

THE UPPER WENSLEYDALE NEWSLETTER

Issue 271

December 2020 & January 2021

Donation please:
50p suggested



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

Guest Editorial

Light in the Darkness

One of the more intriguing stories of Christmastime is that of the Star of Bethlehem. A star that we are told arose in the East, and then led the Magi first to Herod and then to Christ child, where gifts were given. Ever since, people have wondered what the Magi saw. Perhaps it was the triple conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn in 7BC, perhaps a supernova, which the Chinese also saw in 5BC, or maybe both events were put together in the minds of these astrologers. Perhaps it was something different altogether.

However, it may interest you to note that this Advent, Jupiter and Saturn are again merging in the night sky - and can be seen after sunset in the south west sky on a clear night. On Dec 21 they will be almost superimposed - the closest conjunction since 1623. This may not be the rarer "triple conjunction" of 7BC, but it's still rather fun!

Light shining in the darkness is one of the key symbols describing the meaning of Christmas.

Predicting the coming of the Messiah, Isaiah wrote, 'The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness - on them light has shined' (Isaiah 9:2).

Many have experienced 2020 as a year characterised by darkness. The darkness of a global pandemic which has impacted every one of us with anxiety and isolation, and for many people, ill health, unemployment and bereavement.

There have been other darkneses too. Terrorism, nationalism, racism have all played their part, but 2020 will be chiefly remembered for the novel coronavirus. There is light on the horizon with the news of promising vaccines created in record breaking time, but there are months to negotiate yet.

John's gospel affirms, 'The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it'. (Jn 1:5).

But where is the light this Christmas?

For some it is in our determination not to be outdone by the darkness. Some villages already have a reputation for celebrating in light - and

several this year are becoming 'living advent calendars', joining in the countdown to Christmas as more and more windows light up with the numbers from 1 to 24. I suspect we shall make a special effort this year to brighten our homes as physical gathering is restricted.

Secondly, it is in our decision to be "light-bearers". This Christmas perhaps more than others, we will be conscious of needs around us. Throughout this year we have seen wonderful examples of mutual support and encouragement. Truly we have seen light in the darkness.

The word 'phosphorescence' comes from two Greek words which together mean 'light-bearer'. A phosphorescent substance glows with an inner light after it has been exposed to light. Christians believe Christ is "the true Light, which enlightens everyone, and which has come into the world" (cf Jn1:9). Although people of 'all faiths and none' have been wonderful light bearers, we trust that as we spend time with Jesus, so we become bearers of his light ourselves.

Lastly, the light this Christmas is the unchanging light of every Christmas. It's the hope centred in that historical event some 2000 years ago, and the belief that God intervened in the human story through Jesus Christ. It's poetically written in one of our favourite carols: 'Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light - the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight'.

The carol 'O little town' speaks here of Light that can never be quenched - and in which we will find every hope and fear met.

What do we hope for? A cure, a hug, 'normality', restoration, healing.

What is it we fear? Economic collapse, loneliness, illness ourselves or within our families...

The true light of Christmas is the meeting of our hopes and fears in the coming of Christ, the one who 'heals all our infirmities' - physical but also emotional and spiritual - and who brings a peace which surpasses understanding.

So may the Light of Christ surround your steps as you journey through this Christmas and into the new year!

Revd. Tom Ringland
Vicar the Penhill Churches.

Affordable Homes in Askrigg

Askrigg Foundation trustees are inviting applications for three brand new affordable homes to let in the centre of the village. The properties will be offered firstly to residents of Askrigg and Low Abbotside parish who can demonstrate housing need as defined by Richmondshire District Council. If there are not enough eligible applicants the offer will be extended to people in neighbouring parishes with a similar need.

The property is in Main Street, opposite the Bake-Well deli and tea-room, and comprises a one-bedroom flat on the first floor, a two-bedroom flat on the second floor and a two-bedroom cottage to the rear, the latter accessible from Silver Street only. For full details and an application form email askrigg.foundation@btconnect.com or call Betsy on 01969 650180 / 07866 118315, or visit the Askrigg Foundation's page on Facebook. Closing date for applications is **December 31st**.

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DEADLINE FOR COPY FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS

TUESDAY January 19th
(Unless we are full earlier)

PUBLISHED ON January 28th



Eunice the Ewe

Last month I was in the photo on page 25 and the lucky winner of the £10 prize was Georgie Bell of Askrigg.

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

Newsletter Christmas Greetings

We wish all our readers, advertisers and contributors, regular or occasional, a Happy and Peaceful Christmas and most importantly a Healthy 2021.

Once again in lieu of sending out Christmas cards, we have decided to make significant donations to two causes that featured in our November issue. We will thus be giving £200 to the Swaledale Mountain Rescue's appeal for a new Incident Command Vehicle and a £100 towards a new hardwood seat at Gayle bridge.

The accuracy, appropriateness or legitimacy of any product or service advertised in this publication is the sole responsibility of the advertiser and not of the Upper Wensleydale Newsletter.

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Hawes School News

Christmas is a-coming

We are keeping our common sense and sensible approach to our Christmas Celebrations during this global pandemic. Although we can't do things in the same way as we would have done in previous years, we are determined to keep as much as we can, albeit in a different format.

Here are our plans:

Christmas Card Design for the Church

We usually design a black and white card for the church. However, Rev Dave has asked if our children will create a Christmas poster in school, which can bring some joy in the form of a display in the Church. This year they are able to 'go for it' and create a cheerful colourful Christmas picture.

Christmas Nativity- Premiere of Film

Traditionally Class 1 pupils put on a Nativity with singing and costumes. All mums and dads, grandpas and grandmas come and watch. This year we will be doing a performance for all the family but this year it will be filmed and then released. Then the children in Class 1 and the rest of the school can experience 'The First Christmas Premiere' and watch themselves on the big screen. This will also be uploaded to the website so that everyone can see the performance.

Christmas Jumper week **December 14th to 18th**

Usually, we have a Christmas jumper day, but this year with things being a bit different we are saying that children can wear 'Christmassy clothes and/or head gear' during the final week of term.

Christingle Assemblies – **Tuesday, December 15th**

One of the highlights of the week is when the whole school Family comes together for the Christingle Service in St Margaret's Church. Sadly, we won't be able to do this in the same way this year. But we will be holding class bubble Christingle Services on **Tuesday, December 15th**. St Margaret's Church will supply us with the oranges and sweets etc. The children will make their own Christingle in the morning and then teachers will hold a class Christingle assembly in the afternoon. Rev.

Dave and Sarah have promised to do a video message which can be shared as part of the class assemblies. We will take photos and share them on our website.

Christmas Film and Popcorn Afternoon - **Wednesday, December 16th**

Sadly, we won't be able to have a traditional Christmas party with games such as pass the parcel etc. so, we are going to hold a Christmas Film and popcorn afternoon. Each class will watch a film in their classroom bubble and they will each have their individual bag of popcorn.

Christmas Dinner – **Thursday, December 17th**

Becky is making our traditional Christmas lunch the only change here will be that we will be serving it from the hall and children will eat it in their class. Staff will join their class bubbles and eat lunch with them. I am sure that there will be plenty of Christmas music in the background.

Father Christmas visit – **Friday, December 18th**

We have heard from Father Christmas and due to the global pandemic, he won't be able to visit school as he would normally do. However, he thinks he may be able to talk to us online! (All depending on the level of snow at the North Pole).

Christmas Raffle

As you will have read in the newsletter, the PTFA will not be holding their Christmas Fair. Instead, they are having a Christmas Raffle. Tickets will be on sale from a member of PTFA from **December 7th**. The raffle will be drawn on **Friday, December 11th**.

There will also be a chocolate tombola for the children. There will be a tombola stall for each class bubble. The children will be able to buy their tickets on **Friday, December 11th**. (So send them in with some money.)



**Edie Peacock
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End of year Whole School Assembly –
Carol Singing

Sadly, we aren't able to have our end of term assembly with singing and general fun. We are all missing having parents and families in school for our whole school assembly. We haven't been together like this since March and I really hope that by next March we will be able to have our celebration assembly together and sing so loudly that we raise the roof! But until then, we are going to celebrate by playing Christmas music through the school in December. We will also have the portable speaker outside and play Christmas music in the playground.

Children in Need



Thank you to everyone who participated in our 'Wear bright clothes' for Children in Need. School was very colourful, as you can see by the photos. We raised £90.50. THANK YOU.

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

December Competition

Find the missing letters which link together the two given words: Example: Ink ... stream
Answer Ink JET stream.

- 1 Break ... Tie
- 2 Green ... Hold
- 3 Dream ... Trial
- 4 Penalty ... Harder
- 5 Fret ... Tooth
- 6 Grand ... Tongue
- 7 Hard ... Table
- 8 Mine ... Lunch
- 9 Night ... Lord
- 10 Onion ... Tone
- 11 Red ... Pot
- 12 Root ... Patch
- 13 Mexican ... Length
- 14 Tang ... Rant

Send your answers to arrive no later than **Tuesday, January 19th** for a chance to win the £20 prize which will be sent to your nominated charity.

Answers to the November Competition

This was a trip around the coast of England and Wales.

1. St Ives
2. Bognor Regis
3. Margate
4. Skegness
5. Formby
6. Lytham
7. Llandudno
8. Barmouth
9. Newquay
10. Ilfracombe
11. Poole
12. Swanage
13. Westward Ho
14. Seahouses

Only one totally correct answer this month and the winner (for the second month running) is Laura Gavin of Carperby who nominated the British Legion Poppy Appeal as her charity. They will receive the £20 prize.

Upper Wensleydale Benefice Services planned for Dec 2020/Jan 2021

Date	St Mary & St John's Hardraw 9.00am	St Oswald's Askrigg 10.30am	St Margaret's Hawes 10:30am	St Matthews' Stalling Busk 2.30pm
Dec 6th	Holy Communion	Morning Prayer 2-5pm A Christmas Memorial. Light a candle and hang a star for our loved ones Open Church*	Toy Service *	
Dec 13th	Holy Communion	Holy Communion 4.00pm – 'A Candlelight Celebration of Christmas'*	Morning Prayer	Evening Prayer
Dec 20th	Holy Communion	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion 4.00pm – 'A Candlelight Celebration of Christmas'*	
Dec 24th	10.00pm Holy Communion	5.00pm 'Outdoor lantern Christmas Eve Celebration' * 11.30pm Holy Communion	6.00pm Outdoor Christmas Celebration*	8pm Holy Communion
Dec 25th		9:00am Holy Communion	Holy Communion	
Dec 27th		8.30am Holy Communion	10.00am Holy Communion	
Jan 3rd	Morning Prayer	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion	
Jan 10th	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion
Jan 17th	Holy Communion	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion	
Jan 24th	Holy Communion	8.30am Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Evening prayer
Jan 31st	Morning Prayer	8.30am Holy Communion	Morning Prayer	
*All services subject to change please consult our website or facebook page for new information				

Sunday December 6th

Christmas Memorial Service – St Oswald's, Askrigg

This year we are unable to hold our memorial service in the usual way but we will be opening the church on **December 6th from 2.00pm-5.00pm**, where you are invited to come and spend some time in quiet reflection, light a candle for a loved one and write their name on a wooden star that can be hung on our memorial tree. In order to help us safely manage numbers within church you might like to consider arriving according to surname:-

A-E: 2.00pm-3.00pm, F-L: 3.00pm-4.00pm, M-Z: 4.00pm-5.00pm.

Toy Service –10.30am. St Margaret's, Hawes. An opportunity to bless a child in need this Christmas by bringing your gift of a new, unwrapped toy to the service. Unwrapped gifts can always be dropped off at the Vicarage.

We hope you can join us for Sunday Worship in one of our churches soon and you can always keep in touch through our facebook page [Upperwensleydalechurch](https://www.facebook.com/upperwensleydalechurch), our website www.upperwensleydalechurch.org, our email office@upperwenben.org or telephone 667553.

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Six NYCC Councillors Support a Winter Bus Service

At a recent NYCC committee meeting, Upper Dales councillor Yvonne Peacock of Bainbridge and five other county councillors from along the A684 each contributed £500 from their Locality Budget to provide a temporary reprieve for the DalesBus 856. This is the 40 mile year-round bus service that runs three return journeys each Sunday, connecting the four market towns of Northallerton, Bedale, Leyburn and Hawes (and of course the villages between that are linked by the A684). The new funding will provide a breathing space, in the hope that longer-term funding can be found from Easter 2021 onwards. Previously Acorn Stairlifts and TransPennine have both provided much appreciated sponsorship over the years. If you can help by suggesting possible future sponsors, please let me know. Thank you.

Ruth Annison

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Central Dales Practice News

We are here to help!

We have never closed our doors and nor will we. We will continue to be here for you all, to help look after your healthcare needs. We will continue with the current system:

To access GP/ANP - if urgent, call before **10.30am** and you'll be called back that same day by a GP/ANP. We cannot guarantee a particular GP/ANP but we will always do our best to try. For anything urgent (same day) we spread the workload between the clinicians to ensure the workload is safe and manageable for the whole team. If you need to discuss something that's not urgent, we will book you a pre-booked telephone appointment. If following an urgent or non-urgent telephone call the GP/ANP needs to see you, they'll give you a time to come in to be seen face to face. These appointments are booked to ensure we have the least number of people in the building at any one time so please work with us to help keep everyone safe.

Nursing - many reviews and follow ups can be done by phone and we will do this as far as we can, to limit the number of people in the buildings. For those procedures that need to be

face to face, you'll be given an appointment to attend (bloods, smears, vaccinations etc).

If you are given a face to face appointment with any member of the team - please arrive **ON TIME / AT THE TIME OF YOUR APPOINTMENT**, not early as we are controlling who is in the building at any one time as we have many vulnerable patients. We are also working with other healthcare professionals who work out of our buildings (dentists, physiotherapists, midwives, and chiropodists) to ensure you are all able to access as many services as possible, as safely as possible.

If you (or anyone in your household) experiences COVID19 symptoms and need to see a healthcare professional as feeling unwell or have an issue unrelated to COVID19, **DO NOT** enter the building - call us. If you enter the building you risk closing the practice. We are more than happy to help and we have access to a COVID19 GP Assessment Centre so you will still be cared for, we just can't see you on our premises. This is so that we can keep our practice open to non-COVID19 patients.

Repeat medications - please allow three working days from ordering to collecting. If you've waited three days and want to check they're ready for collection, please help us manage our phone lines by calling after **3.00pm**. This helps keep the lines open for patients to call in to book appointments and for clinicians to call patients. Thank you.

We feel lucky to be in such a caring, supportive community and we appreciate all of your support so far. We really can't say this enough. We know that if you all continue to follow the regulations and look out for one another we will get through this lockdown and the winter months to come.

Thank you from all the team at the Central Dales Practice.

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Hawes Primary School

Hawes Primary School goes from strength to strength! Even during the current lockdown 97.8% of children are attending school. (The national average currently is 89.2%.)

In recent conversations between governors and teachers the children say they are happy to be back at school and enjoying their learning. Obviously, things are not quite the same as last year, when the school was very publicly celebrating its “good” Ofsted judgement, after some difficult years. Now the children and staff are dealing with new routines, some of which the school will keep once the pandemic is under control.

Headteacher Hanna Vasey said, “We are being creative in adapting to the current situation and the children are enjoying using outside space more regularly and learning about how to live with the virus. We have taught children about the importance of hand washing and social distancing. We are teaching them about the importance of physical and mental health for good well-being. We are supporting children to 'catch-up' on lost learning whilst also maintaining the creative subjects such as art and cooking. We are delighted that our catch-up plan is going well and that we are able to keep our children happy and safe as possible in these unprecedented times.”

Chair of Governors, Jan Linsley, added, “I’m delighted that children and their parents have confidence in the school to ensure amazing levels of attendance. It’s a validation of everything the school is doing to keep children safe and to ensure that the children’s learning is active, creative and enjoyable!”

Jan Linsley, Chair of Governors
Hawes Primary School

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Repair work at Gayle Mill

Cultura Trust has received a grant of £59,100 from The National Lottery Heritage Fund to enable it to carry out repairs at the Grade II* listed Gayle Mill and support the Trust’s core costs during the pandemic.

The funding, made possible by National Lottery players, was awarded through The National Lottery Heritage Fund’s Heritage Emergency Fund. £50million was made available nationally to provide emergency funding for those in need across the heritage sector.

Graham Bell, Director of Cultura, said: “Thanks to the National Lottery and its players we have at last been able to gain access to the roof and other parts of the mill. Rampant vegetation was threatening to undermine the headrace. We’re grateful that The National Lottery Heritage Fund is supporting us at this crucial time.”

Stone Technical Services of Darlington won the tender and Mr Bell said: “They made a dramatic presence on site by doing the roof repairs by rope access rather than scaffolding.”

Neil Embleton, Stone Technical Services’ Contracts Manager, said: “we specialise in rope access maintenance work to historic buildings, which often have hard-to-reach roofs and architectural detail.” The work at the mill includes the stone roof slates, ridges and gable, overhauling the drainage and resurfacing the drive, which had eroded during storms early in the year, and installing new distinctive ‘Gayle-style’ gates as were made at the mill.”



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Living 'A Good Life' During a Crisis

In another of our series of articles celebrating local organisations who have kept us all going during lockdown, this month we are looking at the work undertaken by 'A Good Life Project - Upper Dales Covid 19 Support Group'.

'A Good Life Project' was set up by John Blackie some years ago and is working to support older and vulnerable people, making the Upper Dales a wonderful place to grow old. However, in March, when news of the Covid-19 virus was spreading fast, the remit of this organisation suddenly changed to support the communities of the Upper Dales during the anticipated crisis that was fast heading its way.

A facebook page was set up, leaflets and posters produced, and a call put out for volunteers to distribute leaflets to every home in the area. Within two days of the country entering lockdown in March, all the leaflets were delivered and the task had begun.

Immediately, calls began to come in from people in our villages who were in need of help, either advice, help with shopping, transport, prescription collection etc. Many of the ageing members of our communities had received letters instructing them to shield due to health conditions and therefore suddenly found themselves cut off from things that they would normally have taken for granted, such as a trip to the shops.

A list of 279 volunteers was produced with some caring for pets, others delivering shopping and prescriptions and some who were shielding themselves but were prepared to offer contact to others in the same position, feeling isolated and lonely. Over time, many of the volunteers became the 'go to' person within their village, becoming a Village Champion, supporting those in their village in need of assistance and reassurance. It soon became clear that the local lockdown volunteers were brilliant, proving what the people of the Upper Dales already knew, that under our noses in every village, support was happening every day but in a quiet and subtle way.

After a few weeks, this new group was also working with NYCC to make the Upper Dales Community Partnership into a Community Support Hub during the crisis. In addition, the group worked with Carrick's of Bedale to provide fresh fruit and vegetables as well as

Cockett's Butchers and Bakers in Hawes to provide meat and bread. Individuals were able to place their orders with A Good Life by Wednesday lunchtime and these were collated and sent to the suppliers as one community order. Deliveries were made in bulk to a central delivery point on a Friday and then each individual order was made up and delivered on a Friday afternoon. This service has run from 25th March and is still available, ensuring that up to 20 shielding households a week continue to receive all they may need without having to leave their homes. This was particularly beneficial when it became clear that the big supermarkets were struggling to meet the demands for online deliveries, allowing our excellent local businesses to step in and show just how important they are to our communities.

A 'Good Life Project' also got busy crafting, with many volunteers who were stranded at home offering to make up scrubs and bags for NHS and care home staff. Some of these original crafters have now moved on to make face masks which continue to be distributed across the Upper Dales free of charge to anyone who needs them. For those who weren't so good at sewing, but were good at knitting, they took up the challenge to produce hundreds of baby blankets, hearts and premature baby hats which have been delivered to the local Neo natal units.

During the wonderful spring weather, and thanks to a grant from the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, Simon Winstanley Ltd in Leyburn were approached to supply plants which were delivered to almost 60 households across the area to brighten their gardens during the long days spent at home.

The project has been fortunate to be able to work alongside many local organisations including local shops, the Central Dales Practice, our local pharmacy, the Methodist and Church of England churches, YDNPA Rangers, the Little White Bus and also two national charities - Age UK and MIND - all in an effort to support our small communities to ride-out this storm. It has been a really good example of how, when we all work together, the best results can be achieved.

So, now for some statistics of this successful project! Over a 17 week period, 996 contacts were made to the project (phone, email, Facebook), with 1,222 individual support actions helping 1,097 people.

There were 548 deliveries of food, 74 prescription deliveries, 276 phone calls made to check on people, 22 food parcels delivered to those in need and 11 instances of pet support, to name just a few. Wow!!

All in all, it is fair to say that this has been a truly inclusive, rapid response to a crisis that has undoubtedly helped many people within our local communities here in the Upper Dales and we should all be truly thankful to the many volunteers who stepped up during very uncertain times to ensure that it proved successful. If ever we needed a way to demonstrate that the people of the Upper Dales are resilient, determined, selfless and caring, this is surely it.

A **HUGE THANK YOU** to all of those volunteers and to Julie Greenslade (project coordinator) and all those businesses and organisations who supported A GOOD LIFE here in the Upper Dales. It goes without saying that this project is ongoing and now we have seen a second national lockdown, has once again been on hand to help out so, if you are in need of support, please get in touch by calling **Julie on 07817-711227**.

K.P.



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Full Steam Ahead for Ribbleshead Viaduct Repair

Listed building consent has been granted to Network Rail to carry out significant repairs to Batty Moss (a.k.a Ribbleshead) Railway Viaduct, arguably the most iconic built structure in the Yorkshire Dales National Park and part of the longest conservation area in the UK.

Owners Network Rail came forward in April with a plan to re-point eroded mortar joints and replace broken stones on the 24-arch, 400-metre-long, 32-metre-high Grade II*-listed structure.

It has taken months of painstaking work to refine the plans, including laboratory analysis of ten samples of mortar from the viaduct to ensure that the mix used in the repair will be as close to the original as possible. Network Rail has said the works will cost £2.1m and take place from now until the end of February. Scaffolding is currently being erected, with a formal decision to grant listed building consent having been made November 6th.

Member Champion for Development Management at the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, Jim Munday, said: "If you asked anyone in England to picture a train on a viaduct, they'd probably think of Ribbleshead Viaduct. It is a star attraction for our area, although it is but one of many superb Victorian viaducts in the Yorkshire Dales National Park; Smardale Gill Viaduct is probably in the same league and then there is Arten Gill and Dent Head."

"We're so pleased Network Rail is investing significantly in Ribbleshead Viaduct and carrying out the first major repairs since the 1990s. This was a massive application for listed building consent to deal with and I'm thankful that we've been able to draw on internal and external expertise to get it just right."

Phil James, North West route director at Network Rail, said: "It's a privilege to look after so many significant buildings and structures across the rail network, but Ribbleshead Viaduct has got to be one of the crown jewels of Victorian civil engineering. We know the structure is incredibly important both locally and internationally, and we want to give it the care and attention that it deserves so it can be enjoyed by future generations of passengers and sightseers."

Gala Committee Formed and Looking at Having a 2021 Gala

Hawes and District Gala Committee are delighted to announce that, following their Socially Distanced AGM in October, the Committee now has seven members. The new Committee will meet in January to discuss whether, and if so how, they can organise a Gala in 2021, based on what is then known about Covid-19 including likely ongoing restrictions and limitations.

For now, the Committee welcome any offers to provide or organise a display or stall or demonstration or attraction, plus offers of help beforehand or on the day in whatever capacity someone feels able to offer. Please contact any Committee Member, or email Hawes-Gala@outlook.com or leave your details at the Community Office.

Subject to approval by the Upper Wensleydale Sports & Recreational Association to use the Community Field, the proposed date of the Gala will be either **Saturday 26th June or Saturday 10th July 2021**. Finally, for now, would all trophy holders from 2018 please return their respective trophy to either Hawes Community Office or directly to Lisa Baldwin as this will save us contacting each of you individually.

Chair - Alison Wade; Treasurer - Lisa Baldwin; Secretary- Stella Huntbach; Joyce Sunter; Di Dinsdale; Cayla Kern; Jack Baldwin.

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Hawes Primary School PTFA News

Many thanks to everyone who has continued to support our fundraising events over the last twelve months. The current COVID situation has had a huge effect on our fundraising efforts and unfortunately, we've made the tough decision not to hold our annual Christmas Fair this year. We will, however, be holding a raffle to win a fantastic Christmas Hamper. Tickets are available from Emma Blades (Newcastle Building Society in the Community Office), Anna Fagg, Lindsey Whaley, Kerry Ward and Amy Allen. If anyone wishes to donate towards the hamper, this would be very much appreciated. The draw will be made on **Friday, December 11th**.

We recently received a very generous donation from The Poores Close Charity and wish to thank those involved in making this happen. We have a Bags 2 School collection arranged for **Friday, December 4th**. A good excuse for a pre-Christmas sort out! They will take any unwanted clothes, shoes, bags, hats, soft toys, curtains, towels and bedding except duvets) – please put in black bags and bring to the school gate by **9.00am** on the day.

Anna Fagg (secretary) 01969 666819



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The last term has been far from normal, with the pressure on staff and students to maintain distancing and the ever-increasing cleaning regime is relentless. Thankfully our cases have been few, but the impact of even half a dozen cases on the rest of our school and wider community has been significant.

As I write we are closed to years 7,8 and 9, who have been returned to online learning for two weeks, whilst we contend with significant staff shortages due to the need for self-isolation. Furthermore, we have only had two linked cases, so Covid-19 is largely being transmitted into our setting from elsewhere. Everyone is doing their best, but this is not education as we know it.

On a positive note we have had some marvellous examples of positivity. Our Head girl- Lydia Allison gave a cracking interview on Monday, November 9th on Breakfast with Georgie on BBC Radio York. Worth a listen about 2hrs 8 minutes in: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p08wklx2>.

The Senior Student Leadership team arranged for all students to make their own paper poppies in tutor time on Wednesday, November 11th, as we were unable to sell poppies in the usual way and Mr Ashcroft used his drone to take photos of us all. - Useful socially distanced Fire Drill

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practise at the same time. We resurrected an old tradition as the CCF paraded for Remembrance Day. Some grandparents may remember that our school had a cadet force many years ago.

Our enrichment clubs are thriving with a vast range of opportunities which has never been logistically possible before.

Finally, we have joined forces with other community groups to support Reverend Hanscombe in his Nativity Trail project. Our DT students are busy using the laser cutter to produce our nativity scene. The sewing club will make robes and dress the images and some 'handy' Year 11s will be helping me to position it in due course.

Many things have come out of covid-19 and some of them have been heartwarming lovely.

Happy Christmas to you all from all of us at The Wensleydale School and Sixth Form

Julia Polley, Headteacher

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Hawes In Bloom

Thanks to the usual band of stalwart volunteers we were able to clear all the baskets and planters all in one very wet morning last month. Once all the chains are removed and the baskets are emptied and cleaned they are taken back to Darlington Borough Parks Department in December. I then take this opportunity to discuss our requirements for the coming year.

In spite of current, and possible continuing Covid restrictions, I am hoping that once again I can get things ordered and in place for next year's display.

I would like to take this opportunity to ask all those that may have empty baskets (especially the large wire ones) to get in touch with me so that I can arrange a pick-up point before I go to Darlington in mid-December. It really does keep the costs down to a minimum by recycling the containers and obviously saves unnecessary waste.

Don't forget that if anyone has a particular colour scheme they would like to see around Town next season do let me know as I am happy to consider it as I plan my plant order.

May I wish everyone a Healthy and Happy Christmas and once again give my very sincere thanks to all those that help in so many ways to make Hawes in Bloom happen each year!

Your Resident Plant Pest

Richard Noble

Seriously Damaged Memorial Bench Restored to Former Glory

The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority has completed the replacement of a memorial bench to former National Park Officer George Hallas, which was seriously damaged by fire in 2019.

Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority Chief Executive David Butterworth joined George's wife and local historian Dr Christine Hallas, her daughter Jo and husband Nick, and grandchildren Peter and Georgina to formally unveil the new bench on Wednesday.

The bench on Long Road, Askrigg Common, was established in 2007 to commemorate George's contribution to the National Park, following his untimely death in July 2006.

Work to replace the bench was completed by National Park Authority Maintenance and Facilities Officer Paul Bishop and was re-positioned with help from Access Ranger Paul Sheehan and Apprentice Ranger George Jacobs.

Dr Hallas said: "I was very sad when the original bench got damaged - it took the life out of me for a time - but I am very grateful to the National Park Authority for organising the replacement. George would have loved to be here today, and I know he'd have loved the words inscribed across the front - wilderness is not a luxury but a necessity of the human spirit".



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(L to R) Jo Hallas's husband Nick, Jo Hallas, Georgina Hallas, Peter Hallas, Dr Christine Hallas, David Butterworth.

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If you are in full-time higher education and you live in the parish of Hawes, then you are eligible for an award of £25 towards the cost of books or materials relating to your course. If you feel you are eligible for the award then please contact **Rebecca Alderson on 01969 667760** for further details.

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Police Report

As I write, we are in the midst of a second national Coronavirus lockdown. The rules and exemptions are many, but I urge you to take a common sense approach with regular hand washing, maintaining social distancing, wearing a face mask and self-isolating when told to do so. By following the official advice, fingers crossed that we can have a Christmas with family and friends in as normal way as possible.

The following incidents of note have occurred in the Dales area this month;

Overnight on October 12th the Recycling Centre on Moor Road, Leyburn was broken into again and scrap and batteries stolen. Please report any suspicious activity in the area at the time to police.

In the early hours of October 29th unknown persons have entered seven tractors parked at Washfold Farm on Moor Road at Leyburn, and stolen valuable 'intelliview' screens and GPS systems from within. Any information please call 101 quoting ref. 12200189725.

On the afternoon of November 8th suspected shoplifters were spotted by vigilant staff at Leyburn COOP making off with bottles of whisky in a red Peugeot car. Police soon intercepted the vehicle, arresting the two occupants, recovering a large quantity of stolen alcohol and suspected laundered money. The two have since been linked to other similar offences around North Yorkshire. This is a good example of members of the public keeping calm heads, noting vital information, such as the car details, and immediately ringing the police.

About 10.45pm on November 10th thieves were seen taking two quad bikes from a farm at High Force in Raydale above Bainbridge. A combination of local people, police patrols and the police helicopter were quickly mobilised in a search of the area. Within a couple of hours the quads were found abandoned not far away, with suspect males being seen getting into a car in Bishopdale. The police are now following up leads regarding a suspect vehicle believed connected to the theft. In this case good information sharing and boots on the ground led to the recovery of the stolen items.

Overnight on November 10th Thoraby Post Office was broken into and cash and stamps were stolen in an untidy search. Any information please quoting ref. number 12200198411.

Overnight on the 16th a cabin and container at the site Yorkshire Water are working at in Appersett was broken into and a search made, luckily nothing was taken. On the same night there was an attempted break-in at a business on the business park – the thieves did not gain entry. However, if anyone has any CCTV/dash cam footage of the roads around these locations on this night where vehicles or individuals can be seen, please contact us.

So that's it for another year (and what a year eh?). I hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and we'll try and be as optimistic as possible about 2021!

PCSO 3744 Lucy Osborn
Northern Dales Neighbourhood Police
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Leyburn Arts and Community Centre

To perhaps keep spirits up we are pleased to announce a revised date for our recently cancelled Cinema Live (More2Screen) production of Uncle Vanya plus we have a range of DVDs for sale and some of our more recent film screenings available to borrow – details below.

Live Cinema – Uncle Vanya (Runtime 2hrs 10m) on **Thursday, December 10th at 7.00pm**. This is a stunning five-star new adaptation of the Anton Chekhov masterpiece. Starring Toby Jones and Richard Armitage. Recorded live this year at London's Harold Pinter Theatre.

*NB. For those people who recently booked and received refunds and wish to attend the new screening date on **Thursday 10th December** bookings / payments will be taken after **December 3rd** once we receive the Government guidance about proposed reopening! Non-refunded tickets have been retained for people against the new date, however, if you are unable to make the rescheduled event and would like a refund please contact our Administrator **Kay** on **01969 624510 1.00pm – 4.00pm Monday to Friday**.

DVDs for sale /Borrowing

We have a large number of DVDs which have been donated over time and one of our volunteers has kindly undertaken the mammoth task of producing an alphabetical list of them all which we can email to anyone on request.

To obtain the list or if you are interested in any of the titles (at the bargain price of two for £1) then please either ring **01969 624510** or email admin@leyburnartscentre.com so that they can be prepared ready for you to collect.

We also have our recently screened titles available for loan at £3 as below:-

1917; David Copperfield; Emma; Misbehaviour; Farewell; Good Liar; Knives; Little Women; Jo Jo Rabbit.

If there are any films you have missed and would now like to see then do get in touch as above. All donations are gratefully received and help support Leyburn Arts and Community Centre.



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

After a very unusual spring and summer, our schools returned at the beginning of September, raring to go and the children and staff very happy to see each other and get back to a semblance of normality, despite the additional procedures in place to keep everyone safe. Working in bubbles and constant hand sanitising are the new norm. The joy of having three buildings is that we can manage our ‘bubbles’ without tight regulations, metres of tape and arrows everywhere. Each building has more than one entrance which we are fully utilising. It saves our children and staff having to have too many instructions about where they can be and when.



We are delighted to celebrate the achievements of some of our pupils who took part in activities during the summer holidays. We'd love to celebrate Joseph's win at the Wensleydale Agricultural Online Show. Joseph (Merlins) entered the young person's section with a photograph of a tractor and came first in the young people's section, then went on to win the show champion from all of the finalists. Well done Joseph and what a fantastic representation of our Dale, hard at work!

One of our pupils has been recognised in an international art competition! Hermione, from Skylarks (KS2), was awarded runner up in the Linnean Society portrait competition for her wonderful collage of a racoon. She will receive an art kit and a certificate. Her art work will also go on display at their museum in London. The Linnean Society has also sent certificates for the children whose work was displayed on their social media at the end of last term.



Well done to Jo of Golden Eagles (Y3) who was placed 3rd at this year's Wensleydale Show in the Young Sheep Handler's category, with her pet lamb Zoe. It's fantastic to see such a community spirit from our children who are joining in all these wonderful local opportunities.

Operation Bletchley challenge :-

A huge well done to William and Lily taking part in the Operation Bletchley Challenge over the holidays. This was a challenge and to raise money for charity,



they had to walk 50 miles from Bletchley Park to the Cabinet War Room and at every 5 miles they received a code to crack. Once they had cracked all the codes they had to submit them to Winston Churchill and complete the challenge. It was a great challenge and lots of fun to do as a family and also to raise money for the ABF Soldiers Charity. Well done William and Lily, wear your medal with pride.



This term the children have been spending additional time outside, enjoying PE and Forest Schools. A huge thank you to Mr Stokes for his work planning and

organising the re-development of the outdoor spaces at our three sites. He has been working on these in the background for months, attending site meetings, seeking views from staff, ensuring we made the best use of the space we have. We now have a new structure at Bainbridge, a stage at West Burton and Bainbridge and permanent poles for forest school shelters at Askrigg and West Burton. Mr Stokes is already planning the next phase of work to replace the trim trail at Askrigg. Unfortunately Mr Stokes broke his arm and has had to be away from school for a while. In his absence Mrs Wheeler has stepped into the breach so that Forest School lessons can continue. The children enjoy these lessons whatever the weather – and boy, have we had some dreadful weather lately!

We would like to thank Mrs Scarr for her yoga lessons during the first half of this term. We will miss her whilst she is on maternity leave. The children have loved the sessions. We welcome Mrs Curzon who has stepped in to continue the yoga classes. The schools have taken part in fund raising for Children in Need again this year. The School Council made the

decision that children could wear what they wanted on the day – pyjamas, odd socks, fancy dress. Even some of the staff dressed up!

We will also be joining in with Christmas Jumper Day to raise money for Save the Children and are looking forward to all the Christmas festivities, lunches, parties, Panto (on-line this year) as well as a Christmas Shop, where the children can buy gifts for their parents, funded by BAWB PTFA.

We have welcomed new pupils to our Federation this term, all of whom are settling in well. We would be happy to welcome more!

Here is some exciting information about joining the BAWB Federation:

BAWB Federation - Early Years Foundation Stage

With the importance of keeping everyone safe, and abiding by the rules, we are working on an alternative 'virtual' way to show prospective new families round our fabulous Early Years area, this is based at Bainbridge Primary School. On **Wednesday, December 9th at 4.30pm** Mrs Johnston and Mrs Middleton will be delivering a virtual tour of our Early Years setting. If you would like more information and to be signed up for this event, please let us know by contacting BAWBadmin@b-a-wb.co.uk or **01969 650336**. If you would like to receive a copy of our Nursery or Reception prospectus please don't hesitate to contact us to arrange this.

Reception: NYCC have opened admissions for pupils eligible to join Reception in September 2021 (children born between September 1st 2016 and August 31st 2017) at www.northyorks.gov.uk/school-admissions. This closes on the **January 15th 2021**.

Rising 3's: We currently have space within the BAWB federation nursery to take children from the term after they turn 3 years old. Did you know we have three intakes in the year, September, January and April? If you have/know of any families who have a 3, or rising 3 year old, who would like more information about our setting, please contact us on the above details.

We always welcome any comments and questions from the community, please do get in touch. Staff and pupils of the BAWB Federation wish everyone all the very best for the Festive Season.

DEC/JAN WHAT'S ON LISTING; please add these dates to your Diary

December

- 4 Bags 2 School collection. 9.00am.
Hawes Primary School Gates .
See p.14.
- 10 'Uncle Vanya' at Leyburn. 7.00pm.
See p.19.
- 12 Redmire Craft Fayre. 10.00am to 3.00pm. Redmire Village Hall.
See p.27.
- 31 Closing date for applications for Askring 'affordable homes'. See p.3.

January

- 14 Swaledale Festival AGM. 5.00pm.
See p.23.
- 16 Mobile Skip at Brunt Acres, Hawes. 9.00am to 1.00pm. See p.27.
- 30 'The Story of Schools' opens at the DCM. See p.34.



We have been really busy at Dalesplay learning about Diwali the festival of light, exploring changing colours through firework pictures and we have started our Christmas preparations. Some of the children helped to make a happy ornament to stand outside Dalesplay and cheer everyone up as they enter the site. His name is Gavin the Gonk. He has already brought lots of smiles to the children's faces.



At Dalesplay we are experiencing a high demand for care so if you would like your child to attend we do advise getting in touch early to prevent disappointment. We have altered our booking system to ensure children remain being cared for in the same bubbles and it helps to ensure we have space for everyone who needs our care. We have lots of fun activities planned for the months ahead and we are confident that we can continue to provide a high standard of care in a very safe environment. We hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

humble pie

Cookery Kitchen

Here is something nice and tasty but straightforward.

Sausage Plait with Blue Wensleydale, cranberries & walnuts .

Serves 8-10

500g block of puff pastry

1kg good quality sausage meat

Black pepper & 1 teaspoon of mixed herbs

85g (3oz) Blue Wensleydale cheese, crumbled

60g (2oz) walnuts, chopped

30g (1oz) dried cranberries

1 egg

Pre-heat the oven to 200C. Roll out the pastry into a large rectangle (around 30cm x 20cm).

In a bowl mix the sausage meat, pepper & herbs together thoroughly.

Put the sausage mixture down the middle of the long length of the pastry. Using the side of your hand, press down the middle to make a deep groove and then fill with the cheese, cranberries & walnuts. Gently pull the sausage meat over the top of the cheese mixture so it is encased in a tube down the middle of the plait.

With a sharp knife, cut slits in the pastry 2cm apart going from the middle to the edge of the pastry, slanting slightly away from you. Brush with beaten egg. Starting at the end nearest to you, fold the pastry cuts alternately overlapping each other to give a plait effect. Brush the top with egg.

Transfer to a baking sheet lined with parchment and bake in the centre of the oven for 20 minutes. Reduce the temperature to 160C and bake for a further 20 minutes until well risen and golden brown. Serve warm.

Hope you like it.

Elizabeth Fawcett

<https://www.humblepieyorkshire.co.uk/>

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Swaledale Festival Adapts for Uncertain Times

Swaledale Festival has received a grant from the Government's 'Culture Recovery Fund' administered by Arts Council England, to enable it to move forward through the uncertain year ahead.

Artistic Director Malcolm Creese says: 'It has been a difficult year for Swaledale Festival, as it has for the whole world. Having to cancel the 2020 Festival was hugely disappointing, but thanks to the generosity of our ticket buyers, Festival Friends and Angels, and the recent news that we have received this grant from the 'Culture Recovery Fund', we are now in a relatively secure financial position to move forward. We're also able to keep our excellent team of part-time professionals together and working'.

The Festival is always planned well in advance and a full programme for 2021 was completed months ago. However, given the current Coronavirus restrictions and the uncertainty of what the country will be faced with next May, next year's Festival will now have to be rather different.

Instead of grouping a large number of events into a two-week period in May/June, the Festival plans to offer a series of individual events throughout the year. 'We feel this is our best chance of providing high quality music, arts and guided walks in the region, whilst helping to

minimise the risks and lessen the burden on local people and infrastructure. The safety and well-being of ticket-buyers, volunteers, staff, performers and local people will, of course, be paramount', Creese says.

The Festival is also planning a comprehensive programme of projects and performances for local schools and care homes, providing music, arts and entertainment to some of those who are in particular need of cultural activities.

Details of Festival activities in 2021 will appear on the website www.swalefest.org soon.

Chairman Dr. Susan Miller says: 'Looking (optimistically) a little further forward, we are already working on a fantastic programme for May/June 2022 when we will celebrate Swaledale Festival's 50th anniversary. We thank you for your continued support'.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on **Thursday, January 14th at 5.00pm** and all are welcome. Due to social distancing measures this meeting will be held via Zoom. If you'd like to attend, please contact the Festival's Chairman Susan Miller for further details: chairman@swalefest.org.

Reg Fagg Painting Trophy 2020

Congratulations to the many excellent entries for this year's competition. It didn't make the judging easy.

The winning entries were Class 1 Bertie Peacock, Class 2 Harry Fothergill, Class 3 Sid Peacock. Highly commended was the entry from Isabele Jocyte, Class 2.

The overall winner whose art work adorns the Newsletter front cover is Tommy Fagg Class 3.



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CHRISTMAS GREETINGS



Mary Sumner wishes you all a Happy Christmas and hopes you all stay safe.



Audrey Heasman formerly of Hillrise Askrigg, now at The Terrace Richmond, would like it wish all her family and friends a very Happy Christmas and New Year 2021

Judy Fawcett

would like to wish family and friends a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Thomas Raw

would like to wish all his friends and relatives a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year

Alan Sharples

Would like to wish a Happy Christmas and New Year to all his friends and relatives



Jim & Jean Sleightholm

wish all friends and neighbours a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2021.

Marilyn and Tony Philpott, ex-Thoralby and Gayle, wish all our friends and neighbours in Wensleydale a very Happy Christmas and a healthy, peaceful and prosperous 2021.



Pete & Denise Mason

would like to wish family and friends a Merry Christmas and a Healthy New Year. We aren't sending cards, making a donation to charity.



Jim Lambert

Would like to wish family and friends a merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Allen and Jennifer Kirkbride would like to wish family and friends a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and will donate to the Air Ambulance.



Jackie and Stuart Teasdale and Ian Surtees send Seasons Greetings to family and friends. We aren't sending cards



James Atkinson would like to wish family and friends a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Jean and Stuart Cockburn would like to wish all their friends a very happy Christmas, and a healthy and peaceful New Year.



Joan and Garth Haigh

would like to wish all friends and neighbours a Merry Christmas and a Happy 2021.



Hugh Gregson

of Bainbridge wishes all family and friends a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful 2021

**Margaret Dinsdale**

of Hawes would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

**Georgina Devine**

would like to wish everyone she knows a very Merry Christmas.



Ann Peacock would like to wish all relatives, friends and neighbours a very peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year



Bainbridge Women's Institute committee wish all their members a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful and Healthy 2021. We hope to meet again soon



Joan Hodgson message to Carperby Lunch Club. Merry Christmas to all of you and a very Happy and Covid free 2021 when hopefully we can all be together again



Gwen Scarr will not be sending cards this Christmas and will make a little donation to the Friarage hospital instead. Wishing all our friends and family a happy Christmas and New Year, with love Ed, Gwen, Tommy, Rory, Ben & Faye Scarr



Derrick & Irene Pickard would like to wish all family & friends a Happy Christmas & A Healthy New Year 2021. This year they are making a donation to The Yorkshire Air Ambulance instead of sending Christmas Cards.



Shirley (Iveson), Simon and Bunty wish a happy Christmas and New Year to all friends and relatives



Barry Wilcox wishes all friends and neighbours a peaceful Christmas and a much better New Year



Marilyn and Barry Cruickshanks wish all their friends and neighbours a very Happy Christmas and a healthy and peaceful 2021



The Committee of Penhill Ladies wishes all members a Merry Christmas and a very happy, COVID free 2021 when we hope we can all be together again.



Ernie and June Metcalfe and family wish you a Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year



Jean Airey would like to wish all her family and friends a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



Fringe 'n Freckles Hair and Beauty

Wish all clients a safe and happy Christmas, and hope that we can all go back to normal living and working in the New Year.



Mary Grainger wishes friends and neighbours a very happy & peaceful Christmas & New Year.

Penhill Benefice Church Services

You are very welcome at our services, by phone, zoom or in church. We have sought to make our church buildings as safe as possible. Please remember to wear a mask, use the test and trace facility and wash hands. We close the premises for three days before services, to allow time for virus degradation.

Sunday, December 6th

9.30am Holy Communion, St. Mary's, Redmire

11.00am Holy Communion, St. Andrew's, Aysgarth

Sunday, December 13th

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

6.00pm Carol Service, St. Margaret's, Preston under Scar

Friday, December 18th

6.00pm Carol Service, Holy Trinity, Wensley

Sunday, December 20th

11.00am Holy Communion with Carols, St. Andrew's, Aysgarth

4.00pm Carol Service, St. Mary's, Redmire

6.00pm Village Carol Service, Mill Dam, West Witton

Thursday, CHRISTMAS EVE

3.30pm Crib Service Family Event via Zoom

8.00pm Holy Communion, St. Mary's, Redmire

11.30pm Holy Communion, St. Bartholomew's, West Witton

Friday, CHRISTMAS DAY

10.00am Holy Communion, Holy Trinity, Wensley

11.00am Christmas Service Celebration, St. Andrew's, Aysgarth

Sunday, December 27th

10.30am Benefice Holy Communion, St. Bartholomew's, West Witton

Sunday, January 3rd

9.30am Holy Communion, St. Mary's, Redmire

11.00am Holy Communion, St. Andrew's, Aysgarth

Sunday, January 10th

9.30am St. Margaret's, Preston under Scar

11.00am Holy Communion, St. Bartholomew's, West Witton

Sunday, January 17th

9.30am Holy Communion, St. Mary's, Redmire

11.00am Holy Communion, St. Andrew's, Aysgarth

Sunday, January 24th

9.30am St. Margaret's, Preston under Scar

11.00am Holy Communion, St. Bartholomew's, West Witton

In addition there will be a Telephone service available at **9.30am** on the following dates; - **Sundays December 6th, 13th and 20th, January 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th. To access dial 0333 0110 946 and enter room number 61337190# and PIN 7450#** Depending on your provider this is either free or costs a local rate phone call.

A Zoom Service will be available at **10.30am** on the following dates;- **Sundays December 6th, 13th (Family Christingle Service), January 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th.** To obtain Zoom links go to penhillbenefice.co.uk/services.

Our church buildings at Aysgarth, Castle Bolton, Preston under Scar, Redmire and Wensley are open for private prayer every day during daylight hours. St. Bartholomew's, West Witton is open every Sunday and Thursday.

Thornton Rust Mission Room is presently closed.

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Redmire Christmas Gift and Craft Fayre

There will be a Christmas Gift and Craft Fayre on **Saturday, December 12th from 10.00am to 3.00pm** in Redmire Village Hall. Featuring artists from Redmire and surrounding villages.

Covid secure venue, Track and Trace, masks must be worn. One way system in place.

For further information contact **Dinah Francis** on 07771 768183 (Whatsapp only, no mobile signal) or email: dinahfrancis307@gmail.com or contact **Carole Rutherford** on 07986 699873 or email: carole@bc-crafts.co.uk.



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Best Foot Forward Colsterdale and Back

There have been reports that, as a nation, we are now fitter than we have been for quite some time. If true, that must have something to do with people having more time to exercise. There have certainly been plenty of folk out walking in recent months but it remains to be seen whether this pattern continues into the winter period. The weather and darkness have a tendency to put a lot of us off, as we say goodbye to the shorts, sun cream and floppy hat and exchange them for woolly hat, gloves, fleece and torch. But with good preparation a walk can be just as enjoyable in winter as in summer and plenty of walking groups have an all year round programme, at least under normal circumstances.

This walk is not too ambitious, being eleven miles if started at Cover Bridge, but only nine miles starting at East Witton. Choosing a dry day has been quite difficult recently and even if the weather is fine, there has been much rain recently to make the ground pretty soggy. Starting beside the River Cover there is immediate evidence of the erosive power of water, which has been eating into the river bank for quite some time. It brings to mind the closure of the footpath on the opposite bank many years ago, after much of it had been washed away.

It is only a short walk to East Witton, which has a very attractive setting with a long village green. It still has a shop which (it says) is open three mornings a week. Most of the village lies within the national park, near what is almost the most easterly extent of the park. (Hudswell Woods near Richmond is 200 metres further east) but the Blue Lion pub and the church are outside the boundary on the opposite side of the A6108. The village is mentioned in the Domesday Book but it was largely rebuilt in the nineteenth century by the Earl of Ailesbury, owner of Jervaulx Abbey at that time.

Leaving the village by the south east corner, a tarmac lane is followed through a farmyard and uphill to Thirsting Castle Lodge, an intriguing name but just a gamekeeper's house. The tarmac ends here but a good track zigzags its way up the hillside, giving ever more expansive views of Lower Wensleydale. Prominent features are Danby Hall, seat of the Scrope family in Tudor times, and Thornton Steward Reservoir, from which most of us get our water.

The gradient levels off after Hammer Farm. The right of way goes close by the farm buildings but there is a "Privacy Plea" asking walkers to divert to a track above and then follow the signage back to the through route. Legally diverting a public footpath is an expensive business, so following the unofficial request, which is not onerous, makes a lot of sense. The beech hedge at the end of the detour is particularly attractive when in its autumn colours.

After crossing a minor road the route becomes a bit difficult to follow. Signage is poor and careful navigation is required to reach Ellingstring. At the top of the village, where



there is a farm, the route goes through an open gateway into a wood. Again there is no signpost so a map is helpful. It is very clear that outside the national park there is not the same attention to the footpath network as there is within the park. The county council understandably does not have the resources to look after every footpath in England's largest county.

Entering the wood, a grassy track leads gently uphill. After 200 metres this track curves away to the left, so it is vital to cross a broken stile out of the wood onto the open moor. A rather wet path then follows the wall alongside the wood. The way across the moor is a little vague, although there are one or two waymark arrows to reassure walkers. The route is part of the Six Dales Trail, which visits Wharfedale, Washburndale, Nidderdale, Colsterdale, Coverdale and Wensleydale. It was created in 2000 and this probably explains the presence of the waymarks but it doesn't look well used and is rather neglected.

Dropping down through more woods, the trail reaches Gollinglith Foot in Colsterdale. This must be one of the less visited valleys in the Yorkshire Dales. It is part of the Nidderdale



Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Household waste bins labelled HBC are a reminder that this is Harrogate District and that makes it feel a long way from Wensleydale, but for how much longer? Our council boundaries look set to be reorganised in the near future.

A short stretch along a quiet tarmac road leads to an ancient track back up onto Agra Moor. The track is severely eroded and after wet weather it is like walking up a stream gully. On the right are Slipstone Crags, a quarter mile long outcrop of Millstone Grit. My 1974 Yorkshire Gritstone climbing guide makes no mention of it but the current edition has over fifty routes, none very high but some very hard. On this day there were a few casual scramblers and two more serious climbers. They were a distraction on an otherwise uninspiring ascent onto a broad plateau.

From the top it is a fairly boggy descent to Sowden Beck Farm and then on a good track past a water storage plant (discreetly underground) to East Witton and back to Cover bridge.

This may not be the most inspiring walk in the dales but it does go to places which are less often walked. It's always good to explore new ground.

N. P.

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From the Archives

Here is an article from the April 2000 issue .

It Was Brilliant

On Thursday February 24th Hawes Junior Youth Club went to the pictures to go and see Toy Story 2: it was brilliant. After that we went to Burger King that was good too, then we rushed to get on the bus. It was a long journey home.

We would like to say thank you to Mrs Guy for coming in to do some knitting for Mother's Day and thanks to Hannah and Vicky for reffing all the games. Reg is coming to make sweets with us. We are doing some baking for the refreshments at the Table Top Sale.

Claire Mason

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Heavens Above

The two biggest planets, Jupiter and Saturn, put on an impressive double act in this month's evening sky. They've spent most of the summer and autumn low in the south-west slowly edging nearer to each other as Jupiter catches up to the slower-moving Ringed Planet. By December 21st when they're at their closest for almost 400 years, they'll be a mere six arcminutes apart. That's less than a fifth of the diameter of the full Moon, about a tenth of the width of your little finger held at arm's length!

Planetary get-togethers like this are called *conjunctions*. They are aren't particularly rare and there's absolutely no chance of the planets involved colliding with each other, as they're really just a line of sight effect with each planet remaining in its own orbit many hundreds of millions of miles apart.

Exceptionally close encounters like this month's between Jupiter and Saturn, however, are much less frequent as they only occur once every twenty years or so. This one, dubbed a 'Great Conjunction', is particularly special as it's the closest alignment of Jupiter and Saturn for nearly 400 years. In fact there won't be another quite like it until 2080.

If you'd like to catch this spectacular event you'll need to find a location with a clear, flat south-western horizon as both planets are **very** low down. You'll also need to be out straight after sunset on December 21st - just after 4.00pm from our part of the world – as the pair set really early around 6.30pm. Binoculars will easily split the pair but they're at their best seen through a telescope which will show you both planets *and* their largest moons all in the same field of view. A once in a lifetime sight!

A week before Jupiter and Saturn's rendezvous one of the best meteor showers of the year – the Geminids – reaches its peak on the night of December 13th/14th. There's no moon to spoil the view so it should be a pretty good show. You might see well over 100 of these slow, multi-coloured meteors an hour in a good year. The best time to observe is after midnight from a dark location well away from street lighting.

The return of the long dark nights means that the winter stars are back on the scene. By late evening towards the middle of the month, the view south is filled by a crowd of bright

constellations - Orion the Hunter with his two faithful hunting dogs, Canis Major and Minor, Taurus the Bull (home to the lovely Pleiades star cluster), Gemini the Celestial Twins, Lepus the Hare, and high overhead, Auriga the Charioteer – a beautiful sight on a cold and frosty night, well worth dragging yourself away from the TV for.

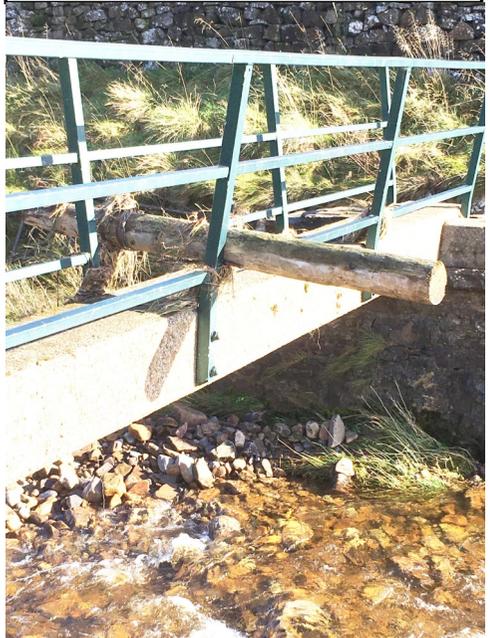
If you're out and about in the early morning hours during the run up to the festive season, you'll find we have a dazzling 'Christmas Star'. It's the planet Venus, blazing away like a miniature beacon low in the south-east, a tiny symbol of hope in these rather unsettling times. Have clear skies!

Al Birio

Mystery Picture

Last month's Mystery Picture of the 'fairy ring' was taken on the Swinithwaite Estate just below Redmire Force.

During the flash flooding at the start of November this post was washed on to a bridge a good six feet above the beck level a day later!! But where is the bridge and beck?





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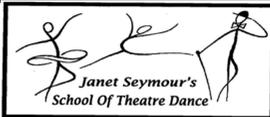
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Prunings

The cutting back still has a long way to go. A couple of dry days and I have filled several canvas bags, but there is much more to shift. Funny how it all looked so lush when it was flourishing in the Summer. I was about to demolish the Rudbeckia which is looking rather sad, when I noticed a song bird picking at it. Seems that one will have to stay as it is covered in seed heads and the bill for bird seed begins to resemble a small mortgage. Amazingly there are still flowers on the blue Salvias and one of the pink hardy geraniums just never gives up. One of my new climbing roses, "Pink Perpetue" I think, still sports a strong stem of buds, so I shall leave that to see how it fares. It won't be the first time if we have a rose flowering at Christmas.

I am always gratified when something does better than I expected and this year I have had plenty of time to notice. An osteospermum I bought 18 months ago has not only survived outside but still has more than a dozen cheery orange flowers. The "non stop" begonias I picked up on Richmond market to replace very poor calibrachos have flowered their hearts out. The sweet peas were brilliant, I didn't pick them as quickly as I should have, but it felt better to smell their heady scent on the patio while I played with paints and canvas! I had more time, and inclination to tie them in carefully, and as my other half had made some small notched plywood squares to hold the canes the whole structure was much sturdier than in previous years.

I have cut back the dahlias and when they have had some time to dry I shall be looking for a cool, dark, frost free home for them. I shall probably put them in plastic boxes well surrounded in bubble wrap although mice could well be a problem. If I don't rewrite the labels clearly I shall lose track of the varieties. I particularly want to save "Bishop of Oxford" as it has been superb. I still have lots of bulbs to deal with and last years pots need a severe treatment as too many weeds have sprouted on top of the gravel dressing.

A few weeks back I bought some wool. It was called "Hollyberry". Given the current restrictions, I might just have time to knit some Christmas socks. At the end of this very strange year I should like to wish everyone Happiness and Peace at Christmas even though it may have to be somewhat changed from the usual arrangements. There is a tiny chink of light at the end of the tunnel, and let's hope that when the new growth appears in the garden, and the bulbs are surging through with all their wonderful colour, some semblance of our former lives may yet be possible.

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

Rose Rambler



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From the Archives

Here is an item from our Archives—this one is from June 2000.

The Day Strippers

It looked suspicious - a car in a passing place on the lane, with the boot open. The respectable-looking retired couple were walking to and fro, holding a plastic sack. They were ripping off large strips of moss from our garden wall and stuffing them into their already bulging baskets.

When challenged, they were apologetic but also full of excuses. They thought we might like our walls tidied up. They reckoned that the moss would grow back very quickly.

No doubt most of our tourists are as keen as we are on preserving the natural charm around us. Just a few are asset-strippers. What can be done about them? Alan Titchmarsh says that what is needed for a hanging basket is not moss, but a woolly jumper. Does that mean we can expect these people back next year pinching the lambs?

Colin Day

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DCM News

We look forward to reopening our exciting programme of exhibitions and events as soon as the current lockdown ends. Please see our website for latest updates and how to book at www.dalescountysidemuseum.org.uk.

Exhibitions

The View from the Fells: In the Footsteps of Marie Hartley

Our current exhibition will continue until **January 24th, 2021**. There's still time to buy one of Hester Cox's stunning prints or a pack of her beautiful cards if you're looking for that unusual and special Christmas present. Cards are £2.50 and prints range from £35 to £345.

Story of Schools

January 30th to April 21st 2021

'The Story of Schools' team have been working with Upper Dales schools and communities to create a giant photo mosaic that will celebrate our youth past and present. The mosaic, which will be made by digital artist Helen Marshall from The People's Picture, will consist of 1,500+ images of youth and school-life that will come together in a spectacular fashion to create a whole new image. Local people of all ages have shared memories, family archives and photographs for this project.

In October, Education and Outreach Officer, Heather Hodgson, visited three primary school playgrounds with actor Mark Cronfield, who was in the character of a Victorian teacher, and a film crew from the Barnard Castle-based Howell Film. They re-enacted old playground games with year 5/6 pupils and talked about Victorian school life with footage captured on camera. Due to local school federations, the three sites encompassed a total of six schools: Hawes, Reeth and Gunnerside Federation and Bainbridge, Askrigg & West Burton Federation.

'The Story of Schools' in the Upper Dales is funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund and the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority's Sustainable Development Fund and will open at Dales Countryside Museum on **January 30th, 2021** – including the big reveal of the photo mosaic and short film as well as an exhibition with resources, oral history snippets, artefacts and activity packs for children.

Next year, Covid-permitting, we'll be working alongside Upper Dales primary schools once

more – inviting groups to The NASH for some immersive Victorian classroom sessions and working with Key Stage 2 either in person or via Teams/Zoom to explore their education heritage.

Christmas Cards for Good Causes

We are selling Charity Christmas Cards in our shop. There are cards from a variety of different charities from Age UK to Stroke Association. At least 70p in every pound supports the charities. You can also support local arts and crafts by buying locally sourced Christmas presents from our Distinctly Dales range. Cards and gifts will soon be available to buy online at retail.yorkshiredales.org.uk.

Opening Times

In normal circumstances we are open from **10.00am to 4.00pm in December and weekends only 10.00am to 4.00pm in January**. We are closed Christmas Eve to Boxing Day. Museum Admission is Adult £4.80 Con £4.30, Under 16s FREE. Free entry to the Shop.

The staff and volunteers would like to wish everyone a safe, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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Yorebridge Sport and Leisure Centre

Hopefully by the time you read this we will be back open again! There is no better time to join our gym - we have worked hard to be Covid-19 compliant. The equipment is spread across three rooms, with plenty of space for your exercise routine.

Staying active and healthy is vital for good health, quality of life and building resistance to infections.

The classes we are running are summarized below and we are also offering these classes by online zoom at the same time:

Bootcamp Mondays 7.00am, Tuesdays and Thursdays 6.00am; get your metabolism going, high intensity strength, endurance and mobility

Fit for Life Mondays 9.30am; a strength based session to keep you active and able to carry out everyday activities with less effort

Strong and Steady Mondays 11.00am; a falls prevention classes, working in partnership with North Yorkshire Sport and Age UK, once more being delivered. Worried about falls or had a fall? Do you have a relative, neighbour or acquaintance who would benefit?

Daytime circuit Wednesdays 9.30am; to keep active people, active. Even with a 'designed for Yorkshire Dales stiles exercise'!

Core Strength and Mobility Wednesdays 6.00pm; work on your core strength supporting all your joints to keep mobility for life and to counter balance inactive lifestyles.

Evening Circuit Wednesdays 7.30pm; a high intensity session to blast away the days worries.

Booking is essential for all classes. Visit our website for more details and payment www.yorebridgesportandleisure.co.uk/fitnessclasses or email us at admin@yorebridgesport.co.uk.

We will also hopefully be running our 'Walk and Talk Moodbooster' sessions on **Tuesdays at 1.30pm**. These are gentle walks with a walk leader. Walks take between 1.5 and 2 hours. Email us for more information.

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Bolton Castle and its Landscape

Described as “...a climax of English military architecture” (Pevsner 1973: 104), Bolton Castle was built at the end of the 14th century by the Scrope family (whose descendants still own it today). It is both a Grade 1 listed building and a scheduled monument and has been involved or linked with several key events in British history – including the Pilgrimage of Grace and Mary Queen of Scots’ house arrest by the English and the Civil War. The castle’s imposing silhouette, which “...still gives something like the shock of power and menace...” is visible for miles around.

Landscapes are a vitally important part of the historic environment, forming the context that sites and finds should never be considered



without. To the east lies the village of Castle Bolton, to the west and south-west lies the extensive agricultural field system and medieval quarry, and to the north and north-west lies Bolton Park and Bolton Park Mine.

The village of Castle Bolton in its current form was most likely built at the same time as the castle, or shortly after, but evidence suggests that a settlement may have existed in or around its current location before this point. The houses, built out of sandstone quarried from close to the edge of the village, were probably constructed by the Scrope family to house workers for the agricultural field system to the west and south west.

This field system is the result of perhaps hundreds of years of human activity. It is a complex area of landscape that includes built structures, livestock pens, plantations, lynchets, and ridge and furrow. It is an extremely finely preserved example – though its exact development is not yet fully understood.

Like many noble residences, the castle was associated with a park or series of parks, some

walls of which still survive. The park was used to enclose (and sometimes hunt) livestock like deer and boar as well as valuable resources like timber and minerals. Hunting towers may have been built on the land to allow views of the park and act as look-out posts for any poachers.

The park also includes the Ellerlands Rabbit Warren, which is a large artificial warren made up of pillow mounds (various sized and shaped mounds of earth for the rabbits to burrow in). Such warrens were common features of deer parks, which in turn were once important and highly valued features of the Yorkshire Dales.

Also situated within the park is Bolton Park Lead Mine. This was one of many lead mines in the surrounding area and, of course, one of hundreds of mining sites in the Dales as a whole. It was only in operation for a short period, but it managed to produce 1,400 tonnes of lead. Two settling ponds, a two-storey building (used as an office/shelter/store) and the remains of a reservoir, sluices and leats can be seen on the site.

Editor’s Note; This article and photo is taken from the YDNP Dales Archaeology website by kind permission.

A Magical Classic Christmas 2020

Two last-minute bits of entertainment news to bring some good festive good cheer to Christmas 2020.

A Classic Christmas - the CD. Enjoy a selection of festive favourites from the stage show with vocalist Colin Bailey and special guest Amy Fudali.

A Magical Christmas Concert. A specially recorded concert, hosted by Leyburn Arts Centre, will be screened in December and available to purchase on DVD or download. The Colin Bailey Band will be joined by special guests and young musicians from the Play>Record>Perform project. There will be two COVID-Safe screenings on: **Saturday 19th at 7.00pm and Tuesday, December 22nd at 2.00pm**. Tickets are £10 which must be booked in advance from Leyburn Arts Centre on **01969 624510**. Festive refreshments will be available. For full details of how to order your copy See www.blueboxt.co.uk or contact **Colin on 07711 211169** or info@blueboxt.co.uk.

Proceeds in aid of BlueBoxt Performing and Creative Arts and Leyburn Arts Centre.

New Connections for Hawes

Since our previous update in the November edition, it has been interesting to learn that there are so many projects across the country seeking to bring back the railway to localities. The Department for Transport's (DfT) Ideas Fund seeks proposals for projects to restore lost rail connections to communities. In July 2020, Rail Minister Chris Heaton-Harris stated: "Improving local transport links is vital as we level up access to opportunities across the country, reconnect communities and kick-start our recovery from Covid-19".

To recap: the Upper Wensleydale Railway (UWR) scheme proposes the reinstatement of the 6 mile Garsdale to Hawes branch line: extending the present Manchester - Blackburn - Clitheroe service to Settle, and the Yorkshire Three Peaks area, and on to Hawes. The Ribbles Valley Rail Group are being supported by the DfT with their business case for the reopening of the line between Clitheroe and Hellifield. The combined effect of both proposals would be to greatly enhance connectivity for Hawes and all the other destinations along the route.

Passengers for Hawes from Leeds, Bradford and the Aire Valley would be most likely to change trains at Hellifield. Passengers from Manchester, Blackburn and Clitheroe would travel via Hellifield (on the Settle- Carlisle line), whilst those to or from the North would change at Garsdale.

We were very pleased that the 'Yorkshire Dales Review' – Autumn 2020 edition carried a double page spread about UWR aspirations, written by Andrew Longworth. Interest is building both locally and nationally in community transport and the Government's unfolding environmental commitments, and support for rail reinstatement projects through the DfT Ideas Fund are encouraging. The decision on our application for funding towards the costs of a feasibility study is still pending at the time of writing. As always you can keep in touch via our website visit: www.upperwensleydalerrailway.org.uk or write to UWR c/o The Community Office, The Neukin, Hawes DL8 3RA.

Josie O'Dowd

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

Due to the pandemic the annual Poppy Appeal hung in the balance for many months but, after a lot of effort, it was finally agreed that the Appeal could go ahead, but this year without any door-to-door collections. Clearly, this was going to impact hugely on the donations but nevertheless, being able to place poppies into our local businesses meant that at least everyone had access to a poppy and were able to make a donation. Then, just to add insult to injury, a lockdown was announced just after the Appeal had launched!

Having said all that, it has been absolutely amazing to now collect up all the donation boxes and to find that, despite all the challenges, the people of the Upper Dales have been so generous in their donations to the Appeal. Donations in Hawes totalled £693.86 and donations in the Askrigg/Bainbridge area totalled £802.88.

So, on behalf of the Royal British Legion and the many people they will be able to support, may I thank you all for your generosity in these troubled times. Thanks too to Jennifer Johnson for co-ordinating the Appeal in the Hawes area, to all the local businesses who kindly allowed us to place poppies and donation tins in their premises and to our local schools for also taking merchandise to support the Appeal.

You truly have done an amazing job this year, so THANK YOU!

Karen Prudden

Poppy Appeal Organiser, Askrigg Area

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Leyburn Arts and Community Centre

In the light of the new lockdown you may be interested in Home Cinema? YourScreen is a new streaming platform in partnership with film societies, independent cinemas and community venues such as Leyburn Arts and Community Centre.

YourScreen offers an ongoing programme of new, critically-acclaimed films - most of them unavailable on other UK platforms - to stream direct into your home. By watching films on YourScreen, you can support LACC by buying a 'virtual' ticket using our cinema's unique promotion code. This code will also give you a substantial discount. As a partner, LACC will receive a commission on every YourScreen ticket purchased via this promotion code.

The price is £9.99 per film, but you can get a 25% discount when you use code LEYY5. The expiry dates are listed on the YourScreen website.

You can visit our website <https://www.leyburnartscentre.com/Whats-On> to see a full list of all the films on offer, synopses, trailers and further information about how to take part in the new scheme.

Thank you for your ongoing support. We'll be back!

Stay Safe!

Best wishes from all at Leyburn Arts & Community Centre.

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Archive hard copies back to 1995 are in the Dales Countryside Museum resources room.

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