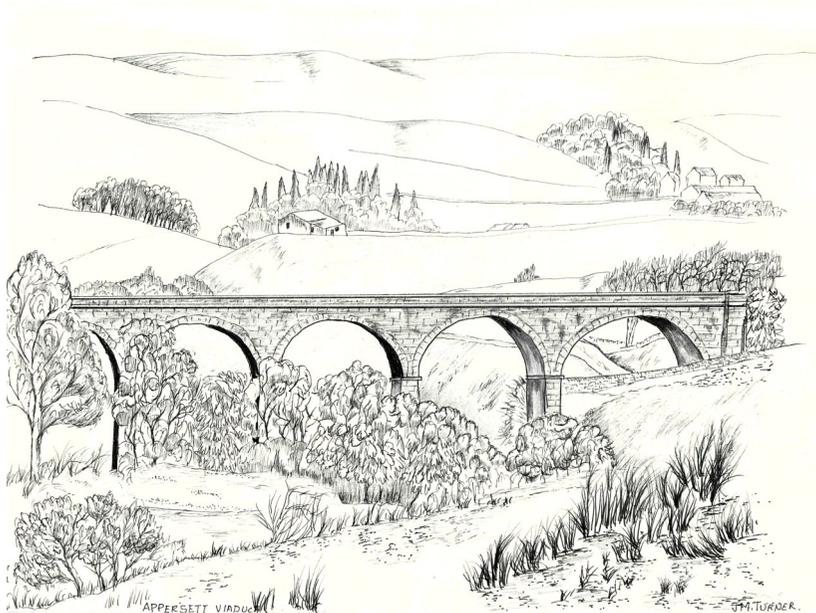


# THE UPPER WENSLEYDALE NEWSLETTER

Issue 316

February 2025

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

The young man in a trench coat looked lost as he wandered on a very cold day from gravestone to gravestone in the churchyard at St Andrew's, Aysgarth. So I asked if he needed any help.

He told me he was searching for the graves of his forebears back in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. I was very happy to take him into the church, to the north-west corner where there is the list of gravestones and memorials made by Marian Kirby and Evelyn Abraham in 1992.

I am in awe of what they did for by 1992 there were 941 gravestones in that four and a half acre churchyard plus 50 more inscriptions on plaques inside the church. How many hours they must have spent going from one memorial to the next and recording the information on them. The inscriptions on some have since become illegible, but we can still tell people where someone was buried and what was written in remembrance thanks to that list. I hope, this year, to update it.

Marian and Evelyn were two of those, along with Hannah Dinsdale, who worked on family history research in Wensleydale around 40 years ago due to the inspiration of David Hall. I would love to know who else was part of that group as we owe so much to them in the Research Room at the Dales Countryside Museum.

The section of the Research Room which is most used when people come from all over the country, or make contact by email from other parts of the world, seeking information about their roots in Wensleydale is that which contains the transcripts of parish registers made by that group. These were created in the days before word processors were easily available and family history searches could be carried out online. Often one of them would go to the County Record Office in Northallerton and spend hours making a handwritten transcript. That would then be given to someone who would use a manual typewriter to create those files for the Research Room.

The Friends of the Dales Countryside Museum (FDCM) volunteers who monitor that room also highly value the collection of 150 folders of newspaper cuttings and other items made by Norah Worth from 1974 until 1998. As editor of the FDCM's annual magazine *Now Then* I have found some wonderful stories and

photos in that collection – such as those of the Hawes bootmaker Doug Grainger, who became a World War One balloon operator (2022 edition). And that the playground at Hawes celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2024 (2024 edition).

Many old documents in the Research Room were bought at auctions by Ann Holubecki. Then there is the remarkable McFie/Calvert collection of books thanks to Denny Minnitt, Signy Allen and Bob Ellis and now cared for so well by Eleanor Scarr and Mary Scarr.

The Research Room or, as Denny and her sister Signy called it, the Local Studies Room, owes so much to so many. It is a pleasure to help those who come seeking its treasures. It is open daily and assistance is available on Mondays and Wednesdays.

**Pip Pointon**

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### Submission of articles

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

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## News From Sycamore Hall

What a busy time we had in December! We had a fantastic programme of festive entertainment in the run up to the 'big day'. We enjoyed visits by 'Nimmo' the Magician who amazed us with his tricks! We are still trying to figure out how he did some of them.

Some of our favourite events were the musical ones, including the Askrigg Handbell Ringers, Askrigg Ladies Who Sing and the children from our local primary schools, all of whom came to entertain us. The children were delightful and were all extremely well-behaved and a credit to their schools. Of course, in the process of all these events we consumed quite a few mince pies with our cuppas, but we still had room to enjoy our Christmas Lunch.

At the end of December, we said farewell to Chris and Alice (and their little helpers) when they left the restaurant. We wish them well. We now await news of a new venture.

Thankfully, after all the festive excitement, January has been a quiet month. The cold weather has kept us inside, but it was nice to look out on the snow and frost from the warmth of our home. We have had the opportunity to join with the ladies of Bainbridge WI for several of their activities in January and are looking forward to them holding their February meeting with us too.

Meanwhile, our regular activities resume and you are welcome to join us for any of these:-

**Mondays at 2.00pm** - 'Knit and Natter'

**Tuesdays at 10.30am** - Bingo or Quiz

**Thursdays at 10.30am** - Coffee Morning

**Fridays at 11.00am** - Gentle Seated Exercise with Janet Seymour

There are also domino sessions, usually at **2.00pm on a weekday**, and monthly services with Revd Dave Clark and the local Methodist Preachers. Check for dates each month. Our independent businesses are open, as usual.

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

**TUESDAY FEBRUARY 18th  
PUBLISHED ON FEBRUARY  
27TH**



### Eunice the Ewe

Last month I was hiding in the Woodcraft Studio advert on page 7 and the lucky winner of the £10 prize is Angela Fergie from Windermere.

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

Sycamore Country Store is open **Monday to Friday, 9.00am to 1.00pm** for your everyday shopping needs, with regular deliveries of fresh milk, eggs, bread, pasties and cakes etc along with a twice-weekly sandwich delivery.

Mabel and Maisy's Mini Emporium is open at Sonja's Hair Salon (generally **Thursday, Friday and Saturday**). Call in to see the range of toiletries, jewellery and other gifts available. You could also make an appointment to have your hair done while you are there.

The Post Office is with us on **Mondays and Wednesdays between 9.00am and 11.00am** and the library is open every day.

If you have any queries or would like to discuss the availability of apartments, please contact the Manager, **Nicky Cooper, on 03701 924055**. We look forward to you visiting us in 2025! A very warm welcome awaits.

### Penhill Ladies

Penhill Ladies are meeting on **Wednesday, February 19th at 7.30pm** at Carperby Village Hall. The evening will be a slide show presentation from 3-4 keepers on a seasonal year in the life of a keeper, discussing topics such as heather management, predator control and conservation projects with species such as curlew and merlin. The group co-ordinator Darren Chadwick will do an introduction about the group and the projects in which they're involved. The talk should be around an hour, with a question and answer session over refreshments. This is an Open Meeting which means that anybody is invited to attend this interesting talk. The cost for members is an annual fee of £25.00 and for non-members is £5.00 for the meeting.

## February Competition

Here are some anagrams to named roads, lanes or tracks in our area.

1. GRAM ORGAN BEADS
2. CHARM HID GOA
3. DICE DRAGS OAR
4. MINK NEAR BALE
5. SHAKE BAND
6. SHY NEATER LOB
7. GEM HATTER PO
8. A TALL TEN WHINGE
9. ACE DROOL SOX
10. AMY LESSON
11. HARROW OWED IT
12. RACER RAGE PLOY DEN

Please send in your answers to arrive by **Tuesday, February 18th**. Don't forget to include details of your nominated charity which will receive the £50 prize should you win.

## December Competition Answers

English Wild Flowers

1. Selfheal
2. Water avens
3. Plantain
4. Betony
5. Oxford ragwort
6. Melancholy thistle
7. Feverfew
8. Pineappleweed
9. Giant bellflower
10. Bugle
11. Hawkbit
12. Wild thyme
13. Foxglove
14. Speedwell
15. Ragged Robin
16. Alfalfa

There were several correct entries for this competition. The winner was chosen as Sue Nagington from Shropshire whose chosen charity to receive the £50 prize is the Yorkshire Mountain and cave rescue organisation in Clapham.

## Alex Kravchenko

BSc (Hons) MChS

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## Drop-off points and contacts

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

<b>Hawes:</b>	Community Office	667400
<b>Bainbridge:</b>	Sylvia Crookes, 3, Bainside	650525
<b>Askrigg:</b>	Sykes Shop,	650535
<b>Carperby:</b>	Anthony Abraham Hall Garth	663243
<b>West Burton:</b>	Nadine Bell, Margarets Cottage	663559
<b>Aysgarth:</b>	Hamilton's Tearoom	663423
<b>Redmire:</b>	Kevin Davis Westholme	624165
<b>Thoralby:</b>	Neil Piper	663747
<b>West Witton</b>	Christine Barker, Chestnut Garth	624934
<b>Preston and Castle Bolton</b>	Alastair McLachlan	07817 709167

## Ofsted Visit to Hawes School in November 2024

### Background Information

Schools no longer receive an overall judgement from inspectors, but across the board Hawes Primary School has taken effective action to maintain the standards identified at the previous inspection which was rated as Good by Ofsted.

Hawes Primary School are part of YCAT. We work very closely with the support of our YCAT Academy Trust which is a multi-academy trust of eleven schools across North Yorkshire.

Ofsted said; Here are quotes from the report.

Pupils at Hawes Primary School are proud of their school and their community. Pupils of all ages get along well, with older pupils supporting younger ones. The school prioritises pupils' well-being. It has a strong family feel, where pupils genuinely care for each other. Pupils show kindness and respect to adults and to each other. The school has high expectations for pupils' learning and behaviour. Pupils thrive academically, socially and emotionally in the school's supportive and engaging environment. Pupils feel safe and are cared for. They welcome the chance to build new friendships with each other in their small school community.

The school's approach to supporting pupils' personal development is a strength. It prepares pupils well for the next stage of their education. Behaviour is extremely positive. Pupils are polite, well-mannered and engage well with adults. Pupils behave sensibly in lessons. They move calmly around school. Pupils enjoy learning and attend well. Warm and caring relationships between staff and pupils support learning. Pupils are confident learners and enthusiastic in lessons.

Link to the full report for more information. <https://www.hawesprimary.co.uk/key-information/ofsted/>.

Head of school Miss Andrea Caygill said "We are very proud of the report we received in November. It reflects the family feel of our small rural school and the hard work and dedication of all our staff in preparing our children for their role in an ever-changing modern world. We are grateful for the amazing support of our wider school community

including parents, governors and members of the local area".

Chair of Governors Mrs Abbie Rhodes said: "The Governors are thrilled that the OFSTED report reflects the incredible hard work that the staff and leadership team put into the school. On the day, Inspectors could see for themselves how happy and confident our pupils are, and recognised the positive impact the school makes on the childrens' personal growth, well-being, values and behaviours. The children were absolute stars all day, their behaviour was impeccable, and they should be really proud of themselves.

Schools face many challenges, and small rural schools like ours are no exception. We are sincerely grateful for the hard work, passion and enthusiasm that every member of the team brings with them each day, along with the support we receive from Yorkshire Collaborative Academy Trust with whom we have a great working relationship."

CEO of YCAT Mrs Jo Robinson said: "On behalf of Yorkshire Collaborative Academy Trust, I am absolutely delighted with the outcomes of Hawes Primary School's Ofsted report. This achievement reflects the unwavering dedication, hard work, and passion of the staff, pupils, and the wider school community. We are immensely proud of this success, especially the recognition from inspectors of the effectiveness of the school's carefully designed, ambitious curriculum for its mixed-age classes. Additionally, we are extremely pleased that the personal development curriculum was highlighted as a particular strength of the school."

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Swaledale Festival returns this year **from May 24th to June 7th** with 60+ world-class music, arts and walking events coming to you in the spectacular northern Yorkshire Dales. The

full programme will be online from the end of January to peruse at leisure.

Public booking opens at **9.00am on Monday, March 10th**. Friends' Priority Booking opens at **9.00am on Monday, February 24th**. Book your tickets online: [www.swalefest.org](http://www.swalefest.org).

### 2025 Highlights

Royal Northern Sinfonia, the renowned chamber orchestra with North East roots, with superstar trumpet soloist Matilda Lloyd.

Radio 4 favourite Mark Steel's hilarious new comedy show *The Leopard in my House*.

Folk from the English supergroup Granny's Attic and the silken-voiced Martha Tilston.

Worldwide artists including the giant of Indian classical music Amjad Ali Khan, celebrated Brazilian guitarist Eduardo Martín and legendary French pianist Pascal Rogé.

Dynamic young musician Sarah Latto - conductor of the unforgettable Ganda Boys workshop in 2024 - leads a community singing day on Fauré's popular Requiem.

12 guided walks in our stunning landscape.

A wealth of opportunities to participate and create – from Swedish basketry and landscape photography to painting and sustainable collage.

Local brass bands, young artists, exhibitions, film, theatre and much more.

### Festival Friends

Becoming a Friend helps provide the support

that is so pivotal to the Festival's future. As Friends you will enjoy a two-week priority booking period opening on **Monday, February 24th**, an invitation to an exclusive Friends' Reception during the Festival, and the knowledge that you are helping arts in the Upper Dales to flourish.

To take out or renew your membership, please visit [www.swalefest.org/Support/Friends](http://www.swalefest.org/Support/Friends) or ring our office on **01748 880019** with any enquiries. We greatly appreciate your support.

### Volunteer

Could you volunteer as a steward, driver, accommodation host or leaflet distributor? Would you like to meet new people and help deliver our special festival? We warmly welcome all volunteers - past, present and future! - to our Volunteer Briefing on **Wednesday, February 12th from 2.30pm to 3.45pm** at Reeth Memorial Hall. Find out what the roles involve.



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## Good, Bad, Ugly...Essential

What's succeeded over the last couple of years, what's failed and had me taking to my bed with dread promise of a sleepless night in store? Well, they say confession is therapy for the soul so off we go, getting the bad out of the way first.

It's early Spring and I'd cleared, rotovated and levelled a large patch of ground, ready for grass seeding in April. Why wait though, as bright, warm days alternated with wet, humid evenings, perfect for germination. So on with thirty quid's worth of fresh seed, all nicely tamped down and ready for sprouting within a few days...tempting fate or what?

The following week it snowed heavily, followed by a succession of bitingly cold days as Wensleydale mimicked Siberia. Ten days on and a grudging thaw revealed the dead and dying in commercial quantities. Rectified later in my own time and at my expense, it was a hard lesson learned, and I now sow in either May or, even better, September when the weeds aren't as active...ouch.

Next up, oh yes, the old spot weeding a lawn with a hand-held spray caper. Schoolboy error, who could have been so stupid – well, er, me. It sorted out the weeds ok but also killed the surrounding grass; brown spots everywhere there was - I dubbed it 'the leopard lawn'. It was a twice a year visited holiday home so, luckily, no witnesses, but guiltily scuttling round

collecting turf and then patching was a right pain and drain; serves me right though – an all-over granular lawn weed and feed treatment has been the tried and tested method ever since.

Ah, relief, on to the good. My three rhododendrons had their best ever year, particularly 'Pink Pearl', which was almost too much, so frothily sensational, it almost looked fake. This ten-footer benefits from a hard prune after flowering every four years, at the expense of next year's blooms, otherwise it becomes gaunt and gangly, so be brutal, cutting just above an outer bud. Deep breath and drum roll for my favourite, 'Jean Marie de Montague', 5ft, blood red and bombproof, quite happy in strong sunshine and a must for a more exposed garden.

Lastly, the wild 'Ponticum', 10ft, purple, more at home bullying the Lake District yet perfectly well behaved in my little patch. Again, like 'Pink Pearl', show no mercy and prune hard. I never water from the tap as it could be too limey for them, just leaving it to Mother Nature and her showers. All display deep green foliage, the perfect foil for those lavish blooms.

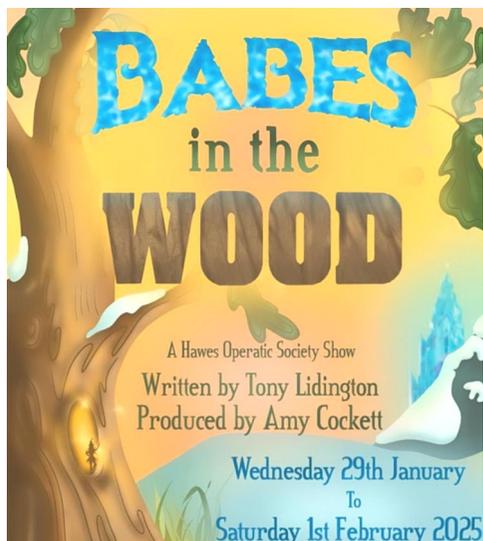
So, what's ugly? Well, it's stretching it a bit, but let's say my temper after misplacing two pairs of my favourite Wilkinson's secateurs. I'm never in the moment, always reminiscing or speculating, no Buddhist, so am always putting stuff down without registering where. Both pairs will no doubt be tucked up safe in someone's compost heap, to emerge years from now as rusty relics; I shouldn't be so tight and must invest in a clipper holster (maybe next year).

I've also been a devil for flooding my petrol trimmer, reasoning that it runs SO well with the choke out, so let's leave it out a bit longer, where's the harm? Inevitably... cough, splutter, curse.

Enough navel gazing, now's the time to get compost on to your borders. It's no good adding and adding to that heap – it needs to be out doing good, so scrape back the fresh addition on top as it's the well-rotted, friable stuff underneath you're after. Applied as a mulch a couple of inches thick right around the garden will promote growth, suppress weeds while creating space in your bin for more of those spud peelings, apple cores etc.

Most important of all is to think on and keep an eye out for scateurs as you excavate, they'll be mine.

Ed Gardener



## UWNL Children's Story-Writing Competition – The Results Are In

In November 2024, we challenged children in Years 3/4 and Years 5/6 to write a story between 300 and 500 words about anything they wanted. Our only rule was the story had to start with the sentence "The noise was louder now".

We received a fantastic response from children in Years 5 and 6 in BAWB and Hawes Schools. Our judge, Jane Huntington really enjoyed reading the imaginative, often scary stories that were full of suspense and intrigue. They featured great characters including dragons, zombies, ghosts and even a metal detector!

Jane found it very difficult in this age group to decide on the winners and wanted to congratulate every single child who entered and encouraged everyone to keep on writing.

The overall winner was Edwin Alderson who is in Year 6 at Hawes Primary. Congratulations to him and to Hawes School who will hold the Alan Watkinson Memorial trophy this year.

The runner's up were Antoni Biros (Year 6 Hawes), Otis Middleton (Year 6 BAWB) and Patrick Keiley (Year 5 Hawes).

Edwin and Antoni's stories are below and Otis and Patrick's stories will appear in next month's issue.

There were highly commended awards made to Kasen Pye (Y6 Hawes), Lydia Relton-Greatrex (Y6 BAWB), Caleb Tooley (Y6 BAWB) and Sophia Stadnyk (Y4 Hawes).

The prizes were presented in schools in January and all the winners are looking forward to spending their book tokens. The teachers thanked the Newsletter for running the competition which gives children the rare opportunity to write freely, limited only by their imagination.

Unfortunately we only received two entries from children in Years 3 and 4 as many found it difficult to write the minimum number of words.

After discussions with both schools, we have decided that from now on we will be challenging this age group to write a poem instead.

## Edwin Alderson's Winning Story



The noise was louder now. An echoing roar flooded the valley, the beating of colossal wings following close behind.

He ran deep into a forest of red oak and hid amidst the tree roots.

Close behind landed a beast of fire and air, its weight felling trees

as it advanced. It peered behind each trunk it spoke as Asail held his breath in fear.

"Show your self and I will let you live," it spoke in a draconic tongue. "Reveal your self or do you choose to die?!"

Asail did not move or say anything. And so the dragon waited before it burst high into sky and an eye like the morning sun passed over the forest, a black slit bulging from its centre.

It roared, "Farewell elf scum," and with this horrible cry came a gust of dragon's flame hotter than the earth's core and brighter than the stars. It fell down on the forest burning all.

Asail ran out of the forest, fire descending up it. He ran to the mountains, snow sat on their peaks as a dragon flew high above it all before landing on the highest peak and sending up yet another gust of flame and a terrible cry, "I see all elf...you know you will not survive the night."

Later that day, as the sun began to set on yellow stones, an elf began to light a fire. Tortured by visions of the dragon and its destructive power, he sat watching the mountain, thinking of its inhabitant's terror over the once peaceful land of the elves.

That night the elf dreamt of many a terrible thing: the burning of towns and cities, forts and castles, keeps and towers, man and woman and the creatures behind it all, the great fire breathers of the north. The beasts of fire and air...dragons.

By Edwin Alderson, Year 6

**Judge's comments:** Edwin writes in a mature, coherent style, creating an atmosphere of dread and danger with well-chosen details. He uses powerful verbs and adjectives to establish the dragon's physical threat, reinforced by the contrast with the terrified elf. Powerful writing.

### Antoni Biros' Story



The noise was louder now. It was a low moan echoing through the roads of the abandoned city.

Ben looked through his apartment window; the streets were empty. Perhaps it was the wind he thought? Then he heard it again. This time he knew it was not the wind. "What could it be?" He thought?

The noise kept growing louder. Then he saw it. A horde of zombies, their flesh rotten with age, and bones twisting in and out of their body.

Ben noticed the danger and called his friends [Jack and Jacob] who grabbed the keys to the car and ran out the old, crooked apartment and down the steep stairs. The steps felt like they were never ending, but eventually they reached the bottom. Unlocking the shiny, red Chevrolet, they all hopped in. With the Zombies behind them, they started the engine, buckled up and drove off on the twisted, concrete road. The sound faded as they drove away.

"Phew!" said Jacob, that was a close one.

"What do we do now?" asked Jack.

"We need to find a cure for the zombie infection," stated Ben.

"Agreed," they replied.

"Where should we start," asked Ben

"Maybe the hospital," replied Jack, "After all it should have medicine."

So they drove off to the nearest hospital.

Minutes later, they arrived. The building was tall, wide, concrete white and most of all it was over grown with twisted, green vines which

spiralled down the walls.

Cautiously, they entered the hospital through a pair of automatic, glass doors. Inside it was dark, the kind of dark that made your skin crawl. Fortunately, in Ben's bag, there was an emergency light. He took it out, gripped it and flicked it on. It worked.

With the light still gripped in Ben's hand, they moved along the tight corridor.

"Where is the storage room?" asked Jacob

"How are we meant to know?" replied Jack

"We need to search for a map of the building it might pin point the storage room," said Ben

They agreed to split up and search. So they departed each their own way, searching each and every room for a map.

Eventually, in one of the last rooms, Ben searched a draw and there it was.

"I found it!" he shouted.

Jack and Jacob flooded in to his room. They observed it closely.

"There it is," said Ben, "the storage room,"

And so they rushed through the deserted corridors to it.

Now they needed to find the cure and soon enough, they found it, hidden in a dusty cupboard.

"Yes," they said.

Now we need to produce more.

"But how?" they wondered.

But all of a sudden, the noise rose again - a low moan, echoing through the corridor...

**By Antoni Biros, Year 6**

**Judge's comments:** Antoni shapes his story well: the ending echoes the beginning, creating suspense. He uses good descriptive details and varied sentence structures. A successful piece of well-worked writing.

### The Iron Maiden

*Not enough hours in the day?  
Fed up of never ending ironing?*

My ironing service is definitely a way of buying back much needed quality time in a busy life!

**Tracy Hume**

**07527 796523 or 01969 666048.**

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## Rainfall Figures for last six months of 2024 (in mm)

	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total for first six months	Total for 2024
<b>Hawes</b>	93	105	104	122	100	139	931	1594
<b>Breconbar</b>	73	72	118	119	85	157	780	1404
<b>Thornton Rust</b>	83	92	130	116	61	158	803	1443
<b>West Burton</b>	59	55	125	94	67	106	709	1215
<b>Carperby</b>	69	55	121	89	60	128	607	1129

What was the weather like in 2024?

Set out below is a summary of the weather during the last year at Thorney Mire, west of Hawes.

The year opened with Storm Henk which brought heavy rain and damaging winds to northern and central England and Wales. We had over 40mm of rain but were spared the worst of the gales. The weather became calmer but cooler over the next fortnight with cloudy and drier conditions and some overnight frosts. From 21st. - 24th, Storm Isha brought strong winds and very heavy rain and was followed in quick succession by Storm Jocelyn. The changeable weather continued into February.

**January Max Temp. 10.4C on 24th.**  
**Min. Temp. -2.6C on 18th.**

It turned colder by the end of the first week in February with snow on 8th. There followed a thaw and temperatures recovered to near average. It remained unsettled with spells of rain and became very mild by the third week. Cold easterly winds set in by the end of the month but it became drier. There were overnight frosts when the skies cleared.

**February Max. Temp. 11.1C on 15th.**  
**Min. Temp. -0.5C on 28th.**

The first half of March was dominated by cold easterly winds. It was mainly overcast with light rain at times. There were night frosts when the cloud dispersed. There was a change on 13th when mild SW winds brought continuous heavy rain. Nearly 60mm fell over this period with local flooding. The changeable wet weather

continued to the end of the month but turned cooler with occasional drier and sunnier interludes.

**March Max. Temp. 11.9C on 18th.**  
**Min. Temp. -2.2C on 4th.**

Further unsettled weather in April brought Storm Kathleen which was the eleventh named storm in the 2023-24 storm season and was unusually severe for this time in Spring. Over 40mm of rain was recorded and there was local flooding. Spells of rain and showers were recorded on most days throughout the month, but there were some short, bright and sunny spells. North to north east winds brought cooler, drier weather towards the end of the month.

**April Max. Temp. 14.5C on 7th.**  
**Min. Temp. -0.7C on 18th.**

The first half of May was much drier, but rather cloudy with drizzle at times, especially in the mornings, although there were some warmer sunny days. The second half of the month became progressively more changeable with spells of rain and showers. Temperatures rose considerably on the sunnier days but overall the month was dominated by overcast skies.

**May Max. Temp. 20.9C on 11th.**  
**Min. Temp. 5.5C on 21st.**

June started dry and fairly warm, but became more unsettled with spells of rain from depressions driven close to the country by a strong jet stream from the Atlantic. The second

half of the month was generally dry and warm with long sunny spells but, as usual, some days were cloudy with light rain at times. The last few days turned much cooler and showery.

**June Max. Temp. 23.6C on 27th.**  
**Min. Temp. 4.0C on 13th.**

July began quite cool for the time of year with west to north west winds, overcast skies and rain at times. After a week of dry warmer days around mid-month, it became rather changeable again, but quite warm and humid.

**July Max. Temp. 24.3C on 21st.**  
**Min. Temp. 6.3C on 8th.**

The first half of August was fairly dry, but still predominantly cloudy with showers on some days. Temperatures were slightly below average. The second half of the month was more unsettled. On the 22nd and 23rd Storm Lilian swept in bringing over 25mm of rain and strong winds which is uncommon for this time of year. It was not until the last few days of the month that there was a fine sunny spell.

**August Max. Temp. 22.2C on 2nd.**  
**Min. Temp. 5.1C on 31st.**

A fresh easterly breeze set in at the beginning of September. It was mostly cool and overcast with occasional light drizzle. There were occasional breaks in the cloud allowing sunny periods to develop. A change in the wind direction to the north west allowed the cloud to disperse bringing sunny days, but by the middle of the month the east winds returned. It was cold but sunny at first, but overcast skies returned. Westerly winds returned in the last week and it became unsettled with spells of rain.

**September Max. Temp. 19.3C on 7th & 9th.**  
**Min. Temp. 2.0C on 13th.**

October began dry with variable cloud and sunny periods. Later it became more changeable with spells of rain, sometimes heavy but also some sunny intervals between passing showers. It became generally drier towards the end of the month and on sunny days followed by fine clear nights, it was cold enough for ground frosts to form.

**October Max. Temp. 13.5C on 22nd.**  
**Min. Temp. 0.6C on 22nd.**

The first two weeks of November were relatively dry, but mostly cloudy with just a few outbreaks of light drizzle. When skies did clear overnight there was a frost. By the middle of the month, Winter decided to pay a visit with snow flurries on 19th. There then followed a cold spell with widespread frosts and snow showers. On the 23rd heavy snow fell ahead of Storm Bert. This was classed by the Met Office as a multi hazard storm bringing snow, wind and rain to the country and a threat to life. There was a snow cover of 3-4cm before milder air brought a rapid thaw. The last week of the month was dry and sunny but cold again with moderate overnight frosts.

**November Max. Temp. 12.4C on 24th.**  
**Min. Temp. -3.0C on 28th.**

December began very wet and unsettled and it wasn't long before another storm, Storm Darragh, crossed the country on the 6th and 7th with strong winds, heavy rain and local flooding. The Met Office issued a rare red warning for gale force winds covering West Wales and both coasts of the Bristol Channel. After the storm cleared it became drier but colder and cloudy with occasional drizzle although there was a brief mild spell on the 18th with heavy rain. Snow showers fell overnight on 22nd with a thin snow cover by dawn which soon thawed. The period from Christmas to New Year was mostly cloudy. Some days the cloud thinned and cleared to give sunny periods. From the 29th, see below.

**December Max. Temp. 11.6C on 1st.**  
**Min. Temp. 0.4C on 20th and 23rd.**

It is interesting to note that in the Met Office "Case studies of past severe weather events" the latest reference states:-

"29th December 2024 to 5th. January 2025 - Heavy rain, strong winds and snow - This period saw widespread winds and very wet weather with significant disruption from flooding and snow across high ground..."

No further comment.

**John Turner**

## Dales Photography Competition

A popular photography competition and exhibition celebrating the beauty and character of the Yorkshire Dales landscape is open for entries.

The competition, run by the charity Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust (YDMT) and The Garden Rooms at Tennants in Leyburn, hopes to encourage people to get out into the Dales with a camera and share photographs of their favourite landscapes and wildlife.

Every year 35 finalists are selected, whose work will be included in a gallery exhibition at The Garden Rooms in Summer. Twelve of the shortlisted images will also be featured in a Yorkshire Dales 2026 charity calendar on sale from August 2025 at [www.ydmt.org/shop](http://www.ydmt.org/shop).

YDMT Marketing Manager Lindsay Wallace said: "The Yorkshire Dales photo competition is going from strength to strength, every year we're astounded by the standard of photos submitted. It's a great way for amateur photographers to get their work seen, and also an important way for us, as a small charity working to look after the Yorkshire Dales, to help showcase this special area with some fantastic photos."

The competition will run until **April 27th 2025**. To enter please visit <https://www.tennantsgardenrooms.com/what-s-on/events/ydmt-amateur-photography-competition/> or email [info@tennantsgardenrooms.com](mailto:info@tennantsgardenrooms.com).

## Leyburn u3a

### Encounters With Gorillas

In Encounters with Gorillas Ann Barrowclough will share her magical experience of meeting mountain gorillas in their natural habitat in Uganda.

Join her on **Friday, February 21st** to learn about this amazing experience and the tragic and poignant story of the gorilla family and her visit to their home.

Doors open at **10.00am for 10.30am** at Leyburn Arts and Community Centre, Richmond Road, Leyburn DL8 5DL. Visitors and new members are always welcome. Annual membership is £12 or £20 for two people at the same address. For details contact **Sue Mellish 01748 850471**, [susiemellish@g.mail.com](mailto:susiemellish@g.mail.com).

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## Heseltine, Robert Jacques

Sheila, John, Sue, Ron and the family of the late "Bob" Heseltine would like to thank all friends, family and neighbours for their kind support, cards and messages of condolences received, following their recent sad loss.

Special thanks to Reverend Dave Clark for a lovely service, Richard Sanderson for his support and guidance and all the staff at Hillcrest care home for their love and support.

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## Ousewem: Working together for Yorkshire's future

Ousewem is excited to partner with Upper Wensleydale farmers and landowners to enhance natural flood management (NFM) in the area. Building on lessons from recent pilot projects, we're taking a collaborative approach to explore practical solutions that work for local landscapes and communities.

Our delivery team is gearing up for an exciting 2025, with plans to deliver projects in Appersett, Gayle and Hawes. We're already working closely with Natural England and catchment-sensitive farm advisors to deliver features like scrapes, leaky barriers, and hedgerows. These measures not only help reduce flood risk downstream but also create habitats, capture carbon, and improve land resilience.

For farmers in Upper Wensleydale, our support can include funding for infrastructure like fencing and gates, as well as exploring ways to make underused, wetter areas more productive.

By sharing knowledge and working together, we can strengthen the local landscape and support communities both upstream and downstream. To find out more, email [ousewemdelivery@ydrf.co.uk](mailto:ousewemdelivery@ydrf.co.uk) or visit <https://www.ousewem.co.uk/news/article/23/from-pilots-to-progress-a-farmer-focused-journey>.

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## Hawes Christmas Lights

With the 2024 Christmas Lights season now successfully behind us we would like to thank everyone who so generously supported and contributed to make the Hawes Christmas Lights sparkle for 2024. This thank you extends to the businesses and individuals who provide the electricity, all the help received on the put up and pull down days, our community, our fund raising team, and a special thanks to the Hawes Yarn Bombers for our special new edition – Surfing Santa. It is the tremendous community input that makes the Hawes Christmas Lights shine.

In December we ran a few competitions to help our fund raising and are happy to share the names of the lucky winners :

7th Dec Xmas Whisky – Woody Metcalfe

19th Dec Xmas Hamper – Becky Calvert

Guess the number of sweeties – Adrian Janke.

We again extend an invitation for anyone who would like to help us throughout the year in checking, fixing up and getting the lights ready for the annual display, to come join us. We meet up during the warmer months, in the evenings to do this.

If you would like to be a part of the team making Hawes Light up for Christmas we would love to hear from you. Please either call in and see Liz at Wensleydale Press, Wayne at Whites of Wensleydale or email us at [lizlawson@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lizlawson@hotmail.co.uk).

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## Bainbridge Women's Institute

Here we go again with a new programme of meetings, clubs and visits to keep us busy in 2025. We enjoyed our Christmas Lunch at Tennants where a small group of our members entertained us with an ad hoc 'pantomime'. No Oscars will be awarded, but we all had a good laugh.

Our January meeting was held at Sycamore Hall where we enjoyed the warm and comfortable surroundings and a fun quiz which gave us lots to laugh about. It was lovely to be back amongst our friends again and enjoy a good chat whilst planning what we will do next.

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Our new committee is busy co-ordinating all our forthcoming events and we are looking forward to another busy year. Naturally, the Walking and Garden Groups have been somewhat restricted by the Winter weather, but there has been one 'atmospheric' walk in the clouds. Our other clubs are meeting again and plans are being made to ensure our members are never bored.

Our February meeting will once again take place at Sycamore Hall, on **Thursday, 20th starting at 7.30 pm**. We will be welcoming the 'Friends of The Friarage' Hospital who will be coming along to talk to us about the group and also their new Eye Appeal. Do join us - visitors welcome.

We will be holding a Soup and Sweet lunch at Bainbridge Village Hall on **Monday, February 24th from 12.00noon**. Do join us for a delicious homemade lunch - soup, pudding, tea/coffee, all for £5.00 per person. Everyone welcome.

If you would like more information about our busy and friendly WI or any of our events and activities, please contact our president **Sue Stokes on 07816 955723**. We would be delighted to welcome you to our merry throng and can assure you of a warm welcome, lots of fun and plenty of opportunities.



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## Notes From Thorney Mire

### Winter

Looking through the kitchen window on Christmas Day morning, a red squirrel was seen scampering down the trunk of a tree. This really pleased one of my visitors as she had not seen one before. Opening the curtains on Boxing Day, there were no birds around the bird feeding station. This seemed unusual, then a glance to the left told me why. Sitting on a large plant pot was a sparrowhawk. It rested there for a while until a passing dog walker startled it and it flew away. The small birds immediately returned to feed. Sparrowhawks were once in decline in Britain. When DDT and other chemicals were used to control pests, which were considered to be harmful to agriculture, the sparrowhawk population suffered. In western Britain their numbers decreased by 50% and in eastern Britain they were almost wiped out. Once the chemicals were banned their numbers recovered and they are now relatively common and widespread throughout Britain.

The snow in the first week of January brought a feeding frenzy around the bird feeders. Had it been the day of the R.S.P.B. bird count my species number would have been high, but how many of each species there were, apart from three robins, I wouldn't have been able to say because they were moving and darting about so quickly. Visiting us during the cold weather we have had, apart from the three robins;- blue, coal and great tits, chaffinch, goldfinch, siskin, long-tailed tits, dunnock, blackbird, nuthatch, woodpecker and collared doves.

A treecreeper which never comes to the feeders was seen climbing the trunk of the sycamore tree and a buzzard was quartering one of the snow covered fields. It would have easily seen anything moving against the white background, assuming any small creature was venturing out in the Arctic conditions. One morning a pale brown nondescript bird the size of a thrush landed in the courtyard. It seemed too pale to be a female blackbird and it had no markings on its chest to be a thrush. It didn't hang around long enough for me to study it, so it will have to remain a mystery.

After the snow had gone, just by chance, I saw, by looking through the window, a solitary roe deer walking sedately around the edge of the field. It seemed to be surveying all around it. Roe deer are another species which reached near

extinction. In the 18th century their numbers declined due to hunting. Now their conservation status is Low Concern as they are widespread and common.

I was in the kitchen baking, so had plenty of time to keep glancing through the window. I noticed that a collared dove had seated itself comfortably on one of the bird feeding trays and rested there for some considerable time. It wasn't eating, in fact it had its back to the food. The smaller birds ignored it, they were not intimidated by its size. Had a woodpecker come along they would have given it greater respect. The smaller birds flew below it, above it and round it trying to get to the food any way they could, but still it just sat there oblivious to all the activity around it. It reminded me of people in restaurants and cafes who make a cup of tea last all afternoon so that they can chat, unaware of the queue of people waiting for a table.

I had quite a large packet of ground almonds gone past their best before date. They probably would have been alright, but I didn't want to risk spoiling a large Christmas cake by using them. I put a handful of them into a saucer, put it on the bird feeder and waited to see what would happen. The small birds loved them. I had to replenish the saucer at regular intervals. I would put out a fresh supply and as soon as I'd returned indoors the birds would be devouring them again.

I took a packet of flatbreads from the freezer, took two out and forgot to put the remaining two back in the freezer. Being of the generation where it's embedded into your brain's hard drive that you do not waste food I spent time cutting these flatbreads into small pieces and putting those on the bird feeder. The collared doves said "Thank you very much," and ate the lot. That eased my conscience as I had not wasted food and the birds had had a more varied diet. I mean if I had a choice between meal worms and flat bread I know which I would chose.

Sylvia Turner

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## News from Bainbridge Vets

All continues to be busy here at the Vets for 2025. When the weather starts to warm up and the midges return, we will need to be extra vigilant for any signs of blue tongue in our sheep and cattle. If you wish to talk to one of us about it or for more information call **01969 650263**.

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## Reeth Memorial Hall Concerts

We have a varied programme of concerts up for 2025. There will be Blues, Roots, Folk, World Music and Tributes. The Abba Girls are a 4-piece tribute and are on **July 18th**. (The original Abba tribute band). Baldy Holly return on **July 5th** with a journey through 50s' music, and on **May 31st** we have a Springsteen tribute with a full band show.

### **Saturday, March 15th – Eliza Carthy with support by Jennifer Reid**

If there is one musician who embodies the dynamism and vitality of the current English folk revival, it's Eliza Carthy MBE. Describing herself simply as a modern English musician, she is one of the most impressive, engaging, and important performers of her generation.

Tickets £22 (£24 at door).

### **Saturday, March 23rd – Kathryn Roberts and Sean Lakeman**

Dartmoor-based husband and wife duo who have long established themselves as one of the UK folk scene's most rewardingly enduring partnerships.

Tickets £22 (£24 at door).

Tickets for concerts are available from Reeth PO or phone **Glen Steward 01748 884989** or visit [www.reethmemorialhall.co.uk](http://www.reethmemorialhall.co.uk). Tickets half price under16s. **All concerts 8.00pm** unless otherwise stated.

## Marie Curie Great Daffodil Appeal 2025

### Leyburn Street Collection April 4th.

Spring will soon be with us, and daffodils will be appearing in our gardens, and also in boxes on shop and pub counters up and down the dale.

The local fundraising group for Marie Curie will also be in Leyburn town centre on market day, **Friday, April 4th**, armed with daffodils and collection tins. If there are any of you who could spare an hour to help, either contact [wensleydale.mariecurie@gmail.com](mailto:wensleydale.mariecurie@gmail.com), or phone **0796 874 0501**, or sign up online at - <https://collect.mariecurie.org.uk/>.

The Marie Curie Nursing Service provides care for people living with a terminal illness who would prefer to be at home. The money raised locally is used locally.

Also, a reminder that there is a box in Leyburn library for broken jewellery, old mobile phones, tablets (not laptops), and various other recyclable items. Full details are listed on the box. It's an easy way to move along a bit of clutter when spring cleaning starts!

### Whist Drives

Held at Gayle Club at **7.30pm** at a cost of £3.50 including tea and biscuits on **Mondays, February 10th and 24th, March 10th and 24th and April 7th and 21st**,

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## Upper Wensleydale Ladies Luncheon Club

The Luncheon Club meets on the **4th Wednesday in the month** at Street Head Inn at **noon for 12.30pm** lunch.

Why not come along and join us. We are a small group and would make you very welcome. Anyone wishing to join please contact **Ray Wilkinson** on **01969 663613**, or **Sue Ryding** on **01969 663551**.

### Kathleen Martin

I would like to thank everyone for all the kind messages, lovely cards and flowers sent to me on the very sad loss of my son Gavin. A special thanks to Rev. Dave Clark, Andy Souter and Mike Hurst. The donations given in memory of Gavin in church came to £795 of which £430 has been donated to Bowel Cancer UK and £365 to St.Margaret's Church.

## Thank You

Askrigg Ladies Sing for Pleasure and East Witton Male Voice Choir thank you for your continuing support and generous donations to the Salvation Army received at their Christmas Concerts and the Christmas Bingo organised for us by the Dales Bingo group.

A cheque for £1,440.00 was given to the Salvation Army at Catterick for use in this area.

**Diana Hartley**



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# Wensleydale Press

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**FEBRUARY WHATS ON LISTING;**  
*please add these dates to your Diary*

**January**

29 - Feb 1. Hawes Panto. See p.7.

**February**

- 1 Quiz Night. LACC. See p.33.
- 4 'Les Miserables.' LACC. See p.33.
- 5 Bellerby Study Group talk. 7.30pm.  
Bellerby Memorial Hall. For further  
information contact **Judy Asher on  
07968 596676.**
- 7 Blueboxt 'Get Musical' session. 4.30pm  
to 6.00pm. Leyburn Methodist Church  
Hall. See p.26.
- 7 Dominoes. 7.30pm. Carperby Village  
Institute.
- 9 National Theatre 'Macbeth.' LACC. See  
p.33.
- 10 Whist Drive. 7.30pm. Gayle Institute.  
See p.18.
- 12 Swaledale Festival Volunteers Briefing.  
2.30pm. Reeth Memorial Hall. See p.6.
- 12 Charity Bingo. 7.30pm. See p.30.
- 13 Charity Coffee Morning. 10.00am. Gayle  
Institute. See p.27.
- 15 Paul Snowden concert. LACC. See p 33.
- 19 Local History Group talk. Harmby Village  
Hall. 2.00pm. See p.27.
- 19 Penhill Ladies Talk. 7.30pm. Carperby  
Village Hall. See p.3.
- 19 Bellerby Study Group talk. 7.30pm.  
Bellerby Memorial Hall.
- 20 National Theatre 'The Importance of  
Being Earnest.' LACC. See p.33.
- 20 Bainbridge W.I. Meeting. 7.30pm.  
Sycamore Hall. See p.15.
- 21 Leyburn u3a talk. LACC. 10.30am.  
See p.12.
- 24 Bainbridge W.I. Soup and Sweet Lunch.  
Noon. See p.19.
- 24 Whist Drive. 7.30pm. Gayle Institute.  
See p.18.
- 26 Ladies Luncheon Club. 12.30pm.  
Street Head Inn. See p.19.
- 26 Bellerby Study Group talk. 7.30pm.  
Bellerby Memorial Hall.

**A Good Life Community Bookshop**

UDCP Ltd was thrilled with the support we received for the opening few weeks of the Community Bookshop just before Christmas. Located in The Little Shop On The Hill in Hawes, on the cobbles and under JR Hoppers, we are selling second hand books, with all proceeds going straight back to the community via the work of The Good Life project.

The Good Life work started in 2018, with the support provided to the community growing massively through the Covid pandemic. Since then, our work has carried on with our delivery of the Community Hub Warm Space in Hawes Market Hall, several Open Pantry locations throughout the Dale, and now our Upper Dales Home Care services, which provide support for those who need a bit of help at home, and our Carers' break Sitting Service. Much of this support is provided by our wonderful team of volunteers.

Volunteers are coming forward to help in the Bookshop also, so if you are interested in helping out in a warm, cosy shop surrounded by books and a coffee machine, then please get in touch! Our aim is to run the shop mostly via volunteer support, so that we can put as much resource back into the support services as possible.

Book donations are welcome (nothing else at this time please), so perhaps if you cannot donate any time, you might be able to find some books you are willing to part with for a good cause.

Please pop into the Community Office to speak with one of the team if you are interested in volunteering - we are currently aiming to be open **Monday - Friday 10.00am - 4.00pm**, and there are half day or full day shifts available.

**Abbie Rhodes**

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Can I come to the gym? YES! A gym is a safe place to exercise for anyone of any fitness level. All gym users must receive an induction, this will build your confidence and understanding of how to get the best out of the equipment and machines. If you are visiting the Dales and would like to keep your regular gym sessions going during your stay, we have a self-certification form for those who have undertaken an induction in their local gym and are confident and competent gym users. This is available on the sign-in desk. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with any questions.

Gym membership – purchased through ClubRight gym management system <https://www.yorebridgesportandleisure.co.uk/>. We have a variety of gym memberships including monthly, couples, student, and junior memberships, as well as pay as you go passes. These allow you to use the gym in a way that suits you and have a great workout to meet your needs.

Fitness classes - via Zoom or live class as indicated: Booking is essential for all classes. Email [admin@yorebridge-sport.co.uk](mailto:admin@yorebridge-sport.co.uk) or telephone **01969 650060**. Classes are £8 pay as you go or class membership option available.

Fit for Life - **Mondays (Zoom) 9.15am - 10.15am.** Building and Maintaining Strength to live life your way.

Warm and Well – **Mondays (live) 11.00am.** Enjoy a social, active class building core strength with a nice cuppa and chat afterwards.

Tennis – **Mondays 6.00pm.** Live social tennis weather permitting. Get in touch to join this group. [yorebridgetennis@gmail.com](mailto:yorebridgetennis@gmail.com).

Walking Circuit – **Wednesdays (live and on Zoom) 9.15am - 10.15am.** Exercises to keep active people active.

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Yogafusion with Janesse (£3 in March, £6 following months) (live) **9.30am – 10.30am.** To book email [yogafusionbyj@gmail.com](mailto:yogafusionbyj@gmail.com).

Running Skills and Drills (£5) with Kirsten, **Fridays (live) 6.00pm - 7.00pm.** Half an hour of running skills and drills followed by half an hour of strengthening for runners.

Over 40's Walking Football (£3) with Glenn, **Fridays (live) 6.30pm – 7.30pm** on the MUGA [yorebridgetennis@gmail.com](mailto:yorebridgetennis@gmail.com).

We also offer Conversational French (live) **Tuesdays 9.30am - 10.45am.** Cost is £6 per session.

Facebook

We are back up and running with our Facebook page 'Yorebridge Sport and Leisure'. Follow us to keep up to date with the news from the centre.

Fundraising

We have an Easyfundraising account for The Yorebridge Sports Development Association Ltd, it is simple to join, doesn't cost you a penny and will help us to keep delivering. Simply scan the QR code and follow the steps, thank you so much for all your support!



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### Sunday, February 2nd, Candlemass:

**9.30am** Holy Communion,  
St. Margaret's, Preston under Scar.

**9.30am** Morning Prayer, St. Mary's,  
Redmire.

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

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

### Sunday, February 9th:

**10.30am** Holy Communion Penhill Together  
Service, St Margaret's, Preston  
under Scar

### Sunday, February 16th:

**9.30am** Holy Communion,  
St. Margaret's, Preston under Scar.

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

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

**11.00am** Morning Prayer,  
St. Bartholomew's, West Witton.

### Sunday, February 23rd:

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

**11.00am** Morning Prayer,  
St. Andrew's, Aysgarth.

**3.00pm** Evening Prayer,  
Thornton Rust Mission Room.

### February Mid-Week Services:

**Thursday, 13th and 27th at 9.30am.**  
Holy Communion, at St. Bartholomew's,  
West Witton.

Church Coffee Morning: **Wednesday  
February 5th, 10.30am to noon** at Redmire  
Village Hall.

Church Afternoon Tea: **Wednesday,  
February 19th, from 2.00pm to 4.00pm** at  
Redmire Village Hall.

Food for Thought in Lent; **Tuesday,  
18th March, 6.30pm for 7.00pm.** At West  
Burton Village Hall. Speaker - Bishop John  
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**Tuesday, 1st April.** Speakers – Revd Ian and  
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Bishop John will open up the question “Who  
am I – now?”. Our identities change over time:-  
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single to married – or married to single again  
... gifts and abilities evolve, new opportunities  
emerge. So “Who am I now? - Identity and role  
in the different chapters of life”

Ian and Linda will take this forward by  
looking at our place in a world which is  
confusing and troubled. Can we be champions  
of hope or are we also fearful? Thus:- “Where  
are we headed? Finding hope in a time of  
crisis.”

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## Heavens Above

We've a proper Parade of Planets this February with seven of them on view right through the month. Venus takes centre stage, easily outshining everything else in the sky apart from the Sun and the Moon. You can't possibly miss it blazing away over in the south-west soon after sunset. It reaches maximum brilliance - magnitude minus 4.9 - on **February 19th**, when its bright enough to cast shadows if you're observing from a really dark location. Look out for it around **6.30pm** on **February 1st** when it meets up with the crescent Moon. A beautiful sight in the gathering darkness and a great photo-opportunity. Saturn, the ringed planet, lies below and to the right of Venus at the beginning of February, setting around 8.00pm. It's a good deal dimmer than Venus and not very well placed for viewing as its famous rings are almost edge on to us at present.

Jupiter, the Solar System's largest planet, sits high in the south-west around 10.00pm in the constellation of Taurus the Bull. It's nearly seven times further away from us than Venus but at magnitude minus 2.4 still outshines any of the stars. If you keep on going left from the giant planet you'll spot Mars almost due south in the constellation of Gemini, the Heavenly Twins. It was at its brightest in the middle of January but is gradually fading as it heads away from the Earth. On **February 9th** at about **7.00pm** the Moon skims past the Red Planet at a distance of only seven arc minutes. A really spectacular sight well worth observing with a good set of binoculars.

You'll definitely need binoculars to catch sight of our next planet, Uranus, and a reasonably large telescope to view Neptune, the outermost planet, as they're both too far away to be seen with just the unaided eye. If you haven't got access to binoculars or a telescope you can still find their exact locations via one of the free downloadable astronomy apps such as Sky Walk or The Sky Tonight which also contain loads of other info on all things astronomical.

Towards the end of February the innermost planet, Mercury, appears on the scene. Look for it just after sunset very low over the horizon below Venus and to the right of Saturn. It sets around 7.00pm so you'll have to be on your toes to spot it. Right at the end of the month, on **February 28th**, there's a great opportunity in the early evening to catch sight of all seven planets strung out in a wide arc right across the sky. There won't be a Planetary Alignment quite like this for another 400 years so let's hope those cloudy skies stay well away.

**Al Bireo**

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## Upper Wensleydale Benefice February 2025

	<b>St Mary &amp; St John's, Hardraw 9.00am</b>	<b>St Margaret's, Hawes 10.30am</b>	<b>St Oswald's, Askrigg 10.30am</b>	<b>St Matthew's, Stalling Busk 2.30pm</b>	<b>Evening Prayer 4pm</b>
2 February	<b>The Gathering – Benefice Family Communion St Oswald's Church, Askrigg at 10.30am</b>				Evening prayer by telephone
7 February	<b>Sycamore Hall – Communion in the TV Lounge at 10am</b>				
8 February	<b>Coffee Morning Askrigg Village Hall 10am – 12noon</b>				
9 February	<b>Morning Prayer</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>	<b>Café Style</b>	<b>12.30 Soup followed by Communion</b>	Evening prayer by telephone
16 February	<b>Holy Communion</b>	<b>Family Service</b>	<b>Morning Prayer</b>		Evening prayer by telephone
23 February	<b>Morning Prayer</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>	<b>Afternoon Prayer  Pathfinders</b>	Evening prayer by telephone

### Light Up Your Gardens?

I've started to notice the afternoons getting longer as the hours of daylight increase; this realisation always brightens my spirit.

The pervading chill and darkness of the months of January and February can often be a difficult time for many, yet despite the challenges that the cold spell in January brought for transport and heating (and most certainly to our farmers tending their livestock) it's hard to deny that the dale looked magnificent with winter sunlight on the snow.

Celebrating light and the hope that it brings has always been a part of human behaviour. In the Christian calendar this begins in February with the ancient tradition of 'Candlemass'. Historically it is connected with Mary and Joseph fulfilling what was required of them under Jewish law, in bringing the baby Jesus (described as the 'light of the world') into the Temple in Jerusalem for an act of thanksgiving.

The annual Roman and pagan festivals that

celebrated the increasing hours of light at this time were frequently noisy, scandalous affairs and became so salacious that Pope Gelasius 1, banned their observance altogether. He encouraged instead a calmer and more prayerful focus and so began the practice of blessing candles for the joy that their light brings in the darkness and as a reminder of God's light in the world.

In Askrigg, to mark Candlemass, we have often taken our young people out to Mill Gill to place jam jar lanterns amongst the clusters of early snowdrops for walkers to admire. As the sun begins to set, it can be a very special sight indeed. Perhaps this is something we could emulate in our own gardens and help to bring a smile to those who pass by?

What a sight that could be in Upper Wensleydale. God bless your February.

'The Lord my God, lightens my darkness'  
King David Psalm 18:28.

*Rev Dave*

## The Big Freeze

In the Winter of 1962/63, during the Big Freeze (which was long and cold enough to freeze the River Thames), Wensleydale claimed its own special place in the history of that exceptional Winter. Notably, New Year's Day 1963 had started 10 minutes late! So much snow fell in late December that it weighed down the hands of Big Ben and the time shown on the clock was late in reaching midnight for the countdown on New Year's Eve.

As heavy snow fell...and fell...and blocked the roads in Wensleydale during January 1963, there were no train services because passenger services had ceased on the full line up the dale from Northallerton in 1954. However one train each way continued to run daily between Hawes and Garsdale (the famous Bonnyface) for another 5 years (to 1959) and the track was left in place for another 5 years, to 1964. Thus British Rail could re-start passenger services when the roads were blocked by snow in January 1963 and then on an occasional basis afterwards. The railway finally closed between Redmire and Garsdale in April 1964.

I am sure there will be some readers who still remember the snowy days when trains ran in the dale again in 1963. Did you (or someone you know) travel on them or work for British Rail at that time? Perhaps you remember older people - especially farmers - recollecting those difficult days? Have you shared your memories with younger members in your family circle? At the Auction Mart? Or in the pub?

Ruth Annison (tel 01969 650349)



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## Blueboxt February Update

### Community Consultation - Enterprise and Creative Hub Feasibility Study

In September, we launched our study mapping cultural assets and community need across Wensleydale and Swaledale. We have commissioned Ryedale Creative to undertake the research which has been funded by the UK Strategic Prosperity Fund. The study aims to identify options for developing an enterprise and creative hub. This will include dedicated spaces to support creative and performing arts provision and career pathways for employment. Having an up-to-date evidence base will help us work collaboratively to advocate for better services and facilities and attract financial support for rural areas.

It is important that we hear the views of all age groups so please take a few moments to complete the survey and share your thoughts and help shape the future of creative arts in Wensleydale and Swaledale. The survey is open until **Sunday, February 16th**. Take part by visiting: [tinyurl.com/LeyburnArtsSurvey](http://tinyurl.com/LeyburnArtsSurvey) or follow the links from our social media. Anyone needing help and support to take part in the research can also contact us on **01969 745810**.

**Get Musical** - We are delighted to announce that Get Musical sessions for 6-11 year olds will return for February and March. The free sessions will on **Friday, February 7th from 4.30pm to 6.00pm** at Leyburn Methodist Church Hall. Please contact us to reserve places.

**Play>Record>Perform** – We are welcoming new members to take part in our sessions for 11-19yrs, **Sundays 2.00pm-5.00pm** at Thorlby Village Hall, DL8 3SU. The group learn to play as a group and explore various styles of music.

**Light My Choir!** - Our Community Choir sessions run on **Monday evenings from 7.00pm to 8.30pm**. We sing uplifting spiritual songs and popular music. Our friendly and informal sessions are ideal for those looking to try singing or enjoy singing for pleasure.

To find out more or register your interest, contact **Colin Bailey** on **01969 745810/ 07711 21169** or email: [info@blueboxt.org](mailto:info@blueboxt.org).

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## Middleham And the Dales Local History Group

Wednesday, February 19th, 2.00pm at  
Harmby Village Hall.

### All Human Life - North Riding Quarter Sessions Records by Daniel Sudron

The Quarter Sessions were the local government and local justice rolled into one, and the records can tell us a wealth of information about the people and the places of the county and are a great resource for family, local and social history.

North Yorkshire County Record Office holds an extensive archive relating to the North Riding Quarter Sessions, covering a period of just over 300 years from 1660 to 1971. The title '*All Human Life*' reflects the richness of these records as a key source of historical information about many aspects of daily life in the North Riding.

Dan Sudron, Archivist at the North Yorkshire County Record Office, will introduce these records and use examples from the collection to show the wide range of documents available.

Members, new members and visitors are always welcome. Annual membership is £12, and visitors can attend for £3 per meeting. For more information contact **Tony Keates** 01969 640436, or [dotandtonyk@btinternet.com](mailto:dotandtonyk@btinternet.com).

## Lighting Up The Community

A very big 'thank you' to the members of the Bainbridge Christmas Lights Committee who put on such a fabulous festive light display in Bainbridge during December. Whilst these were undoubtedly appreciated by the residents of Bainbridge, they were also enjoyed by visitors and those passing through, really putting the village on the map.

Of course, it takes a lot of effort to pull off something like this and work is ongoing throughout the year to raise funds to buy new lights and batteries to ensure such a wonderful display.

Even more work is required to install and then remove all the lights each year, often in some very inclement weather, but always at great physical effort - not to mention personal danger. Then, there is all the work required whilst the lights are on, checking the batteries and bulbs to make sure they are all working.

We are all very grateful to this small group of volunteers and hope that everyone will support their efforts in 2025.

## Christmas Yarnbombing Display

Hawes Yarnbombers would like to thank everyone for their lovely comments and generous donations for our Christmas display. We're very pleased you enjoyed Father Christmas and Friends as well as the Surfing Santa we made for Hawes Christmas Lights Group. We raised £2233.80 for Yorkshire Air Ambulance.

## Gayle Coffee Morning

There will be a coffee morning on **February 13th from 10.00am till 12.00 noon** at Gayle Institute. Bring and buy cakes for sarcoma cancer. All welcome. Then the next one will be on **March 13th**.

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### Mystery Picture

Last month's Mystery Picture was taken on the Pennine Way just south of Gayle. Where would you find this bridge?



Happy New Year! It is so lovely to be back at school, and back into the swing of things!

It's safe to say we certainly had a snowy start to our Spring term, which unsurprisingly our pupils loved. The snowy creations were certainly

something to behold.

We are super proud of some of our Y6 pupils, who won awards in the UWNL competition! Their creativity and hard work really shone through, and we are very proud.

January at BAWB wouldn't be complete without prep starting for the Wensleydale Tournament of Song. The children are raring to go and I'm already hearing practising in the playground! Fingers crossed we can do as well as we did last year – wish us luck!

Finally a big thank you to Mr Greenway, who has organised for our families to access FREE basketball tickets. Our children have been given the opportunity to see Newcastle Eagles play in April. We are so excited!

Keep your eyes peeled for our Nursery Taster Afternoons which will be coming up soon! Fingers crossed that the weather warms up in time for the next issue. We're looking forward to a less muddy field!

Best wishes,

**The BAWB team**

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## Thank You

We really wanted to do this at the end of the year but we aren't perfect and it has been a very busy time. There have been certain folks in our community who have worked so hard to help us at St. Margaret's Church in Hawes this year. We would like to honour and thank them for their cheery, willing voluntary help. We do need you and this is your parish church. A very BIG 'Thank You!' to you all – you have blessed us and encouraged us.

In no particular order ... Here we go!

Jackson Hogg – amazing job, sanding, cleaning and painting the railings on the path.

Mel Barningham - raising £1.5k with an incredible summer raffle for St Margaret's day.  
Malcolm Caruthers and Amy Cockett - for two concert performances to raise funds for the church organ and the Salvation Army Christmas appeal.

Debbie Scully - for volunteering in the kitchen for concerts and events.

Alison Wade - for spreading the word and drawing in the crowds to our festival day.

Jemma and Jackson Hogg - delivering Christmas Service postcards.

Robin and Lyn Peters and Geoff Potter - for helping with locking up church building.

Emma Fothergill, Mike and Katherine Jackson Row - for setting & decorating our Xmas Tree.

Karen Jones - for help with the Christmas Hampers.

Alice and Maisie Richards - for help with our Family Film Fun, Nativity and St Margaret's Day.

Concert performers - Amy Cockett, Dan Cockett, Tom Fremlin, Alison Wade.

Jane Barrett and all Hawes Yarn-Bombers for their contributions and generosity.

Marion and Mike Lloyd - for Remembrance Displays and contributions in church.

JW Cockett and Son, Wensleydale Vets and the Wensleydale Creamery - for sponsoring concerts.

The St Margaret's Churchyard Crew - Steve and Rita Richardson, Noel Barratt and Chris Ibbotson for mowing and taking care of the upper churchyard – Geraldine Sumner for management.

Jean Sleightholme – Car parking management.

St Margaret's Festival Day. In addition to the above; Lynn Cutforth for help organising refreshments; Helen and Peter Summers for

baking cakes and for stalls; Maureen Pollard for her help in the kitchen.

And for all our wonderful local businesses who supported our summer community raffle or provided refreshments;-

Forever Growing Clothing; The Alchemist; Cocketts' Bakery; The Fountain Pub; Gwen at Caffè Curva; The Wensleydale Pantry; Herriot's; Kev's Sweet Shop; Heart of Hawes Holiday Cottages; The Dales Countryside Museum, Hawes Yarn-Bombers; White Hart Inn; Wensleydale Heifer; Yorebridge Hotel; The Spar; Whites of Wensleydale.

We have had a successful 2024 with the community and parish church working together. The funds raised have helped to ensure the purchase and installation of two new boilers to complete Phase 1 of our heating project. Phase 2 needs further support as the real difference will only be felt when the elderly radiators are replaced. In the meantime we look to some essential roof repairs and the replacement of an outdated, broken and inadequate lighting system.

We want the historic, grade 2 listed, building of St Margaret's to be used and celebrated by us all, so please come forward with more ideas if you have any, or if you would like to use the building for an event.

Thank You all once again!

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## Dales Charity Bingo Report

Since our last report we have enjoyed two wonderful evenings of bingo. Firstly, at Askrigg where we partnered with the Ladies Who Sing for Pleasure for our last event of 2024. Our Christmas themed evening included some Christmassy bingo calls, lovely singing by the ladies, tasty treats to accompany teas and coffees and the evening was capped off by a surprise cameo appearance from Santa. Thank you to everyone who came out and supported the evening. It was great to see families enjoying the evening. Over £600 was raised for the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal.

We kicked off our new year with another great night, this time at The Fountain Hotel, Hawes where we raised over £400 for George's Garden. The 4-5 volunteers who look after the garden are now happily deciding which plants to put in. They are still seeking additional helpers for clearing away the dead plants and the re-planting. Please contact Robin Peters or email [dalescharitybingo@gmail.com](mailto:dalescharitybingo@gmail.com) if you can help.

**Wednesday, February 12th** is our next bingo night in the Hawes Market Hall, in support of Stop Ure Pollution. Please see our advert below.

And last but by no means least a heartfelt and big thank you to our bingo team - Liz Lawson, Lesley Barber, Linda Reynolds, Steve Reynolds, Mark Murphy and Julie Gorge whose dedicated help and support each month make this all possible. If your group would like to receive the profits from a future Bingo night, please email us at [dalescharitybingo@gmail.com](mailto:dalescharitybingo@gmail.com).



**Wednesday 12th February 2025**  
**Hawes Market Hall**

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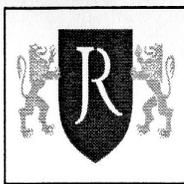
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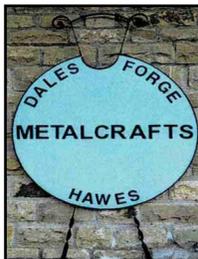
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The children have settled well back into Dalesplay following their Christmas break.

They have enjoyed exploring the new polar role play area. The children have been counting the snowballs into the tubs, feeding the penguins, painting ice, made igloos for the Inuit Family to live in, shared stories about Winter and learnt about which animals



live in Arctic conditions. We acted out some of the animals and learnt what foods they eat and how they stay warm. We have had lots of fun in the snow building snowmen, digging it up and making different prints in it.

Our open pantry in the entrance hall has been restocked so if you need anything please do come and help yourself. If you need something that isn't on the shelf just let Joanne know and we can arrange to get that to you.

We have places available in our Ducklings room, 0-2 years, for an immediate start. Get in touch with Joanne or Louise at [dalesplay1@btconnect.com](mailto:dalesplay1@btconnect.com) and we can arrange to show you around and get you booked in. We are also taking Summer funding which will start after the Easter half term, please get in touch now to book your place.

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## Old Photographs and Advertisements

Here is another page from 'Hawes and its Immediate Neighbourhood – An Illustrated Guide for Visitors' which features some of the local businesses in Hawes around the turn of the 20th century.

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## Leyburn Arts & Community Centre

Well January over, let's hope no more snow and signs of Spring to come soon become more visible!

As we write this it all feels as if we have lost time due to the prolonged overstay of the snow. Various events had to be postponed early in January so pleased to say that the Paul Sowden concert has been rescheduled and is on **Saturday, February 15th** with his singalong musical session to liven us all up...there maybe even space for those who enjoy a little dancing?

There will be another Quiz Night on **Saturday, February 1st** at a cost of £10 which includes supper. Teams of six, if you haven't a team, we will find you one to join in with on the night.

Two live cinema events this month from the National Theatre. On **Sunday, February 9th**, 'Macbeth', starring David Tennant and on **Thursday, February 20th**, 'The Importance of Being Earnest', a joyful reimagining of the celebrated comedy. Also, a 40th anniversary stage concert filmed live of 'Les Miserables', **Tuesday, February 4th**, starring amongst others Michel Ball and Alfie Boe.

The Community Shed was busy on its first open days in January and is now open for membership or you can just sign up for the newsletter for future information. Get in touch if you wish to know more.

The 100 Club is starting a new year, if you fancy a little flutter each month then get in touch. For just £12 for the year you have the chance to win either £25; £15; or £10 each month.

If your New Year resolutions included thoughts about volunteering, please get in touch, we are always pleased to welcome new faces and am sure there will be something you might like to help with!

Best wishes from Jeannie and the volunteers.

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## News from Dales Countryside Museum

Opening times: Daily **10.00am to 5.00pm**  
February to October, Last entry one hour before closing.

Contact: [hawes@yorkshiredales.org.uk](mailto:hawes@yorkshiredales.org.uk) or call **01969 666210**.

For those of you who don't know the Museum, here are a few things it's good to know:

-You can pop into the lovely Firebox Café on site.

-We're an accessible site with a Changing Places facility.

-Assistance dogs are welcome and we have a dog owners shared ticket .

-We're family friendly – pushchairs and breast feeding welcome.

-You can get a £1 discount on our admission fee for one person with a DCM car parking ticket.

-We have electric car charging points in the car park.

-We have free WiFi and can access Ancestry from our research room.

-We're a base for the Yorkshire Dales Young Archaeologists' Club.

-We're supported by a volunteering team and the Friends of the DCM.

**A Trail of Inspiration – The Pennine Way at 60. February 1st to May 5th.**

2025 sees the 60th anniversary of the opening of the original National Trail - the Pennine Way. 'A Trail of Inspiration' opens on **Saturday, February 1st** and will showcase artwork, music, poetry and film inspired by the Pennine Way. This is the first stop for this rolling exhibition that will travel along the Pennine Way throughout the year.

**Yorkshire Dales Young Archaeologists' Club:**

The club meets once a month on a Saturday morning, **10.00am - noon**. At our meeting in November, we made pottery mosaics and in December we made stratigraphy trifles! Young people aged 8 – 17 years are welcome to come along for a free trial session and the next opportunity to do this will be our meeting on **February 8th**. Please call **01969 666210** or email [dcm@yorkshiredales.org.uk](mailto:dcm@yorkshiredales.org.uk) if your child

might be interested in joining us.

### Education and community engagement:

Schools have been busy booking our free learning sessions at DCM and our loan boxes that are available to have in school, so if you'd like your class to be able to explore real objects in the classroom and learn about topics in an alternative way, whilst still meeting your curriculum requirements, do get in touch.

### Dark Skies:

The Yorkshire Dales National Park is a place where you can find the most wondrous star-filled skies, free from light pollution. We've some fabulous Dark Skies events planned in February and over half term, so check out our website and the list below to see what's on.

Here are the DCM events coming up in February.

Events are included in the Museum admission unless otherwise stated and bookings can be made via [hawes@yorkshiredales.org.uk](mailto:hawes@yorkshiredales.org.uk) unless otherwise stated.

**The Trail of Inspiration Exhibition, 60 Years of the Pennine Way - Meet the Artist:**

**Saturday, February 1st, Sunday, February 9th, Monday, February 24th and Tuesday, March 11th, 10.00am - 3.00pm.**

Come and chat all things Pennine Way with Sally, one of the contributors to the exhibition, and find out how her artwork has been inspired by this iconic trail.

**Recipes and Remedies from the museum archives.**

**Tuesday, February 11th and Tuesday, March 11th, 10.00am – 4.00pm.**

Join Jane for a pop-up session in the museum to talk about some weird and wonderful recipes from our archives. Recipes for tasty traditional favourites, writing ink or poisons and remedies for aches, pains, coughs and colds for humans and animals.

**Forest Skills – Gruffalo's Child themes activity session.**

**Monday, February 17th, 2.00pm - 5.30pm.**

Try your hand at whittling and learn new knife skills, build a shelter, and use flint and steel to start a fire. Take part in story time and listen to facts and folklore based on the fauna and flora from the story. Make a clay model, play in the

sand activity tray, or have a go at bead threading, with optional survival bracelet for older children.

All finished off with campfire snacks of popcorn, marshmallows, and damper bread, washed down with campfire hot drinks, such as hot chocolate, tea and coffee. We look forward to seeing you all there. £5 Booking required.

**Richard Darn.**

**Tuesday, February 18th, 6.30pm – 9.30pm.**

A dark skies presentation, celestial experience and guide to the night sky with Richard Darn. We'll go in search of wonders in the night sky as the winter stars give way to those of Spring. We will spy distant star clusters and have a fantastic view of a near first quarter moon. Bring your smartphone and we will show you how to take a picture of the lunar craters, lava flows and mountains! Plus, a short distance away is Mars, glowing with its trademark red tint. There will also be a fascinating dark skies beginner's tour of the heavens using planetarium software. Ticket include supper provided by the Firebox Café. £20 Booking required.

**Solar system in a box.**

**Wednesday, February 19th, 10.30am – 3.45pm.**

In this hands-on science session, you will learn about planets, stars, and constellations while making your own 'Solar System in a Box' to take home. Afterwards, why not explore the museum's wildlife garden and see if you can find all the planets along the Solar System trail?

**Workshop times;- 10.30am-11.15am; 11.30am-12.15pm; 1.00pm-1.45pm; 2.00pm-2.45pm; 3.00pm-3.45pm.**

Part of the Dark Skies Festival, this event is free for children who are accompanied with an adult paying museum admission. Please call to book your child onto one of the allotted time slots.

**Pizza planet Beginners Bike Activity:**

**Wednesday, February 19th, 3.00pm - 5.00pm.**

Start your afternoon with a planet pizza making session in our Firebox Cafe. Whilst your pizza is cooking work up an appetite following a trail of stars and seek out the planets on your bikes. Suitable for beginner cyclists, all activities will be undertaken in a traffic free site. It is recommended that parents accompany their children on foot. Bikes/helmets available to loan

but must be booked at the same time as your place. £15; Please book online with Stage1Cycles via [ride@stage1cycles.co.uk](mailto:ride@stage1cycles.co.uk).

**Tetrapak printmaking with Hester Cox:  
Thursday, February 20th, 1.00pm - 3.30pm.**

In this afternoon workshop for adults, printmaker Hester Cox will demonstrate how to make unique and exciting printed images using recycled materials. Taking the night sky and the nocturnal creatures of the dales for inspiration, she will teach participants simple drypoint skills that can be used on recycled juice and milk cartons to create detailed and professional looking original prints. This is a direct and quick method enabling participants to explore ideas and develop their skills throughout the afternoon, building on what they learn with each print. This method can be done at home using simply adapted pasta makers and die-cut machines avoiding the expense of a professional printing press. £45 Booking required.

**Rocket Making - with Stage1Cycles:  
Friday, February 21st, 10.30am – noon.**

Our Rocket Lab is a drop-in session where you will make a rocket and launch it outside. Please bring your own plastic 1 litre bottle where possible. Spares will be available. When you have finished in the Rocket Lab why not have lunch at the Firebox Cafe where there is a 'buy 1 get 1 free' deal on kids' meals and some special Dark Skies treats. This is a Free drop-in event for children when accompanied by an adult paying entry to the Museum.

**FDCM talk - From the Archives  
Friday, February 21st, 2.00pm - 3.30pm**

Janet Thomson will give a talk sharing material from the Museum archives. Free to members – Donations welcome from non-members.

**Ride, Shine and Dine.  
Saturday, February 22nd, 5.00pm– 7.00pm.**

As part of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Dark Skies Festival we are hosting a night ride. You will have the opportunity to use a fantastic Exposure MTB light, and we will be warmed up at the end with a bowl of homemade chilli and rice in our Firebox Cafe. This will be a two-hour ride mountain bike ride that is suitable for riders

## DCM News (continued)

with experience of off-road riding. It will be approximately 8-10 miles long and involve off road riding on natural terrain including some technical elements. There will be at least two climbs so a good level of fitness is important. The weather can be unpredictable so you must have appropriate clothing for the conditions. E bikes are very welcome. Appropriately skilled children over ten years old are welcome when accompanied by an adult. Wensleydale Bike Club Saturday Night Group are welcome to attend in the usual way.

£10; Please book online with Stage 1 Cycles via [ride@stage1cycles.co.uk](mailto:ride@stage1cycles.co.uk) (Hire bikes are available for an additional cost).

### Monotype Workshop with Hester Cox: Friday, February 28th, 10.00am - 4.00pm.

Join artist Hester Cox in celebrating the night and all things nocturnal on this fun and productive monotype workshop. Monotyping is a direct and spontaneous way of making images and you will experiment with monochrome line work and tonal methods in the morning followed by colour, collage and stencils in the afternoon. At the end of the day you will have a folder full of lovely prints. Lunch included. £65 Booking required.

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## The Wensleydale School and Sixth Form

I am on a mission. Students and staff know that in every assembly and in just about every conversation I have in school, I talk about being kind. What do we mean by kindness?

Kindness is choosing to do something that helps others or yourself, motivated by genuine warm feelings. Kindness, or doing good, often means putting other people's needs before our own. It could be by giving up our seat on a bus to someone who might need it more, or offering to make a cup of tea for someone.

Evidence shows that helping others can also benefit our own mental health and wellbeing and there are so many ways to help others as part of our everyday lives. Good deeds needn't take much time or cost any money.

Small changes can make a big difference and we have seen this change in the behaviour and attitudes in school. Studies have found that acts

of kindness are linked to increased feelings of well-being, which has got to be a good thing. Helping others can also improve our support networks and encourage us to be more active which in turn, can improve our self-esteem. There is some evidence to suggest that when we help others, it can promote changes in the brain that are linked with happiness.

Helping others is thought to be one of the ways that people create, maintain, and strengthen their social connections. Although acts of kindness for other people can make us feel good, we need to also keep in mind why we're doing it – which is for their benefit, not ours.

Part of being kind is considering the feelings of others, so it is very important that your kindness is something which others will find helpful. Kindness is something that needs to benefit both parties. While we know that we don't do things for others for what we can get out of it, we also know that the more we do for others, the more they are likely to do for us.

Doing good may help us to have a more positive outlook and it helps to make the world a happier place – one act of kindness can often lead to more! So, my mission is to make our school a happier place for everyone by promoting acts of kindness, small things like a smile or holding a door open.

These little acts can boost feelings of confidence, being in control, happiness and optimism. They may also encourage others to repeat the good deeds they've experienced themselves – contributing to a more positive community.

The more you do for others, the more you do for yourself.

**Julia Polley, Headteacher**



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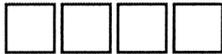
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1st Wensleydale Scouts  
Vacancy – Group Chair

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We are incredibly grateful to Mike Niklewicz for all the support he has given 1st Wensleydale Scouts over recent years as our Chairperson. As Mike and Alison head off to begin an exciting new chapter, we are now on the look out for a new Chairperson to support 1st Wensleydale Scouts.

This trustee role is completely flexible, and all training and DBS will be provided. It is a lovely role to meet new people and support our thriving Group. We will work with Mike to ensure a good handover is provided and you will be fully supported by our Group Lead Volunteer and our Treasurer.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with me for an informal conversation.

**Gemma Gurden**  
Group Lead Volunteer  
07816 189657

[1stwensleydalescoutergroup@gmail.com](mailto:1stwensleydalescoutergroup@gmail.com)

### **Ann Pannell**

It is with great sadness and heavy hearts that the family of Ann Barbara Pannell of Hawes, 64, announces her sudden passing.

Ann passed away on January 1st, 2025, whilst travelling the world with her beloved husband of 45 years, Lewis. She will be forever remembered by Lewis, son Stewart, daughter-in-law Carla, her three grandchildren Sam, Charlotte and Sophie as well as her sister, Christine, wider family and friends near and far.

Please join the family in celebrating her life at 1pm on 6th February at St Margaret's Church, Hawes. Colourful attire welcomed. Family flowers only please. Donations will be split between local causes.

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Thurs 20th Feb 7pm  
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Fri 7th Feb 6pm  
Tea With Mussolini (PG)



Fri 21st Feb 6pm  
The Apprentice (15)



Sun 9th Feb 2pm  
Trafalgar Releasing: Macbeth (Live show) (12A)



Fri 28th Feb 6pm  
The Teacher (12A)



Fri 14th Feb 6pm  
Small Things Like These (12A)



Saturday 15th Feb 7.30pm  
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*We appreciate being asked before any part of the Newsletter is reproduced.*

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Newsletters on line, simply search on "Upper Wensleydale Newsletter"  
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Neil Piper, Karen Prudden,

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