum-Redmire PCC
Do come to one or both evenings; enjoy a meal together and spiritual food for thought.
Any other queries to **Ian Ferguson Tel: 01969 650685**.

Hugill

Mary, Colin, Carolyn, Sue and Mark Hugill and families would like to express our thanks for the many cards, flowers and messages that we have received. Your thoughts and support have been a great comfort to us following the sudden loss of John.



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Police Report

It's been sad to see the flood damage yet again (and again). There are sandbags available from multiple locations around the dales should anyone need any – please contact either ourselves or the Community Office in Hawes for details should the need arise again. We're still only in February so fingers crossed that Spring makes an early appearance! The following incidents of note have occurred in the Dales area.

On January 14th a serious road traffic collision occurred involving a single car between Carperby and Redmire. We would like to thank those members of the public who were first on the scene and called the emergency services/gave first aid etc. in what was an extremely traumatic incident.

Around 10.00pm on January 21st thieves attempting to steal a quad bike in Hawes were disturbed by a neighbour and left empty handed, heading towards Oughtershaw. Vehicle and suspects matching the description given were stopped in Buckden by Officers and members of local Rural Watches and four males were subsequently arrested, pending continuing investigations.

During the day sometime between 8.30am and 12.30pm on January 23rd, a property just outside Bellerby was burgled. An amount of cash was stolen but it is believed that thieves may have been targeting the owners Landrover Defender. A blue Ford car has been identified as possibly being involved and was seen around the Mount Drive area of Leyburn around 9.00am that day – anyone who may have seen such a vehicle acting suspiciously please contact PC 414 at Leyburn Station - especially those with dashcams/CCTV.

On January 24th – 2 x £20 fake Scottish notes used to pay for goods in a business in Aysgarth. Around this time a fake £20 Scottish note was used in a shop in Hawes.

Between January 25th and 27th, three vehicles on Woodburn Drive in Leyburn have been found with damaged tyres. It is not confirmed whether the damage has been deliberately caused and the incidences linked but please be

vigilant and do come forward if you have any information relating to this.

In the last four weeks we have had 10 telephone scam incidences reported to us. Five of the victims gave personal/banking details before realising they were being scammed and out of those 10 victims, money paid out has totalled approximately £10,000. Never give out your banking/personal details to callers you cannot verify. Also, never let anyone access your computer remotely unless you have instructed THEM to do so!

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

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Mystery Picture

The carvings in last month's Mystery Picture can be found inside St Oswald's Church, Castle Bolton (see article on page 13).

Where is this structure?



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Sonja:-

Friday & Sat. 9.30am onwards

Campaign Starts for 'International Dark Sky Reserve' Bid

Local businesses looking to conserve and enhance the Yorkshire Dales' largely unpolluted dark sky at night have become the first to sign pledges of support for a bid to make the area an International Dark Sky Reserve.

On the eve of the fifth annual Dark Skies Festival, which began on February 14th, the Tennants Arms in Craven and the Low Mill Outdoor Centre in Richmondshire spoke of the wonder of the Dales' dark sky as well as of the commercial potential of 'astro-tourism'. One of the Tennants Arms' dark sky-inspired events - a full moon trail ride in partnership with Kilnsey Trekking and Riding Centre - sold out so quickly, within two hours, that repeat events have been swiftly organised.

It's hoped that a bid for International Dark Sky Reserve status can be submitted by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority later this year. As well as proving that the Yorkshire Dales meets minimum criteria on 'sky quality

and natural darkness', the bid must provide evidence that local communities support dark sky conservation efforts. So, businesses, organisations and individuals are being invited to make their pledges of support online now, at www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/our-dark-sky.

The Head of Low Mill Outdoor Centre in Askrigg, Terry Hailwood, explained why he was supporting the bid: "The vast majority of visitors to Low Mill come from an urban area and it's been a long standing tradition for groups on their first evening to go on a local night walk. The abiding memory for many young visitors is how different the night sky is to their view at home.

"I am a passionate believer that if we want future generations to care for and protect the environment, then they need to experience it. The dark sky above is another layer of the special environment in the Dales. Low Mill Outdoor Education Centre is in full support of the International Dark Sky Reserve bid."

Member Champion for Promoting Understanding at the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, Judith Donovan, added: "We have done a great deal of work already towards becoming an International Dark Sky Reserve. We're now asking residents, and people who work and visit the area, to back our bid by signing the Dark Sky pledge of support - it takes only a minute."

"A dark night sky can boost wellbeing, benefit nocturnal wildlife and provide opportunities for education and tourism. In the Yorkshire Dales, residents and visitors can often see thousands of stars at night, the Milky Way, and sometimes the northern lights. Designation as an International Dark Sky Reserve will help people looking to conserve and enhance the exceptional night sky in the Yorkshire Dales."

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Heavens Above

Venus gets even brighter this month, blazing away in the western sky until well after midnight by the beginning of April. Between **March 27th and 29th** you'll find a slim crescent moon lying next to the planet with the Pleiades star cluster just above and the Hyades cluster to the upper left. A beautiful sight on a dark clear night. If you've a good set of binoculars (10x50s are ideal) you can use Venus as a guide to help you find one of the remote outer planets, Uranus. On **March 7th** it lies about 2 degrees to the left of Venus and looks like a dim greenish-blue 'star'. The innermost planet, Mercury, is lost in the Sun's glare this month but if you're out and about in the very early hours (around 5 o'clock in the morning!) you should be able to spot three other planets – Jupiter, Mars and Saturn – all lined up in the pre-dawn sky.

There's a noticeable changeover in our view of the starry sky this month. The bright winter stars patterns centred on Orion are still on show, but they're well over in the west now and it won't be long before they disappear into the twilight. By late evening towards the middle of March much of the southern sky is filled by the less spectacular springtime constellations - Bootes the Herdsman, Virgo, Cancer the Crab, and Leo the Celestial Lion. Leo is one of the few constellations that actually resembles its namesake – a fearsome crouching lion. His outline is pretty easy to pick out with a large sickle-shaped pattern of stars (a bit like a backward facing '?') forming his head and shoulders and Regulus, a bright white first magnitude star marking the creature's heart. Leo is one of the oldest constellations and represents the giant Nemean lion slain by Hercules as the first of his twelve labours.

On **March 20th** we celebrate the Vernal Equinox when the Sun crosses back over the equator, the nights get shorter than the days, and Spring officially begins. Something to really look forward to after such a miserable winter. British Summertime (not to be confused with the Equinox) begins 9 days later on **March 29th**. Don't forget to put your clocks *forward*. Have clear skies!

Al Bireo

Askrigg Foundation

After many delays the Askrigg Foundation trustees have awarded the building contract for the two flats and a small cottage, plus refurbishment of the retail unit, to Neil Dinsdale of Hawes. He expects to be able to start work in April, and estimates it could take around 24 weeks to complete.

There is still a potential hold-up as the planners are refusing to allow us to install wooden double-glazed windows, insisting we keep the current ones, which will require an enormous amount of work to repair the rotten wood. Trustees believe this is not a viable option for affordable housing, and it is not environmentally sound. Negotiations are still underway and we are hoping the situation will soon be resolved. Any queries please email askrigg.foundation@btconnect.com

The Trustees, Askrigg Foundation.



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John Brayshaw and Family

would like to thank everyone for their support
and sympathy shown to us following the
sudden and sad loss of Shirley on Monday
January 27th.

Thanks also for the many cards and
messages of condolences received. Also
thanks to the ambulance crew who worked
tirelessly to save her.

Mothering Sunday Services

9.30am Morning Service, St. Margaret's,
Preston under Scar

9.30am Morning Service, St. Mary's, Redmire

9.30am Holy Communion, St. Bartholomew's,
West Witton

10.45am Morning Service, West Burton Chapel

3.00pm Evening Prayer, Thornton Rust Mission
Room

Lent Lunches

on Fridays from noon to 1.30pm

March 6th, West Burton Village Hall

March 13th, Thoraby Village Hall

March 20th, Carperby Sports Pavilion

April 3rd, Aysgarth Institute

Soup, rolls and cheese, tea or coffee.

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Contact:- **Lou Porter on 01969 650387** or enquires@crownnaskrigg.co.uk.

Choral Evensong

The Girl Choristers of Bradford Cathedral

4.30pm, Sunday, March 8th

St. Andrew's Church, Aysgarth

This will be traditional service of Choral Evensong from the Book of Common Prayer, showcase psalms, canticles and anthems that the choristers sing as part of the Opus Dei - the weekly round of services in the cathedral. All are welcome to attend this beautiful and moving service.



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Middleham and the Dales Local History Group

Harkerside in the 1800s.
 Swaledale farmers feud to control sheep grazing rights by Will Swales

Middleham Key Centre,
 Tuesday, March 17th at 2.00pm

Will Swales describes fascinating stories of the people, actions and court hearings in a decades-long series of feuds over sheep-grazing on the common moor of Harkerside in the 1800s. Discover the hardships and triumphs among the hill farmers in this part of Swaledale.

Members, new members and visitors are always welcome, annual membership is still only £10 for 8 meetings and visitors can attend for £3 per meeting.

For more information contact **Tony Keates** 01969 640436, dotandtonyk@btinternet.com.

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Yorebridge Sports and Leisure

The Wensleydale Centre,
Askrigg, DL8 3BJ.

We have two brand new fitness classes which started in February:-

Bums and Tums - on Saturdays from 2.00pm-3.00pm.

The good classic favourite Bums and Tums class is back! The class will focus mainly on gluteal and abdominal muscles, with a twist of adding some chest, leg and back exercises for variety. It will involve use of gym mats, balls, weights and willpower.

Step and Tone - on Tuesdays from 2.00pm-3.00pm.

Step and Tone class is on the Get Ready Get Set Get Go mode. It consists of:-

5 min warm up, 35 min of dancing on the step, 15 mins of bums, tums, arms, chest workout, 5 mins of post workout stretch.

Come and join us! The cost of each class is £5 per session.

Our other ongoing fitness courses and activities (see last month's Newsletter for details) are:

Strong and Steady - Mondays from 11.00am to noon.

French Conversation - Alternate Wednesdays from 10.30am to noon.

Circuit Training - Wednesdays from 7.30pm to 8.30pm.

Step Class - Thursdays from 7.00pm-8.00pm.

Sewing workshops - Thursdays from 2.00pm to 4.00pm.

Gym and Swim.

For enquires about any of the above or for bookings contact **Jan Hale on 01969 650060**; email admin@yorebridge-sport.co.uk; website www.yorebridgesportandleisure.co.uk; facebook Yorebridge Leisure; or twitter [@vc_leisure](https://twitter.com/vc_leisure).

Jan Hale

A Date for Your Diary

Wednesday, March 18th at 7.30pm

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE NEWSLETTER

All readers are welcome to attend.

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Sunday Lunch is available every Sunday* from noon until 2.00pm.

Please call us on **01969 652060** to make a



Prunings

The morning of the February 9th was the worst anyone had seen as far as flooding in the valley here was concerned, and I'm sure many in the dale experienced similar shock. Mercifully we were not directly affected, and my heart goes out to those who were.

Last week I noticed the bulb pots. I'd been watching for signs, but suddenly they caught me out, cheery little blue irises nodding in the wind. We had to do a rapid change over so we could put them where we wanted to see them, and last Spring's display can repeat itself. Last year's summer display will require a rethink, and as my family have been most generous with gift tokens I can clear out all those pots and start

again. I chose some giant "Snap-dragons" last year, but they took months to flower. They are still alive now, so if they survive I shall cut them back and they will get an earlier start. The Erigeron Daisies are coming on, I have had them two years and they have grown into healthy plants except where a visiting pheasant has attacked them. We have had to put a blue plastic tray upside down over the bulbs in the raised bed to stop him from attacking them as well.

The week from February 14th to 21st was officially "Nest Box Week", so if you want to attract more little birds you still have time, but don't leave it too long. All the usual suspects are demolishing huge quantities of niger seed and peanuts. I noticed particularly the chaffinches on the feeders, and they are definitely colouring up.

My snowdrops are simply snowdrops! However, there are huge numbers of named varieties with different patterns and colouration. Sometimes I am tempted to keep specific plants, but if you try to do this on open ground it is not always successful as they tend to cross pollinate. One way to help prevent this is to keep them in pots, and a "Theatre" with tiered shelves allows them to be displayed and then the different markings will show up. As the year moves on it can also be used to house your favourite primulas or auriculas which always look well in pots.

A friend was describing the problems she had encountered with Horsetail. It is largely resistant to weedkillers as the stems are covered in silica which prevents the chemicals from entering the plant. If you have the same problem try this:- bruise the plants well before using Glyphosate. It should have more effect, but it will still take several applications.

As I write the sun is shining and the hill-tops are white. Storm 'Ciara' has moved on, but storm 'Dennis' approaches. It seems to me that this weekend might be a good time to pore over the Sarah Raven catalogue. I shall buy my sweet peas from it and then choose something from the glorious dahlia selection. What could be better when the weather is at its worst?

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

Rose Rambler



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Advance Notice of West Burton Concert

For their spring meeting this year, the High Dales Group of WI's has booked an evening of raucous entertainment with **Judith Hibbert** at West Burton Village Hall on **Thursday April 30th at 7.30 pm**.

Judith is a very popular and versatile stage artiste, able to transport you back to the good old days of English comedy through her singing, monologues and costume. Judith has worked extensively in television, theatre, musicals, cabarets and panto. She has appeared in Dr Who, Stay Lucky and The New Statesmen on our TV screens and has worked with the National Revue Company at the Edinburgh Fringe in 'How Was it For You Dear?'. She has performed in hundreds of variety shows and even supported Danny La Rue, as well as presenting her own unique tributes to the likes of Julie Andrews, Joyce Grenfell and Gracie Fields.

This will be a real fun-packed evening of light entertainment with music and song and is entitled 'Around the Wireless'. You will laugh till you cry!

The evening will start at **7.30pm** and will end with a plated supper and drinks. Tickets cost just £13 to include the refreshments, representing excellent value for money to see such a talented entertainer. We would be delighted if you could join us.

This event is open to you all! You do not need to be a WI member. Tickets are available from **Karen Prudden (01969-650706)** on a 'first come, first served' basis.

Wensleydale Railway News

Mothers' Day Afternoon Tea on **March 22nd**. Treat your amazing Mum to a scenic journey through the Yorkshire Dales and marvel at the new spring scenery as we approach the start of warmer weather, all while enjoying afternoon tea served at your table on one of our heritage carriages. Afternoon Tea will consist of a selection of locally produced sandwiches, scones and cakes served on delicate vintage china. This will be accompanied by unlimited tea and coffee. There will also be a bar on board for additional drinks.

We will set off at **2.15pm** from Leeming Bar Station and travel west to Redmire with glorious views of Penhill before returning to Leeming Bar at **5.00pm** approximately. Please arrive at least 15 minutes prior to departure. If you have special dietary requirements please let us know at the time of booking. Tickets are: Adult £33.50, Child (12 and under) £18.50 (please note that the child's portions are half that for adults), Under 3s free (please note food will not be provided). For more information and to book see <https://wensleydale-railway.co.uk/116-2/>.

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News from Bainbridge Vets

Lambing time is fast approaching again. At this crucial time for sheep farmers it is especially important to remember to keep dogs on leads when walking near livestock to prevent any chasing of sheep and therefore stress to the animal that could cause them to abort, or suffer other stress related illnesses at this time, such as hypocalcaemia. We have an able range of lambing time supplies at the surgery including high quality artificial colostrum and there is still time to book on our lambing courses which will be running again this year. Please contact us at the surgery **01969 650263** for more information.

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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 **March 19th** will be a talk by Matthew Brown on the women of Sizergh Castle.

Our book club for WI members meet every six weeks or so and this month will be held on **March 26th** to discuss "Where the Crawdads Sing" by Delia Owens. Contact **Susan Freer on 01969 663980** for more details.

The Lunch Club will be on **March 25th**, venue to be confirmed. The March Soup and Sweet will be at Askrigg Village Hall on the **30th** of the month, price £5.00.

Follow us on Facebook at Bainbridge WI inspiring Women. We look forward to seeing you.

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Tour de Yorkshire 2020

The stage routes for the 2020 Tour de Yorkshire have now been published with the event travelling through Wensleydale and Swaledale on **Friday, May 1st**. This will be the second stage for the four-day Men's race and the first stage for the two-day Women's race.

The stage starts in Skipton, goes through Settle and Horton in Ribblesdale, past the Ribblehead viaduct, through Hawes and on to Simonstone and the Buttertubs climb. Then along Swaledale to Grinton and back over to finish in Leyburn. The women's race is in the morning, the men's race in the afternoon.

Grant Scheme Details

A total amount of £30,000 has been made available by Richmondshire District Council to support community based events/celebrations relating to the Tour. £10,000 will be allocated to projects in Leyburn, as a host town and the remaining £20,000 will be allocated to community events outside of Leyburn with

priority given to events taking place on the route. The maximum grant per application is £2,000 with no match funding required.

The deadline for completed applications is **noon on Monday, February 24th**. Eligible bids will be considered at the same time to ensure the funds are allocated in line with the criteria, therefore no bids will be considered before the deadline.

Funds are available to Parish Councils, voluntary organisations and community groups. The types of projects which can be supported may include the purchase/hiring of big screens toilet provision, community activities, route animation, project management etc. A minimum of two quotes per item must be received before the application can be considered. Organisations should have a constitution, governance or set of rules.

Should you wish to discuss an application before submission, please contact either **Sue White** via: **01748 901040** or **Chloe Lewis** via: **01748 901038**. You should submit:

1. A completed application form.
2. A minimum of two quotes for each item you intend on purchasing.
3. A copy of your constitution/set of rules

Please return this application form with accompanying supporting documents by email to grants@richmondshire.gov.uk.

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News from Sycamore Hall

As many of you will know, Sycamore Hall is a Housing21 Extra Care Scheme situated in Bainbridge in the heart of the Dales. We are a leading national provider of retirement housing and care services for people over 55 years of age. Extra care housing is a specialist type of housing designed with older people in mind. It allows people to live independently whilst receiving care and support if needed.

We have a vibrant community hub with the village shop, hair salon and library on site. The post office is here on **Mondays and Wednesdays between 9.00am and 11.00am** providing a range of services from paying bills to cash withdrawals. We also have our very own restaurant which is open to residents, friends, family and anyone who would just like to pop in!

Sycamore Hall also hosts a number of activities and entertainment and we would like to extend an invitation to the wider community to come and join us for any of our events. Some of those activities include a weekly coffee morning every **Thursday morning from 10.30am**, why not come along and have a chat with friends or make new friends? We also have a weekly gentle exercise group to music at **11.00am every Friday morning** to which everyone is invited. This is just a sample of the kind of things we have on offer here and we would be very happy for you to come along and join us.

Don't forget, if you have any queries about Sycamore Hall, our events, or are considering putting your name down on our waiting list, please do call in for a chat or call: **Jane Cairns, Court Manager—Tel: 0300 7901716**. We would love to see you.



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Yorkshire Dales Made Accessible to Electric Car Users

The first public electric vehicle charging points have opened in the Yorkshire Dales National Park. Pod Point units capable of charging two vehicles simultaneously have come into service at National Park Authority car parks at Aysgarth Falls, Grassington and Hawes.

The 'fast'-rated 7kw machines are expected to be used by people looking to top-up their car batteries. An hour of charge at the new points will add around 30 miles of range for a typical full-battery small electric car.

Electricity has been led to the Pod Points from the National Park Centres which are located next to the car parks. All centres are currently supplied with electricity generated from a mix of conventional and renewable energy sources, but contracts are currently being reviewed with a view to switching to a 100% 'green' tariff.

Nick Cotton, Member Champion for Recreation Management at the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, said: "We expect that people will continue to charge their electric vehicles to full overnight at home or at 'rapid' charging points at motorway service stations, and will use our charging points for a top-up. As petrol and diesel cars are phased out, ownership of electric vehicles will increase and we will be seeing more of them in the National Park - and so it's hoped the new charging points could be the first of many."



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Index to Advertisers

	Page		Page
Accountants, O'Reilly, Hawes	14	Jeweller, Sumner, Hawes	13
Advertising Rates and Contacts	40	Joiner and Cabinet Maker, Bushby	13
Alchemist's Cottage Tea and Coffee Merchant	33	Joiner, Snaizeholme	7
Animal Care	9	Joiner, Solid Joinery Solutions	9
Atkinson J.T., Builders Merchant	31	Kennels - Bladesdale	18
Aysgarth Falls Hotel	30	Learning Support for Children	19
Bainbridge Village Store	29	Logs, Seasoned Firewood, Hawes	17
Boiler Service – Efficient Heat	9	Logs, Seasoned Hardwood	8
Boiler and Aga Service, M.F.W.	17	Massage, Jacqueline Beswick	22
Bookkeeping – Mike Reeves	11	Massage, Mobile Therapist	15
Builder and Plasterer, M. Moore and Son	36	Monumental Sculptors, Parkin and Jackson	8
Builder, Dinsdale John & Ted	17	Moorcock Inn	17
Builder, Peacock,	31	Music Tuition, Colin Bailey	33
Builders, Moore and Blackhurst	28	Optician - Mike Addison	22
Building and Restoration - Michael Watkinson	18	Orthopaedic Massage, Reflex	23
Building Contractor, Andrew Hawkins	7	Osteopath, Jackson Daphne	30
Building Services, Fothergill M	4	Painting Workshops	9
Butchers, Cocketts, Hawes	26	Pet and Wildlife Supplies, Rhodes, Hawes	7
Butchers, Hartle, West Burton	33	Pet & House Sitting, Home Run	32
Carpet Cleaning, Eco Dry	24	Pharmacy, Hawes Job vacancy	32
Chimney Sweep, Dales Sweep	21	Picture Framing, Wensleydale Press	19
Cleaning Services - Cleaning Green	15	Pizzas - Hawes Pizzas	21
Cleaning, Domestic Godesses	26	Plumbing and Heating, Parfitt J	17
Coach Excursions - Bibby's	25	Post Office, Hawes, Bainbridge and Askrigg	35
Coach Trips – Foster's Coaches	22	Print Services, Pennine Print	29
Coal Merchant, Peacock	19	Property Management Services	9
Cumbria Stove Centre	19	Removals, Hoppers	19
Dales Garage	34	School of Dance	31
Dales Web Solutions	36	Scrap Car and Commercials Collection	13
Decorator, Steve Raw, Hawes	18	Sewing Needs; Kearton	14
Eco Cleaning Products	13	Simonstone Hall	19
Edgley Garage, West Burton	31	Solicitor, Hall & Birtles	35
Electricians - Teasdale	35	Solicitors, McGarry	11
Estate Agent, Jessop Robin	30	Stone House Hotel	22
Fabrics for sale	29	Sykes House, Askrigg	40
Fabrics – Pennine Outdoor	14	Taxi, Peacock, Bainbridge	19
Farmers Arms, Muker	17	Taxi, Private Hire, Redmire	28
Garden Centre Wensleydale, Leyburn	37	Tea Room, Corn Mill, Bainbridge	17
Garden Maintenance, Lambert Tony	29	Tea Room, Hamiltons, Aysgarth	7
Gayle Mill Timber Services	35	Tea Room, Mill Race, Aysgarth	13
Green Dragon, Hardraw	9	Timber Buildings, Castle Timber	30
Hawes Country Store	13	TOSH, Leyburn Films and events	40
H&M Craftsmen, Ingleton	22	Travel Counsellors	26
Hairdressing, Cut The Mustard, Leyburn	27	Vets Bainbridge	25
Hairdressing, Edie Peacock	28	W.C.F Fuels	36
Hairdressing, Fringez 'n Freckles	7	Webso!; Portable Appliance Testing	34
Hairdressing, Sycamore Hall	26	Wensleydale Creamery, Hawes	21
Healing Collective, Swinithwaite	31	Wensleydale Tree Services, D. Allen	29
Health Foods	9	White Rose Hotel, Askrigg	15
Holiday Homes Letting – Ingrid Flute	34	Yorebridge House, Bainbridge	32
Indian Restaurant, Voujon in Hawes	26	Yorkshire Foot Clinic	37
Ironing Service–Tracy Hume	27		
Iveson, J.R, T.V. and Audio	27		

Notes from Thorney Mire Winter

We seem to have inherited, if inherited is the right word, a flock of pigeons. Normally there are three or four of these birds flying around but from nowhere about thirty to forty appear every morning. They land in the field next to the wood where the branches from the beech trees overhang. They feed, then disappear until the following morning.

On Christmas Day a tree creeper came into the courtyard. I have not seen one so close to the house before. It darted about on the mossy wall in jerky movements as tree creepers do, looking for food amongst the cracks and crevices. Normally I see them on the moss and lichen covered tree trunk of the sycamore tree across the road where they are well camouflaged, it's their white fronts which give them away.

During the Christmas period I saw just one magpie for several days, a bird not normally seen in our area. Fortunately I'm not superstitious about the magpie counting rhyme, one for sorrow, two for joy etc. but it didn't stay around for long and must have gone elsewhere.

A great spotted woodpecker makes frequent visits to the feeders. So far this winter I have only seen two flocks of fieldfares. A flock of chaffinches and bramblings were seen along the lane flying together. In the R.S.P.B. bird count in January we counted eleven different species.

A red squirrel has appeared in the courtyard several times to raid the bird feeders, normally they are contented with finding food in the wood. We are not the only ones to enjoy the winter sunshine. One sunny morning in January after several days of rain, a red squirrel was sitting on the top of a feeder in the wood. It was resting with its back against the trunk of the tree in an almost supine position. It wasn't feeding, but had its hands laid across its chest in a nonchalant manner. It was facing south and enjoying the warmth from the sun and the expression on its face said, "Ah, this is the life."

We are still having trouble with moles, but I did look a bit more favourably upon them when recently I learned that in the molehills are grubs

and worms which help to feed the birds. Watching pheasants pecking away at molehills seemed to confirm the statement so maybe they do have a useful purpose in the great scheme of things rather than just annoying me.

We all have our own wish list of places and events we would like to see in life; things like the Grand Canyon, Everest, Chesterfield winning at Wembley and a murmuration of starlings. I was granted the last wish a few weeks ago returning home from Hawes. It was around 4.45pm and several hundred starlings were flying around in the evening light. As we watched, more birds came to join them and take part in the display. Sometimes they would split into several groups but mainly they flew together, backwards and forwards, up and down, changing formation. When it became obvious that more birds were joining, flying in from the north, south and west we pulled the car into a layby and watched. For several minutes we saw these birds weaving and turning in their choreographed dance. Eventually one group would leave the rest and fly northwards then as swift as arrows would descend into the trees. It wasn't the leaders who descended first but the birds at the back of the group. The front ones realising that the rest of the flock had disappeared would have to do a hand brake turn before diving into the trees. This happened with every group, the ones at the back taking the initiative to descend first until all the birds had gone to roost, except for about three odd ones who were flapping madly in an attempt to catch up, calling, "Wait for me, wait for me". This was not a great murmuration with thousands of birds but a scaled down Wensleydale version with several hundred starlings but none the less, still spectacular.

Enduring these dark winter days you have to ask yourself if maybe some mammals have got it right when they hibernate in winter. I must admit when it's gloomy and wet it does seem an attractive prospect, sleeping and not eating for a few weeks. You would wake up refreshed and after weeks of fasting would be so sylph like you wouldn't be afraid of the bathroom scales or, look guiltily at advertisements for the gym or exercise bikes.

Sylvia Turner



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