THE UPPER WENSLEYDALE NEWSLETTER

Issue 318

April 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

Elephants, Whales, Hummingbirds and Mice

The world moves at different speeds:

I was in Askrigg recently having a drink with some friends and the conversation turned to the 2023 coronation of King Charles III. When a new British monarch is crowned, the preparations include a huge document known as the Coronation Roll. A top London calligrapher, Stephanie von Werthern-Gill, was chosen to produce the roll for this coronation and a very beautiful job she did too.

Prior to the coronation, I had no idea how this official parchment was prepared, so I was intrigued to learn that the 2023 roll was nearly 70 feet in length and contained 11,600 words. As a translator/editor, I'm very familiar with word counts and deadlines. But as I continued reading, what really made my eyes widen was the thought of getting to within eighteen inches of the end, spilling ink on it and having to start again. Thankfully, the roll produced for King Charles comprised 57 separate panels, which were then stitched together. Stephanie kept going for 56 days straight, sustaining her concentration with music and breathing exercises.

All this got me thinking about how we can focus on a single task for long periods, suspending any sense of the passage of time.

Event horizon:

Before my move to Wensleydale in 2023, I had a workshop of sorts down in west Norfolk. It was on a former RAF base that was used to film 'The Shepherd' with John Travolta and 'The Souvenir' with Tilda Swinton. That might all sound rather glamorous but the site was actually a professional-grade pothole slalom littered with crumbling buildings.

There were only two units in my block and the other one was occupied by one of the finest craftsmen I've ever come across. James Crisp started out in cabinetmaking but eventually branched out into wood sculpture. He's been in great demand ever since by people and businesses all over the world seeking something unique for their space. You could always tell when James was focusing on something important. His pieces are often quite large and entail precise control of some sizeable pieces of bladed machinery. At those times, James shuts

himself in his workshop so that if, say, a courier should wander in with a parcel, there won't be any loss of concentration (or fingers).

James tells me that, on those occasions, time takes on a different quality for him and that, afterwards, when he (so to speak) comes to, he finds a whole load of work has been done but with no awareness of how much time has passed.

Most of us will have experienced this at some point. We'll get to a point where things are flowing well and then glance up and realise that two hours have gone by in what felt like fifteen minutes. It's as though our minds are operating under different rules but beyond our direct control. We can't turn it on or off at will and it can occur in almost any situation that absorbs us. We might be stoking an autumn bonfire, tinkering with the car, engrossed in a fascinating discussion with friends, grooming the dog or chopping firewood. When it does happen, it's almost as if we've been in a separate zone, outside of normal time. Like being in a bubble at the threshold of a black hole, where that thing we call "time" means very little.

On or off:

Many of my own pastimes lie within areas that require intense concentration. However, there is one highly entertaining part of my life that sits in a category all its own. My pet mice. I once had someone ask me, with just a hint of bafflement, "Aren't they a child's pet?" I had to explain that mice were ideal for me as I'd never really grown up.

Mice are intelligent, sensitive little things. Most of mine know my voice and I've had plenty that knew their names and responded to certain words or phrases. It could be just sound association but, even so, it is quite sweet when such a tiny creature develops this kind of relationship with a human.

The reason I mention mice is because they're quite unlike us in the way they perceive things. From a human standpoint, mice have two speeds: "ON" or "OFF". There is no intermediate setting for "PONDERING". So, if one of them does happen to sit still for more than ten seconds, I find myself wondering if I should check its spindly little wrist for a pulse. (Actually, just between us, I think this may be deliberate. It could be their way of checking whether I'm still alive. Douglas Adams was right. They know things).

Hummingbirds and humpbacks:

There was an episode of the 1960s 'Star Trek' series in which the Enterprise came across a race of aliens who moved through time much faster than everything else and were thus invisible to the ship's crew. For our purposes, it makes rather a nice illustration of the way different animals seem to experience time in different ways.

Some research by the University of Galway in 2023 showed that different creatures do perceive the passage of time differently, with variations in speed according to an animal's size, metabolism, type of eyes, ability to fly and habitat, amongst other things.

Very small creatures like hummingbirds and mice have a very different perception of time than that of humans. Mouse studies have shown a correlation between dopamine in the brain and time perception. The implications of this are farreaching for people with neurological conditions like ADHD and Parkinson's because dopamine levels have a role in these conditions. This means that for people with ADHD, time may pass more slowly – thus making them seem "hyper" to those who don't have ADHD.

At the other end of the scale from mice or small birds, we have elephants and whales. To these creatures, with their huge body mass and slow metabolism, humans must seem quite quick and fidgety, perhaps in the same way we perceive the frenetic activity of small rodents.

Plenty of people in the Dales keep dogs. It's a great environment for them and a wonderful place to have an animal that needs regular exercise. If you've ever gone out, leaving your dog at home but then had to come back a couple of minutes later because you'd forgotten something, you may have found that your dog greets you with great fondness, as though you'd been gone for hours. This is another example of that difference in perception between species.

We've no definitive evidence yet that animals are conscious of time in the same way as humans but it remains an area of interest to researchers. We measure time with clocks,

DEADLINE FOR COPY FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS TUESDAY APRIL 22nd PUBLISHED ON MAY 1st maintain calendars and schedule appointments. Animals don't do any of this, so we can't say for certain what ten minutes feels like to a dog or a mouse, but, with many animals, it's obvious that they can get bored and frustrated if left for a long time.

Like the physics of time and gravitation, this topic of how we perceive the passage of time is a labyrinth; one that we are only just beginning to map out. Isn't it odd though, how time – something governed objectively by physical laws (insofar as we've codified them) – can be so subjectively elastic for different species?

Jon Dellar

Jon's You Tube channels: Mouse Wrangler - videos; Jon Dellar - music

Links: James Crisp - jamescrispsculptor.com The Coronation Roll - coronationroll.gov.uk







Eunice the Ewe

Last month I was hiding in the Reading Around the Dales advert on page 19 and the lucky winner of the £10 prize is Stephanie Dobson of Mirfield, West Yorkshire.

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

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April Competition

Below are the initial letters of English idioms or sayings followed by a clue to its meaning, For example BAL (Good luck) = Break a leg.

- 1. UTW (Sick)
- 2. BTSOYT (Barely)
- 3. OIABM (Rarely)
- 4. SOTD (They just arrived)
- 5. COTOB (Like Dad)
- 6. YGIAGAM (No idea)
- 7. CAAAAL (Expensive)
- 8. IAOTTFLS (Not finished)
- 9. INRS (Easy)
- 10. WCTBWWCTI (Ignore for now)
- 11. TBTSSB (Very good invention)
- 12. CALSS (Briefly)
- 13. OAWGC (Pointless)
- 14. ITTTT (More than one)
- 15. BUTWT (Mistaken)
- 16. YCMAOWBE (There's a cost)
- 17. DGUTDJ (Not very good at it)
- 18. CIAD (Stop)

Castle Bolton

Please send in your answers to arrive by **Tuesday**, **April 22nd**. Don't forget to include details of your nominated charity which will receive the £50 prize should you win

Drop-off points and contacts

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

Hawes:	Community Office	667400
Bainbridge:	Sylvia Crookes,	
_	3, Bainside	650525
Askrigg:	Sykes Shop,	650535
Carperby:	Anthony Abraham	
	Hall Garth	663243
West Burton:	Nadine Bell,	
	Margarets Cottage	663559
		000400

Aysgarth:	Hamilton's Tearoom	663423
Redmire:	Kevin Davis	624165
	Westholme	
Thoralby:	Neil Piper	663747
West Witton	Christine Barker,	624934

Chestnut Garth

Preston a d Alastair McLachlan 07817

March Competition Answers

1. Primary 11. Marshmallow
•

2. **Mar**quee 12. Unre**mar**kable

3. Grammar 13. Marina

4. Marionette 14. Maraca

5. Marmite 15. Martini

6. Newmarket 16. Marnie

7. **Mar**quess 17. Fu**mar**ole

8. Amaryllis 18. Aquamarine9. Tamarin 19. Marquetry

10. Smarmy 20. Marge

Plenty of entries this month but some forgot to check the number of letters in the answers which had been given with each question. The winning entry was from Denise Percival of Bainbridge whose nominated charity to receive the £50 was Bainbridge Village Hall,

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Bless Yew

So, all checks completed; no livestock should be within munching distance of this when it matures, as just a mouthful will give them more than a bellyache. We have fifty, 6-inch-high bare rooted yew plants desperately jabbering to be in the ground and, as it's a fine, frost-free morning, that buzzing adrenalin's kicking in and I need to get my hands dirty – off we go.

Let's dig a 40 foot long trench, 18 inches deep (very easy to type but took me 2 strenuous hours) then quarter fill all along with a layer of compost, home nurtured or bought, whatever, just don't be mean, use plenty. Next up, take a sack of pelleted chicken manure, cut a corner, don't get carried away, just a snip, not too generous as we want a trickle of feed, not Hardraw Force. Now walking slowly along the edge of the trench, direct that said steady trickle on to the compost, reflecting all the while, as a smug dinosaur, on how much nicer it is to work in feet and inches rather than metric. After we have gently forked the pellets in, there's the first tingle of anticipation - the cake's almost ready to go in the oven.

Deep breath for the fun part (well I think so). I'm laying out the mini trees, one for every 10 inches or so, and am relieved to find there will be a surplus – what relief. Into the trench we go, ensuring the roots of each babe are nicely spread out – these fragile little growths are mute, but believe me, they'll be sending out grateful and happy vibes my way, man.

Next up, the soil's ready to firm and flatten with my persuasive size 9's, as we don't want that first cruel south-westerly wind to rock and wreck. Now, job done? Hardly: I will leave strict instructions, in the event of a Saharan spring, to keep well-watered, to outlaw ALL ball games (grandkids take note) and finally to provide an alternative 'convenience' area for their pampered pussycat – what a scary control freak I can be. All bases covered then...maybe.

Happily, we have half a dozen spares left over, very handy if some don't take, so I'll heel these in behind the garage. In the unlikely event of 100% success, I'll use these extras as container centrepieces, ringed around with Lamium maculatum 'Beacon Silver', very fetching with their pale pink flowers and green/silver foliage, or 'White Nancy', pure white. I love most ornamental nettles, orvala, armenum etc, as they're as hard as nails and very easy to

grow, but would draw the line at the alarming 'Yellow Archangel' - that expands like it's on steroids and will ruin your garden.

When planting up these large containers (go for as big as you can), I use a 50/50 mixture of compost and topsoil as this will both feed and retain moisture – those tiny yew trees won't always stay that way and their roots will need space and nourishment. Occasionally, a dribble of liquid feed will be appreciated for what could be a 5-to-10-year display, after which that yew becomes a typical adolescent, out all night, awkward and unkempt, sullenly demanding the freedom of open ground.

So that's been a major late winter job in lovely Richmond, creating a stout barrier that should last a year or two. I started at 8.00am and finished at what my gran would quaintly call 5 and 20 to one, however it's been a pleasant tea and coffee laced task and never lonely; two semi tame carrion crows have been hanging around the garden, comically strutting around as if they owned the place. One was part albino, a real dandy, and they kept me company – well either that, or they were cunningly waiting for me to collapse with exhaustion and then proceed to live up to their frightful reputation...

Ed Gardener

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Newsletter Chairman's Annual Report 2025

In November 2025 we will celebrate the 30th anniversary of the first Upper Wensleydale Newsletter in 1995.

I hope you agree with me that to have continued to produce the Newsletter every month for close on 30 years is a tremendous achievement for which we must thank the numerous individuals who have managed and contributed to the Newsletter over this period. (Even Covid didn't stop us!)

As for the present we would like to particularly thank our team of Guest Editors and regular contributors without whom the Newsletter would be much reduced in volume as well as interest. Also to our advertisers, many of whom have been with us for many years and who provide the income stream from which the Newsletter can fund and support various projects and students in our area.

I am pleased to report that over the last 12 months we have acquired three new members to our newsletter committee. In alphabetic order they are Roy Chapman from Hawes, Alyson Jones from Bainbridge and Alastair McLachlan from Preston-under-Scar. They each bring different skills and fresh ideas to the existing team and will hopefully become fully involved in the Newsletter production and management.

Kevin Davis from Redmire and myself currently act as joint editors, generally alternating from month to month. Karen Jones is the Treasurer responsible for the management of the Newsletter's income streams and expenditure. (See Karen's separate report on the Newsletter finances.) Neil Piper now manages all the advertisers east of Hawes and Malcolm Caruthers produces minutes of our monthly meetings. Karen Prudden and Tony Hutchinson

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provide articles. I must also mention Liz Lawson of Wensleydale Press who not only prints over 1,000 copies of the Newsletter every month but also acts as an additional proofreader.

Every member of the committee chips in with the numerous tasks that need to be undertaken every month. Interviewing, writing articles, proof-reading, distributing newsletters and collecting the donation boxes that are scattered throughout the circulation area. We also get specific help from volunteers Robin Peters in Hawes and Alan Cook in Askrigg for Newsletter distribution.

Between us we hopefully provide you, our readers, with a Newsletter that is informative, enlightening and sometimes humorous and worthy of the 50p or more donation you put in the boxes every month.

Barry Cruickshanks Chairman

Note;- See page 7 for the Newsletter Accounts for 2024/25.



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Upper Wensleydale Newsletter Accounts

March 1st 2024 to February 28th 2025

Income

Balances b/f	<u>13577.30</u>
Donations & postal subs	1057.00
Collection boxes	3731.55
Adverts	8614.00
Interest	156.57
Year's income	<u>13559.12</u>
Plus b/f	27136.42

Expenditure

•	
Production costs	8050.00
Distribution costs	795.58
Donations	4181.25
Committee expenses & comp services	726.44
Prizes (inc. story writing comp.)	426.40
Grant scheme for students	1200.00
Year's expenditure	15379.67
Balance c/f	11756.75

The accounts were examined and approved on March 17th 2025 by Alan McDonald.

This financial year we have increased our donations to local organisations and charities. A total of £3,100 was granted to help fund projects for Hawes Youth Club, Wensleydale Young Farmers, Askrigg Children's Activities, George's Garden Hawes and Low Mill. We would still like to help more local groups and societies so if your organisation is struggling to finance any local projects, please email us to apply for support. Through our monthly competitions, we donated to several local and national charities on behalf of our winners, these included Yorkshire Air Ambulance, Hawes Christmas Lights, Cave Rescue, Friends of the Friarage, Sycamore Activities and Blood Bikes. The Committee decided again donations to the Great North Air Ambulance Service and the Yorkshire Air Ambulance in lieu of sending Christmas cards.

The Children's Story Writing Competition was a great success again and this year children

from both Hawes and BAWB Schools entered stories in the higher age group. As there were so few entries in the lower age group we did not award prizes and will be challenging the younger children to write a poem in future. I would like to thank both primary schools for supporting the competition and our retiring judge Jane Huntington for her hard work for the last three years.

We have helped three college/university students with grants towards the cost of equipment and laptops this year. We would like to support more students in further/higher education, so if you know of anyone starting a course this autumn in need of support, please ask them to contact the newsletter.

I would like to thank our readers who enter our competitions, put a little extra in our collection boxes and send donations in with their subscriptions. I want to thank local businesses for advertising in the newsletter and can confirm that we will not be raising our advertising rates this year. We will however be raising our postal subscriptions to £16 from May 1st onwards to cover the cost of recent postage rises. Don't worry if you have already renewed your subscription this year at the old rate, there is no need to send any money to cover the difference. I would also like to thank Alan for examining the accounts for us.

We go forward again with a healthy bank balance, which should enable us to support more students and local projects in the future.

K.J.



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St. Oswald's Church, Askrigg, Tower Project

On **April 12th at 2:30pm**, the celebration of the completed Tower Project will take place at St Oswald's Church. Everyone is welcome and it would be lovely to see you there.

Some fourteen years ago our previous vicar Ann Chapman suggested that the tower should have a shelter coat as it had before 1853. We were rather uncertain as, although the National Park was in favour, we, like many others were accustomed to seeing a stone tower. However, we were forced to look more closely into the condition of the tower when our church architect, in one of the reports required every 5 years by the Church of England, said that before long the tower would need urgent attention. A second report 5 years later said the work was very urgent. The water ingress was such that the woodwork within the tower was rotten and the inside of the church was often flooded in bad weather. The ringing chamber was black with mould and green with algae and was no longer safe for the health of our bell ringers. We put a dehumidifier in the chamber to try to combat the damp and were dismayed by the amount of water which was collected. It was no longer possible to do nothing.

In order to do any work on a church multiple problems have to be navigated. You have to have a faculty, which is permission from the Church of England chancellor, then a QC in London, to do the work but you are not allowed to start until you have all the necessary money. To gain permission you have to have many documents stating what needs to be done, how it will be done and how it will be paid for. You obviously need to comply with all the planning regulations. All this is a tremendous amount of work particularly for a Grade 1 listed church.

Our church architect recommended a stone mason with whom he had worked on a number of occasions and discussions began. The shelter coat on the church had been removed in about 1853 by the Victorians who mistakenly believed that they were returning the building to its original medieval conditions. This removal exposed stone which was always meant to have been covered; some of the stone is Burtersett stone which is porous. The tower was examined minutely and fissures in the stone and cement pointing showed a tower that was in a very bad condition.

We took advice from a number organisations; English Heritage, The Society for the Preservation of Ancient Buildings and, particularly important, The Damp Tower Project which had been for some time monitoring the condition of towers which received a battering from the prevailing south west wind. This project was invaluable in advising the way forward. We received support from the Parish Council, displayed the necessary posters and got permission from the National Park. We could then apply for a faculty if we could prove we had the money. We received the faculty to last three years in 2019 and we all know what happened in 2020.

Luckily, we had two members of the congregation who worked incredibly hard to get grants. We were refused twice by the National Lottery, but managed to get a number of small grants and raised money ourselves in a variety of ways. However, we were still very short of what was needed. We were saved by a local charity The Elm House Trust. We applied to them with all the statistics and photographs and they very kindly decided to support us. It is largely due to them that we have been able to complete this project.

After much research and preliminary examination the masons were able to start work. The tower was cleaned both outside and in, and all the stonework examined.

It was a particular delight to get to know the team of masons and learn something of their craft. The craft of masonry has been passed down through generations and much of their work is similar to work done hundreds of years ago. Their pride and commitment was a delight to see as was their work at height in some testing



conditions. We cannot praise them too highly. It is a particular joy to see the mason's marks and to know that in the 21st century masons' marks are added to those existing in the church from hundreds of years ago. Our masons show the international side of such work as we have masons from France, Austria, Germany, America and the UK.

It is interesting that we have a model of the church as it would have been before 1853 and it is white. We have also seen a photo of an Askrigg clock where the four churches decorating the face are white. In order to make sure we kept as near as possible to the original colour and texture an example of the old shelter coat was sent for analysis and its colour, texture and content of the covering was analysed. The final shelter coat is made of Askrigg stone ground to a powder and mixed with lime and the colour is as near the original as possible.



The interior has been completely repaired and new wood installed. Plastic covering was used to protect the tower, and the masons, during the work and the drying out process; just as well when you think of the recent storms.

Already the church is drier and no longer smells musty. One of the masons, who went to Askrigg school, was delighted to report dust in the Ringing Chamber which we had never seen before, as it was always damp.

It has been a long fourteen years of hard work but at last the Tower has its shelter coat, the church will be dry and the bell ringers will ring in comfort.

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From Motorhome to Coffee Shop

When Sharon and Martin Demaine bought a motorhome 5 years ago they went to numerous places on holiday but the favourite that they kept returning to was Hawes. Originally from the Bolton area, Martin was a bus driver for 37 years whilst Sharon ran an off-licence.

One day whilst having a drink outside the Crown pub Martin saw the Little White Bus pull up across the street. Thinking how much better it would be driving in Wensleydale than in Bolton he crossed the road to ask the driver what might be the chances of him getting a job here. The driver was Dave Stephenson who informed him that he was planning to retire, so his job would become vacant in the next few months.

That was all the news Martin wanted to hear so he and Sharon decided that they should move to Hawes permanently. Then they spotted that The Folly Coffee Shop on the High Street was up for sale so they decided to buy it. They located the motorhome in the Hawes Caravan and Motorhome Park and Martin lived there for several months driving the Little White Bus whilst Sharon sold their house in Bolton.

Now they are established in Hawes living above The Folly which is open from **9.00am to 2.00pm every day but Wednesday.** Sharon runs the coffee shop getting her baking and meat products from Cocketts whilst Martin drives the Little White Bus. They have both been delighted with the warm welcome they have received from locals and they are keen to become part of the Hawes Community. On most Wednesdays Sharon nips back to Bolton to see their three grandchildren.

The Newsletter welcomes them to the area and wishes them every success in their new careers.

P.S. Does anybody want to buy a motorhome?

B.M.C.

Firewood

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Wensleydale Young Farmers so far...

From the whole of the club, we would like to say a massive thank you to the Upper Wensleydale Newsletter for the donation of £400 to our club. This donation has gone towards new Tug of War boots and insoles for training and upcoming competitions. We have men's, women's and junior tug of war teams. Our first competition is at the district rally on May 10th, held by Reeth Young Farmers up in Arkengarthdale. If any of our teams qualify, we will be through to the county finals on May 24th at Thirsk Auction Mart.

On Friday, December 13th, we had a lovely evening of eating, drinking and dancing at our annual dinner dance held for the first time at Wensleydale Rugby Club with outside catering from Graval Café which we could not fault. Everyone had a lovely evening and we raised over £2200 profit which will go towards our club.

On January 12th, as a club we gathered together to collect Christmas trees where the raised funds go towards our chosen charity 'Macular Society' and is close to our club. We started off in the morning from two teams, one starting in Hawes and the other in Leyburn. Trees were collected all over Wensleydale area and finished at Manor Farm café for a well-deserved feed.

On Friday, January 31st we held our annual winter domino drive at Carperby village hall for which we had a great attendance. We also

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announced our 'Dates in the Diary 2024' winners. 1st Mark Spence, 2nd Becky Woof and 3rd Margaret Iveson. We have started a new diary for 2025 for anyone to pick a date.

Meetings from this year included beef judging at Barninghams and sheep judging at Metcalfes. Rally meeting preparing for the upcoming rallies and we also had a Sepsis talk with Dorne Richardson on Tuesday, February 18th, which was a very informative evening and massive thanks for Dorne coming down to speak about the topic. We donated £700 to the Sepsis Trust UK from our tree collection which we did in January 2024.

Our March meeting was on Monday 17th at Carperby Pavillion with club games night and preparing for rallies.

New members can join in September 2025. If you're aged between 10 and 28, love rural life and want to get involved in something new, then Young Farmers is for you! You certainly don't need to be a farmer, in fact you don't even need to own a pair of wellies. Young Farmers' Clubs will give you a great social life, friends for life and an opportunity to learn new skills. Keep an eye out on our Wensleydale Young Farmer Club Facebook page or you can email wensleydaleyfc@gmail.com for more information.



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George's Garden

We would like to thank the Wensleydale Newsletter for their generous donation of £400 towards replanting George's Garden. This is the area between Gayle Lane car park and the lower Pennygarth car park in Hawes. The Dales Charity Bingo night team raised a brilliant £410.83 in January on our behalf. Thanks to The Fountain for hosting the night and to all those who came along to play. Finally, the Parish Council has also contributed £200 to the cause, so we now have over £1,000 to spend on suitable plants.

Richard Noble has kindly come up with a planting scheme for this rather tricky area and is obtaining the plants on our behalf. Hopefully you will see where we have been in the next couple of months!

Thanks again for all the support.

George's Garden Volunteers

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We Need You!

We would like to thank the Wensleydale We are a small group of volunteers who Newsletter for their generous donation of £400 help to maintain the top graveyard at St towards replanting George's Garden. This is the Margaret's Church in Hawes. This involves area between Gayle Lane car park and the lower mowing and strimming every couple of weeks Pennygarth car park in Hawes. The Dales or so (weather permitting).

We are getting short in numbers and are wondering if anyone out there would like to volunteer their services for a couple of hours. All equipment is provided and any help would be greatly appreciated.

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Hawes Market House

Our Market House is over 100 years old, that's how I start all our grant applications. It's brilliant that it's still running at a time when a lot of community buildings are falling into disrepair or closing through lack of use. It's great to see our building used by the community, but we do often hear "why do we need to pay to use a community building?"

The Market House costs over £700 a week to run. That's over £36,000 a year for just the basics; heating, lighting, electric, insurance, cleaning materials, waste removal, staffing and broadband. Without the £13,080 we received last year from community hires we couldn't operate the building. It's also a difficult juggling act to ensure we have both enough commercial users, but also enough space for community use. Our commercial users brought in £17,465 last year, again, without which we couldn't operate the building.

In an ideal world we would love to give our community groups free use of the Market House, but we do strive to keep the rates as low as possible. We have only increased the rates, on average, by 86p per year for under 5 hours, over the last 13 years.

"So why do you keep spending money on windows, insulation and fire alarms?"

All the big jobs in the Market House are either completed to improve the building or to meet legal requirements. We do some fundraising by running jumble sales and the Saturday markets, but these don't meet the cost of the work. Lots

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of time is spent applying for grants, and yet even then for every successful application another two have been rejected. We have been fortunate to receive grants from The National Lottery, The 2 Ridings Foundation, North Yorkshire Council and Newcastle Building Society to name a few. Since July 2022 we have received £62,860 in grants.

Without these grants the building would deteriorate and then likely close for safety reasons. The need for repairs never stops; this year we need to repair the west wall and chimney that is letting in damp, we have already had to replace the consumer units - oh, and the boiler in the kitchen that broke in the New Year!

We really appreciate the help you give us and the support of the community, and we aim to run the Market House for the community, supported by community use. Looking forward to another 100 plus years of Hawes Market House.

> Laura Dunn – Market House Manager On behalf of Market House Trustees

Dales Charity



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"A Brief History of Bainbridge"

This spring has seen the publication of a new book on the area called "A Brief History of Bainbridge". This is not an academic tome but a look at how the history of this small village is a microcosm of much of the history of Britain, and particularly the north of England.

The story of Bainbridge stretches back into the Iron Age and each succeeding invasion into these isles has left a unique mark on the history of this village. The waves of change which engulf the country, are mirrored in a smaller way in the locality, from the changes in land management and use through to the start of the industrial revolution and into the current post-industrial society, built on service industries and particularly, in Bainbridge, on tourism.

The book has been written by Tim Binns who owns a cottage in Bainbridge. When he first bought the cottage eight years ago, he became interested in the local history of Bainbridge and his enquiries and research is accumulated into this brief book.

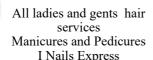
The book is on sale from The Village Shop, Sycamore Hall, Bainbridge priced at £10.00 with £5.00 of every sale going to Yorkshire Air Ambulance.

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Middleham and The Dales Local History Group

Wednesday, April 16th, 2.00pm at Harmby Village Hall

History of Lead Mining in Upper Swaledale by Helen Guy

Our talk covers the history of lead mining in Upper Swaledale from Roman times. Topics include methods of mining, the roles of women and children in the mines, the lives of miners and their families, and the decline of the industry in the late 1800s. The talk is accompanied by a PowerPoint slide presentation.

Helen Guy is the Curator of the Old School Museum in Keld and Project Manager of Keld Resource Centre, a charity based at the top of Swaledale which aims to preserve its traditions and heritage and share this rich local history with visitors.

Members, new members and visitors are always welcome. Annual membership is £12 for 9 meetings and visitors can attend for £3 per meeting. For more information contact **Tony Keates 01969 640436**, or dotandtonyk@btinternet.com.

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Thank You

Shirley Pratt would like to thank family and friends for their kindness and generosity following her recent accident. xx

Edward and Judith Metcalfe

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5th April 2025

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Hawes Junction Chapel

Easter Sunday Service

April 20th at 2.30pm.

With Rev. Andy Burgess, Vicar of Sedbergh.



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BAWB School News

We are almost at the end of the second half of the Spring Term at BAWB, and wow it has been jam-packed (literally!). We celebrated World Book Day with a Mad Hatter's Tea Party, and oh boy, was it a success! Our children made 'Queen of Hearts Jam Tarts' using donated jam from Fearne & Rosie, and our wonderful parents donated lots of delicious treats! We raised over £400 for our wonderful PTFA – thank you to all those who took part and made such a fabulous afternoon.

Next week we are welcoming Stuart Robinson to Askrigg Primary School – Stuart is a former RAF Regiment commander, who transitioned from leading troops to leading on the wheelchair rugby court after an injury in Afghanistan in 2013. Our children will be taking part in fitness circuits led by Stuart, and then take part in a Q and A session with him at the end! We can't wait!

We hope you all have a wonderful Easter. With best wishes.

The BAWB Team



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Make your Verges -**Living Verges** #NoMowMay

The last 80 - 90 years have seen the acceleration of a biodiversity emergency in the UK as more intensive farming – driven by farming policy – has eroded our once prevalent hay meadows. Species-rich meadows are not only more resistant to climate change and store more carbon than non-biodiverse grasslands, but they also support hundreds of varieties of plants, myriad insect life and dozens of bird species.

The good news is that there is something we can all do to help and prevent further decline in

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www.nhflooring.co.uk 01748 822834 Unit 6 Borough Court, Borough Road, Richmond. DL10 4SX biodiversity – we can look to protect and enhance those former strips and remnants of traditional grassland that have survived as roadside verges. The principles of nature positive verge management are simple:

- Cut verges or other village grassland no later than April and clear cuttings away to prevent the build-up of thatch, which increases soil nitrogen levels and can encourage docks, nettles and thistles to take hold:
- Do not cut the grass between May and August (inclusive) to allow plants to flower and set seed:
- If cutting can't be avoided, consider mowing paths or narrow edge strips but leave some areas uncut as a wildlife refuge. This can also help to address concerns about untidiness and safety:
- Remove invasive weeds (nettles, thistles, docks) by chopping down/uprooting, not spraying;
- Do a second cut in September clearing all cuttings away;

In other words, Cut Less, Cut Later, Takeaway!

We have several resources available on our website to help you get started. Visit Friends of the Dales website to access: Village Guide; Monthly Planner; Link to a campaign video by our Living Verges campaign champion, Dr Anne Readshaw and a 'No Mow' sign you can print off to let your neighbours know that you are managing verges for nature.

know if we 1118 inspire change of approach - and please send any photos of any botanically rich verges and grassland you encourage! For all questions, comments and feedback, please victoria.benn@friendsofthedales.org.uk.

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Blueboxt April Update

Community Events:

Coffee Morning – **Friday, April 11th** at Leyburn Methodist Church Hall. Pop along for a cuppa and a chat. There'll also be a raffle and cake stall.

Spring Lunch – Sunday, April 27th at Leyburn Methodist Church Hall - 12.30pm for 1.00pm. Entertainment will be provided by vocalists Gail Barlow and Colin Bailey. Tickets are £15 which includes welcome drink, two course meal with Tea and Coffee.

VE Day - 80th Anniversary Commemorative Concert - Sunday, May 11th at St. Matthew's Church - 2.00pm (doors open 1.30pm). As part of a week long programme of FREE events coordinated by Leyburn Town Council, BlueBoxt joins community organisations and representatives in a concert of hope, peace, thankfulness and light.

Activities and Workshops:

Easter Activity Afternoons - Join the BlueBoxt team for an afternoon of creative fun for ages from 4 to 14 years old. Two Sessions will be taking place from 1.00pm to 5.00pm on Thursday, April 10th and Friday, April 11th



Visitor Centre Open Daily Cheesy Afternoon Tea

Try our Cheesy Afternoon Tea for Two at Calvert's Restaurant. Featuring a range of sweet & savoury cheesy goodness for just £17 per person.

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wensleydale.co.uk

at Leyburn Methodist Church Hall, DL8 5AT. Registration costs £20 per child, per session which Includes healthy snacks and Teatime meal. Free FEAST Voucher places are available (issued through schools or North Yorkshire Together).

We've loads of egg-citing activities to take part in. Our Crafty Crafters will be making Easter cards and decorating tasty treats. There'll be games and egg and spoon races for our Team Players, not forgetting egg-tastic treasure hunts for our Scavenger Squads and if the weather is egg-straordinarily kind, we will be outdoors too for nature walks and a trip to the local play park. Our Melody Makers and Stage Stars will be creating egg-cellent music and drama and, our Culinary Cadets will be helping us to whisk up some nutritious eggy snacks too!

To find out more or book places for our events and activities visit www.wensleydale.org or contact Colin Bailey on: 01969 745810/07711 21169 or email: info@wensleydale.org.

News:

Get Musical - 14 children aged 6 - 11 years took part in workshops and gave a sharing celebration performance for family and friends. The sessions were made possible with funding support from AMP, Youth Music and Arts Council England.

FEAST Award – our activity sessions held during the Summer and Christmas holidays has been acknowledged with an award for our contribution to Health and Wellbeing and Healthy Eating. Well done to the delivery team for their dedication and hard work.

Community Consultation - Enterprise and Creative Hub Feasibility Study - 106 people took the time to respond to our community survey which forms part of our feasibility study mapping cultural assets and community need across Wensleydale and Swaledale. This has provided us with a solid evidence base and informed the draft recommendations.

Ryedale Creative have been commissioned to undertake the research which has been funded by the UK Strategic Prosperity Fund. Interviews with community and business representatives are nearing completion and the draft study prepared for final consideration by the steering group. At which point, we will be able to present the results and options for developing an enterprise and creative hub to support rural arts provision and career pathways for employment.

Sycamore Community Cinema

Following the refurbishment at Sycamore Hall in Bainbridge, we now have a dedicated TV Room/Small Cinema with a large screen TV, funded by donations from Bainbridge Parish Council and the Upper Wensleydale Newsletter.

Having been fortunate to be awarded grant funding, we now plan to open this as a Community Cinema for those who live in the local area as well as residents at Sycamore Hall.

If you would like to be on our mailing list to receive updates on our film showings etc, please send your contact details by email to coatiebarn@outlook.com or see Karen or Sonja at Sycamore Hall.

We hope to launch the cinema in the next couple of months but due to the size of the facility, it will be pre-booked tickets only, so being on the mailing list will ensure you don't miss out!

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Bainbridge Women's Institute

Our members have had another busy month - I don't think they know how to do anything else! Our diaries are always so busy with numerous opportunities and sometimes it is hard to fit in everything we want to do!

March saw members of our Garden Group pay a visit to Crook Hall where they enjoyed some fabulous weather. The Walking Group also had good weather for a walk from West Burton before adjourning to the Tea Room there for some light refreshment. The lunching ladies went as far as The Middle House Askrigg for their meeting at the end of February where they enjoyed a delicious meal.

At our March meeting we welcomed Sarah Binks-Lambert from the Dales Countryside Museum who talked to us about knitting sticks in the Dales. There was a time when everyone (men and women!) walked around with a stick under their arm or in their belt knitting! Hard to believe now - most people these days would already have a phone in one hand and couldn't manage to knit too! It was fascinating to learn about these amazing sticks and to see examples of some that are held in the Museum.

We held another successful Soup and Sweet Lunch at Bainbridge Village Hall where there were several choices of delicious homemade soups and sweets to choose from. In April, we will be hosting the senior members of our community for our Annual Community Lunch which we provide free of charge to those who qualify. This is always eagerly awaited and enjoyed by those who are lucky enough to get an invite.

Members of our Theatre Group went along to the Georgian Theatre Royal in Richmond to see 'Inn at the Top' - a tale about the famous Tan Hill Inn in the 1970s. We now await details of their next outing.

Our April meeting will take place at Bainbridge Village Hall on **Thursday**, **April 17th at 7.30pm** when we are holding a MEMBERS ONLY event. This is going to be a workshop with Shannon McIntyre where we will be making an Easter flower arrangement. Goodness knows how that will turn out but it should be fun! Hopefully, Shannon will be very patient with us - and on hand to rescue our creations! If you want to join us for this event, you will need to officially join our WI and pay the subscription but we are always ready to welcome new members and can offer you a huge range of activities and friendship.

Our subscriptions for the next year are now due and, with a subsidy from our own funds, the cost will be £39. This represents excellent value for money as we do not just offer a monthly meeting but membership also entitles you to join any of our Clubs (Book, Craft, Garden, IT, Lunch, Walking and Theatre). 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 07816-955-723. We would be delighted to welcome you and can assure you of a warm welcome, lots of fun and plenty of opportunities.

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Join the Swaledale Festival Team

It's really rewarding being involved with something that is successful and provides pleasure to lots of people. It's even better if it also brings visitors and revenue to the Dales.

Many worthwhile organisations in the Dales aim to do all of that - and Swaledale Festival is one of them. We know that the Festival is popular; our track record of excellent ticket sales bears witness to that. Two weeks of music. arts and walking clearly appeal to locals and visitors from near and far.

The Festival is now entering an exciting phase in its fifty-plus year history, with our new Artistic Director having recently joined.

To help us continue taking the Festival from strength to strength, we'd like to add some additional Board members to our team. We'd love to hear from you, particularly if you have knowledge, experience and expertise in fundraising. Other useful areas of experience would be HR and IT. What would you get out of it? The sense of satisfaction that comes from contributing to a professional and well-run organisation, working with a stimulating bunch of people and having a lot of fun.

informal chat or to find more, please contact our Chairman, Sue Miller on 01748 886358 or email chairman@swalefest.org.

West Burton Art Group Easter Exhibition

West Burton Art Group will be holding its annual Easter exhibition on Saturday, April 19th and Sunday, April 20th, from 10.00am to 4.00pm.

The group, founded 22 years ago, meets every Wednesday morning in West Burton Village Hall (DL8 4JY). The



artists, from around the upper dales, use oils, acrylics, watercolours and even locally gathered sheep wool to produce outstanding works of art, most of which are for sale at very competitive prices.

There is no charge for entry and free refreshments are available. Donations are invited for Herriot Hospice Homecare charity which we have supported for many years.

APRIL WHATS ON LISTING; please add these dates to your Diary

April

- 4 Dominoes. Carperby Institute. 7.30pm.
- 5 Pop-up Craft Shop. Redmire Village Hall. 10.30am. See p.19.
- 9 Bingo. Hawes Market Hall, 7.00pm. See p.12 & 33.
- 12 Askrigg Church Tower Project Celebraion. 2.30pm. See p.8.
- 12 Concert. Reeth Memorial Hall. 8.00pm. See p.22.
- 12 Fish and Chips Train. Wensleydale Railway.
- 16 Local History Group talk. Harmby Village Hall. 2.00pm. See p.13.
- 16 Penhill Ladies Meeting. Carperby Village Hall. 7.30pm. See p.35.
- 17 Bainbridge WI Meeting. Bainbridge Village Hall. 7.30pm. See p.18.
- 19 & 20 Art Exhibition. West Burton Village Hall. 10.00am. See p.19.
- 20 Afternoon Tea Train. Wensleydale Railway. 2.30pm.
- 25 Concert. Middleham Church. 7.30pm. See p.25,
- 26 Concert. Leyburn Methodist Hall. 7.30pm. See p.25.
- 26 Gin Train Experience. Wensleydale Railway.

Ride2Stride Festival

Tuesday, April 29th -Monday, May 5th

The week-long annual festival of walks, talks and music at venues along the Settle-Carlisle railway starts this month.

There is a varied programme of daytime and evening events, including a 15 mile guided walk starting from Garsdale station on **Saturday**, **May 3rd**. This longest walk on the programme departs at **9.21am** (after the arrival of the trains from Leeds and Carlisle). The walk finishes at Dent station for return trains to starting points.

All R2S walks are free and start and finish at a station on the Settle-Carlisle line. See www.ride2strid.co.uk for full programme and prices.



News from Dales Countryside Museum

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

Contact: <u>hawes@yorkshiredales.org.uk</u> or call **01969 666210**.

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

Visitors are loving the variety of work in this exhibition. Come along and enjoy discovering the Pennine Way through film, art, music and writing. If you've memories of the Pennine Way, you can share these in the exhibition too.

Yorkshire Dales Young Archaeologists' Club:

The club meets once a month on a Saturday morning, **10.00am** - **noon**. At our meeting in March, we made medieval gingerbread in various shapes, even "gilding" some pieces! 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 **April 5th.** Please call **01969 666210** or email dcm@yorkshiredales.org.uk if your child might be interested in joining us.

Education and community engagement:

We're thrilled to be part of The HERDS. This is an international creative initiative on an unprecedented scale — an ambitious coming together of culture and climate action. We'll be working with Rural Arts to deliver creative puppet making sessions for school children and hope to create environmental textiles with other groups. To check out The HERDS project go to www.theherds.org.

Here are the DCM events coming up in April.

Events are included in the Museum admission unless otherwise stated and bookings can be made via hawes@yorkshiredales.org.uk unless otherwise stated.

Family Activity Event - Plant Heather:

Wednesday, April 2nd, 1.00pm - 4.00pm.

Find out all about the Pennine Way in our latest exhibition and then join us in planting your own heather to take home. Time slots allocated on arrival

Hands on History - Board games through time:

Thursday, April 3rd, 1.00pm - 4.00pm.

Find out about the history of boardgames and have a go playing games from over 2000 years ago! Time slots allocated on arrival.

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

Friday, April 4th, 10.00am - 3.00pm.

Come and chat all things Pennine Way with Sally, one of the contributors to the exhibition, and find out about how and why she made her pieces.

Recipes and Remedies from the museum archives:

Tuesday, April 8th, 10.00am - 4.00 pm.

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.

Family Activity Event - Clay Field Barns: Wednesday, April 9th, 1.00pm - 4.00pm.

Find out all about the Pennine Way in our latest exhibition and then make your own iconic field barn from clay in our family session. Time slots allocated on arrival.

Hands on History - Rope Making: Thursday, April 10th, 1.00pm - 4.00pm.

Find out about the traditional craft of rope making and have a go making your own rope bracelets. Time slots allocated on arrival.

FDCM talk - Nigel Metcalfe - The work of a National Park Ranger:

Friday, April 11th, 7.30pm - 9.00pm.

Donations welcome.

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

Saturday, April 12th, 10.00am - 3.00pm.

See April 4th.

Walling demo:

Tuesday, April 15th, 11.00am - 3.00pm.

Drop in event.

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

Friday, April 18th, 10.00am - 3.00pm.

See April 4th.

Walling demo:

Tuesday, April 22nd, 11.00am - 3.00pm.

Drop in event.

Pennine Way Walk

Tuesday, April 22nd, 11.00am - 3.00pm.

£6. Booking essential

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

Thursday, April 24th, 10.00am - 3.00pm.

See April 4th.

Lines and Lino Workshop:

Friday, May 2nd, 10.00am - 4.00pm.

Printmaker Sally from @ashfordcottagedesign will lead a day workshop on mark making which will result in lino cutting a simple print. This is suitable for beginners or anyone who enjoys the beautiful process of mark making and wishes to have a lovely morning playing with textures and making a small lino print in the afternoon. Bring along any locally foraged treasures or images that you want to work with. This will form the basis of your artwork which will form a postcard sized print.

£50 Booking essential

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Supporting Farmers with Natural Flood management

A huge thank you to the farmers, landowners, and community members who joined us at our recent events. Your engagement is vital in shaping natural flood management (NFM) solutions that benefit both local communities and the wider landscape.

On March 10th, we welcomed farmers and landowners to a Pie and Peas Night in Reeth, where we explored opportunities for fully funded NFM projects, expert advice on grants. and support for SFI applications. It was great to see so many conversations sparked, and we're especially grateful to Nick Prince, landowner and farmer at the Cragg and Carr, for sharing his experience of NFM in action. At his farm at East Birkrigg, Appersett, he has implemented leaky dams, scrapes, and tree planting, demonstrating how NFM can help slow the reduce flood risk. and support biodiversity while maintaining productive farmland.

Ousewem continues to work in partnership with the Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, and Nidderdale National Landscape, alongside local farmers, to deliver effective NFM solutions across the region. If you have wet or hard-to-farm areas, we'd love to explore how we can support tailored NFM solutions for your land. To find out more, visit www.ousewem.co.uk, email ousewemdelivery@ydrt.co.uk or call us on 01423 714841.



Reeth Memorial Hall

We have a varied programme of concerts lined up for 2025. There will be Blues, Roots, Folk, World Music and Tributes. All details on our recently refreshed website

Saturday, April 12th – Sam Kelly Duo: Eclectic arrangements of traditional folk songs, seamlessly interspersed with stunning original music, inspired by a passion for Celtic music and love for the heavy riffs of classic rock and blues. Tickets £18 (£20 door).

Friday, May 16th – Guy Davis: American Roots musician Guy Davis blends Blues, Roots and Folk music to comment on, and address, the frustrations of social injustice and common life struggles. Tickets £15 (£17 door).

Saturday, May 31st – NE Street Band: The 5-piece band perform all the classic Springsteen hits and also cover all genres of his back catalogue - including fan favourites, rarities, iconic covers, solo and stripped back acoustic versions. Tickets £15 (£17 door).

Coming in July: Baldy Holly Band (50's covers) and later in the month The Abba Girls Band.

Tickets for concerts are available from Reeth PO or phone **Glen Steward 01748 884989** or visit www.reethmemorialhall.co.uk. Tickets half price for under16s.

All concerts 8.00pm unless otherwise stated.

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The children in Dalesplay have had lots of fun this month constructing. The role play area was



transformed into a workshop and the children worked together using the different tools to create many masterpieces. They designed them first on the whiteboard before putting their

plans into action. The team work was incredible.

They have been celebrating St Patricks Day and made clovers using natural green materials they found outdoors on a nature walk. They have been sorting colours and learning colour names whilst matching them to the rainbow and counting the golden coins in the pot at the end of the rainbow. The ducklings made a giant rainbow picture exploring the paint with different tools, including their feet. They had lots of fun whilst learning.

We dressed up in pyjamas and as favourite book characters to celebrate World Book Day. We had lots of different interactive displays based around some of our favourite stories for the children to play in and re-enact the story.

You can keep up to date with what the children have been doing on our Facebook page; 'Dalesplay'.

We are now taking bookings for September when the government introduces the 30 hours for children of working parents from the term after they turn 9 months old. For more information to see if your child is eligible, please visit www.childcarechoices.gov.uk. Let us know if you would like your child to attend



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Dalesplay to secure your place. We offer the hours term time or stretched and can help talk you through it. We also offer paid sessions, term time only, holiday time only, or all year round for children 3 months up to 12 years. We are a charity run setting with a group of voluntary directors from different professions. Their expertise helps run the setting whilst keeping childcare affordable for families in the Dales. Dalesplay is Ofsted graded 'Good' and has a gold award from NYCC for healthy early years. All our staff are at least level 3 qualified with safeguarding training and paediatric first aid to provide the best care for children. Get in touch if you would like more information or a look around dalesplay1@btconnect.com **01969 667789** and ask for Louise or Joanne.





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The Little White Car, part of UDCP Ltd

The Little White Car community health transport scheme is a volunteer-driven initiative designed to assist

residents in the Upper Dales area. The service is open to any eligible resident who lives between Garsdale Station, Hawes and Askrigg, Aysgarth, West Burton and surrounding villages.

The goal is to provide affordable transport to allow easy access to medical and social care appointments not currently served by public transport. Piloted in April 2023 by The Upper Cales Community Partnership (UDCP) Ltd, we have had great support not only from volunteers and patients, but also from North Yorkshire Council in the form of a grant that allows us to lease the Little White Car. Now entering our third year, we have been awarded a further grant from North Yorkshire Council's Net Zero fund, which is allowing us to purchase our own electric and wheel-chair accessible vehicle look out for more news on this coming soon.

Key Features of the Scheme

- Volunteer Drivers: The scheme relies on a dedicated group of volunteers who offer their time to help transport community members to medical appointments and health-related activities. Where we have multiple appointments booked, we also rely on members of our Little White Bus team to help out.
- Accessibility: The scheme is designed specifically for individuals who may have difficulty using public transport due to health issues, age, or simply because there is no public transport in their area.
- Local Focus: The program serves the Upper Dales area, ensuring that transportation is tailored to the needs of the local population. We can take you to medical appointments in Richmond, Northallerton, Middlesborough, Darlington and potentially some hospitals in Cumbria also.
- Charges: Return prices are as follows from any location served by The Little White Car:
- The Friary, Richmond £15
- The Friarage, Northallerton £25
- James Cook, Middlesbrough £35

Prices to other locations can be provided on request. You may be able to travel for free or at

a reduced cost if you receive certain benefits. You will be asked about this when you book.

Benefits of the Little White Car Scheme

- Improved Health Access: By providing transportation, the scheme helps ensure that residents can attend medical appointments, thereby improving their overall health outcomes.
- Community Support: The involvement of local volunteers fosters a sense of community and support, enhancing social ties among residents.
- Reduced Isolation: The scheme helps combat social isolation by encouraging interaction between volunteers and passengers, promoting a more connected community.

How to Get Involved

- Become a Volunteer Driver: If you have a valid driving license and are willing to offer your time, please consider joining the volunteer team. You may use our Little White Car, or if you prefer to use your own vehicle we can reimburse your travel expenses at the rate of 45p per mile. We ask that you undergo a DBS check and that you have the relevant car insurance (we can talk you through this).
- Spread the Word: Inform friends, family, and neighbours about the scheme, especially those who might benefit from the service.
- Request a Ride: If you or someone you know requires transportation for health appointments, reach out to the Little White Car scheme for assistance.

The Little White Car community health transport scheme plays a vital role in enhancing health access and fostering community spirit in the Upper Dales.

If you would like to make a donation towards

any of the Community
Support work
provided by UDCP
Ltd's Good Life
projects, please get in
touch:

Tel: 01969 667400 option 5, email: hello@udcp.co.uk or scan the QR code!

website: www.udcp.co.uk





Local Choirs Join Together

Voice Choir from Cornwall next month.

On Friday, April 25th, Leyburn Ladies Choir and Thornton Watless Choir will join the Did you know that we are active in making Cornish Choir at Middleham Church for a Leyburn a better place. We organise a regular concert at 7.30nm.

On Saturday, April 26th, East Witton Male Voice Choir will join with the Cornishmen at Leyburn Methodist Hall at 7.30pm.

On Friday, May 9th, at 7.30pm, East Witton Male Voice Choir will give a special 75th Anniversary concert with Guest Choir, Levburn Ladies Choir, at St.John's Church East Witton.

Everyone is welcome to join us.



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Leyburn and District u3a

Two local choirs will be joined by Pelynt Male There is no talk on Friday, April 18th as it's Good Friday and Leyburn Arts and Community Centre (LACC) is closed.

> litter pick on the second Wednesday of the month, and some members are involved in the Better Leyburn Group which has recently refurbished the market shelter and has an ongoing programme of town centre benches improvement. Other members have planted wild flowers and revitalised green areas and work in the LACC community garden.

> To find out more about the Leyburn and District u3a and to contact us, check out our new website www.levburn.u3asite.UK.

> The next meeting is our AGM on May 16th and our next talk in June is from Steve Erskine of the Green Howard's Museum. For details contact the Membership Secretary via the website.

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Hawes School News

Science week: For National Science Week the children enjoyed something a bit different to enhance their science learning. They used 'Now Press Play' - audio headsets that took the children on an interactive adventure to enhance their science learning. Class 2 used forces to

help prevent a super villain from succeeding their evil schemes. Class 1 have audio adventure through the seasons. They've been a lot of fun!



THANK YOU: We are extremely grateful to Hawes Toll Trustees for their very generous donation of £1,500 towards the cost of the residential trip in June for all KS2 children. Also to Hawes PTFA who gave £1,500 for the residential. This greatly reduces the cost to parents for the 3-day residential trip to Buckden Outdoor Centre.

Christmas.

from their successful shopping days before

World Book Day: Thanks all children, staff and parent for such a lovely World Book Day. The highlight was definitely all

We are also very grateful to Gayle Mill Woodcraft Studio Trustees, for their grant of

£500 toward the cost of new desktop and laptop

computers for the school, which they raised

reading together in the hall and watching the WBD videos and spotting all the books we know and love! There was also book making, lots of book talk and even a book river in KS2! We all felt super cosy in our PJs too! The children went home with a free WBD book. with thanks to Claire at the Wonky Tree Bookshop in Leyburn for coming in this morning so they could all choose their favourite.



The Iron Maiden

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Local Businesses Support School's Gardening Club

The Wensleydale School's Gardening Club is flourishing thanks to the generous backing of two local businesses, Metcalfe Farms and The Forbidden Corner. Both organisations have stepped in to provide essential donations that have equipped students to grow their skills, teamwork, and confidence.

Metcalfe Farms has donated 12 fleece jackets, 20 high-vis jackets, pallets, screws, and a load of manure to the club. Meanwhile, The Forbidden Corner has gifted greenhouses and plastic pots, giving students the tools they need to expand their gardening projects.

Philip Metcalfe of Metcalfe Farms says, "We had no hesitation donating the clothing and other items upon request to The Wensleydale School Gardening Club. Metcalfe Farms tries to support as many projects in the local community as possible, especially where young people are involved, which is important to us."

Running four days a week during enrichment time, the club has become a hub of practical learning and creativity. Led by five committed Year 10 Garden Leaders, 15-20 students from all year groups come together daily to tackle projects such as building hedgehog houses, taking cuttings, and selling seeds to staff. Students learn how to use drills, saws, and other tools, and develop teamwork and communication skills, regardless of ability level.



Kate Huitson, Teacher of Geography and Gardening Club lead, says, "What started as an experiment after Covid, when we planted a memorial garden for James Ashcroft, has grown into something truly special. Gardening has provided a space for students to reconnect, learn new skills, and take pride in their work. And it's wonderful to see them bringing these skills home and into the community."

Beyond the school gates, the students' green

fingers are making an impact. Last year, they planted 1,000 crocus bulbs along the embankment opposite the school for Purple Uniform Day to raise awareness for polio, and are working with a local expert on wildflower planting. A collaboration with the National Parks is also in the pipeline, and a visit to Metcalfe Farms is planned for summer. Students are also taking their new-found skills home, working on gardens with their families, bringing in equipment from home, and even sharing their knowledge at local youth clubs.

Call for Donations: Help Complete the Greenhouse!

The Gardening Club's latest project involves joining two greenhouses together to create one giant structure. However, they urgently need donations of sheets of perspex to complete it before the winds blow out the remaining panes of glass. If any businesses can provide perspex sheets or have unused COVID screens they no longer need, the school would be grateful. These materials will allow students to glaze the roof and walls, making the greenhouse windproof and ensuring their gardening projects can thrive year-round.

If you can help with donations or would like to support the Gardening Club in any way, please contact Kate Huitson at kate.huitson@wensleydaleschool.net.

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Penhill Benefice

Church Services: In case of bad weather, please check our website at penhillbenefice.co.uk/services for updates. There will be a Telephone Service each Sunday at 9.30am. Dial 0333 0110 946 and enter room number 61337190# and PIN 7450# (local charges apply).

Sunday, April 6th:

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, April 13th Palm Sunday:

10.30am Penhill Together Family Service for all ages, St. Mary's, Redmire.

(Breakfast in the Village Hall at 9.00am following procession to church)

Holy Week Lent Reflections in Church at 7.00pm

Monday 14th: St Margaret's,

Preston under Scar.

Tuesday 15th: St Bartholomew's, West Witton.

Wednesday 16th: St Mary's, Redmire.

Maundy Thursday, April 17th:

7.00pm Holy Communion in Thornton Rust Mission Room

Good Friday, April 18th - Witness of the Cross:

Starting at **8.55am** The Cross is Blessed and the pilgrimage begins at **9.00am** outside the church at Preston under Scar. Travelling around the villages as follows:

9.25am Redmire High Green.

9.55am Castle Bolton Millennium Seat.

10.25am Carperby Cross.

11.05am Thornton Rust Outside Village Hall.

11.35am Thoralby Upper Green.

Noon Newbiggin Waterfall.

12.30pm West Burton Market Cross.

1.25pm West Witton opp. Wensleydale Heifer.

2:00pm - Aysgarth village on the Green.

Good Friday Church Services

9.15am St Mary's, Preston under Scar.

2.00pm St Bartholomew's, West Witton.

2.30pm St Andrew's, Aysgarth.

Sunday, April 20th Easter Day

9.30am Holy Communion,

St. Margaret's, Preston under Scar.

9.30am Holy Communion,

St. Mary's, Redmire.

11.00am Family Communion with activities, St. Andrew's, Aysgarth.

11.00am Holy Communion,

St. Bartholomew's, West Witton.

Sunday, April 27th:

9.30am Holy Communion,

St. Bartholomew's, West Witton..

11.00am Morning Prayer,

St. Andrew's, Aysgarth.

4.00pm Evening Prayer,

Thornton Rust Mission Room.

April Mid-Week Services:

Thursday, 10th and 24th at 9.30am.

Holy Communion,

St. Bartholomew's, West Witton.

Church Coffee Morning: Wednesday April 2nd, 10.30am to noon at Redmire Village Hall.

Church Afternoon Tea: Wednesday, April 16th, from 2.00pm to 4.00pm at Redmire Village Hall.

Easter Lilies: If you wish to buy a lily for £5 in memory of a loved one, please give your details to Dayle Williams (01969 625094 West Witton) or Liz Piper (01969 663747 Aysgarth) by Thursday 10th April.

The Churches will use the lilies to decorate their altars with masses of Easter Lilies, to commemorate the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the promise of life everlasting.

Tuesday Hawes Fish Market

Also door to door delivery every **Friday**. Pre-order or just turn up on a **Friday** at

Askrigg Stone Cross. 9.30am to 10.45am Bainbridge playground. 11.00am to 11.30am

West Burton 12noon to 12.30pm Thornton Rust W.I. Hall 12.45pm to 1.00pm Mobile 07711 989590

> Facebook Hawesfishmarket; Email Hawesfishmarket@gmail.com

News From Sycamore Hall

Another month has flown by and we are now eagerly awaiting the longer and warmer days -hopefully! Doreen is busy tidying the garden and some residents are venturing out for a walk on the nicer days. We hope for the chance to sit outside before too long!

Meanwhile, we are keeping busy inside with our regular activities and some new ones. Julia held a St Patrick's Day quiz which demonstrated just how little we knew about Ireland's Patron Saint! Still, it was fun and we enjoyed seeing Julia and Chris dressed as leprechauns!

Some of our residents are taking part in a project with the Dales Countryside Museum to record their memories of growing up, living and working in the Dales. These memories will be stored for future generations and will provide a fascinating record of times gone by in the Dales.

Lisa and Andrew are settling into the restaurant and looking to broaden their offering to residents and the wider community. See the separate article about them on page 36.

We have enjoyed some dance demonstrations from Jack and his dance partner, Evie, which were great. We also saw one of Lisa's dance classes - and one of our residents really enjoyed joining in!

We are now looking forward to one of Sonja and Karen's Vintage Afternoon Teas in April and also an afternoon of 'Songs from the Musicals' which should be really good.

Don't forget to put your name down for the mailing list for our new community cinema which will be launching shortly. We need your contact details in order to be able to let you know what is showing and when, so either email coatiebarn@outlook.com or call in to see Sonja or Karen at Sycamore Hall.

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Meanwhile, don't forget our regular activities which you are welcome to join us for:-

Mondays at 2.00pm - 'Knit and Natter' and Dominoes;

Tuesdays at 10.30am - Bingo or Quiz;

Tuesdays at 2.00pm - Dominoes;

Thursdays at 10.30am - Coffee Morning;

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

Dominoes is quite often held on additional afternoons, so please check before coming to join us.

Monthly services take place with Revd Dave Clark and the local Methodist Preachers. Please check for dates each month.

Our other independent businesses are open, as usual. 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. Come and visit us to see our range!

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 until 7.00pm.

Come and pay us a visit - you don't know what you are missing!

If you have any queries or would like to discuss the availability of apartments, please contact the Manager, Nicky Cooper, on 0370-192-4055.



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Upper Wensleydale Benefice Services in April

Stalling				
	St Mary & St John's, Hardraw 9.00am	St Margaret's, Hawes 10.30am	St Oswald's, Askrigg 10.30am	St Matthew's, Stalling Busk 2.30pm
April 4th	Communion at Sycamore Hall			
April 6th	The Gathering – Family Communion, St Oswald's Church 10.30am			
April 13th	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion	Café Style	Soup followed by Family Communion 12.30pm
April 17th Maundy Thursday			6.15pm Benefice Supper followed by 7.15pm Communion	
April 18th Good Friday		10.30am Walk of Witness from Gayle Chapel to Hawes 11.30am Service		2.00pm Walk from Semerwater to Stalling Busk 3.00pm Hot Cross Buns
April 20th	6.00am Daybreak Service at Semerwater including baptisms			
Easter Sunday	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	
April 27th	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Afternoon Prayer and Pathfinders 3.15pm

Evening Prayer by telephone is held at **4.00pm** every Sunday. For details see the website www.upperwensleydalechurch.org/services

Hawes Amateur Operatic Society

Hawes Amateur Operatic Society would like to thank their fabulous audiences for making our recent Babes in the Wood panto such a success. Thanks also to those who knitted snowballs for the audience to throw at the baddy, Baron van Rentle - great job!

We are grateful to the local businesses who gave donations and supported our souvenir programme. The lucky programme number was 353 and the hamper, kindly donated by Wensleydale Creamery, has been claimed and no doubt enjoyed! We were happy to invite residents from Sycamore Hall to our dress rehearsal and grateful for their kind donation.

We couldn't do any of this without our magnificent cast and crew. If you would like to get involved with our next panto, please join us on **Monday, May 12th at 7.00pm** in the Fountain back room. There's lots of fun both on and off stage to be part of! A warm welcome awaits all.



'Hope Channel'

The clocks have advanced an hour and the signs and sounds of Spring are invading the landscape once again. I love the riot of colour that the daffodils bring to our banks and verges and the way the fields bounce back into life as the pace of lambing increases.

'When nature resumes her loveliness, the human soul is apt to revive also' writes Harriet Ann Jacobs.

Spring heralds hope; a hope that winter is behind and better things lie ahead and when the national and international news seems to bring us a daily dose of the opposite, it's good to keep that hope alive. "What we need", said a lady to me recently, "is a good news channel". For the billions of Christians across the world today, Easter, and the celebration of a resurrected Jesus is precisely that. God has opened up a 'good news' channel of Hope and, unlike the season, it's a hope that doesn't end because it's an endless hope and millions of people every day, those living in Wenslevdale. including experience it for the very first time. Our Easter morning daybreak service on the shore of Semerwater will celebrate this truth with 2 adult baptisms.

There are so many different opportunities to hear, receive and embrace this message of hope in Church and Chapel across the length of Wensleydale this Eastertide and it would be wonderful to welcome you to any of them.

'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him' Rom.15:13.



HAWES POST OFFICE in the Community Office

OPENING TIMES: 9.00am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday 9.00am to noon on Saturday Phone number: 01969 667201

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ASKRIGG POST OFFICE In Sykes House, Noon to 2.00pm Mondays and Wednesdays

Wensleydale Concert Series 2025 - 10th Anniversary!

In May we celebrate the 10th anniversary of our first concert at Aysgarth Church. The concert was given by cellist Corinne Morris and pianist Nico de Villiers and was intended to be a one-off concert. Ironically so many people came up to me after the concert to say how much they had enjoyed it and ask "When is the next concert?" that an unintentional concert series was born. Since then, we have had 60 concerts with musicians from all over the UK as well as visitors from other countries.

Sadly, two international concerts were lost because of the covid pandemic but this year, as we celebrate, we are proud to bring musicians from Berlin and Salzburg along with many musicians from the UK with international careers.

The series opens on **Saturday**, **May 17th** with the New London Chamber Ensemble - a wind quintet, themselves celebrating 25 years of performing together.



The concert is an eclectic mix of musical arrangements and music written for their combination of instruments and will be an easily accessible showcase of the possibilities of music for flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon and horn.

The series continues from June to September with seven more concerts including three piano recitals, an evening of English Song by the amazing tenor James Gilchrist, a violin recital by the award-winning Fenella Humphries and a cello recital featuring the outstanding Austrian cellist Jeremias Fliedl. We are also very pleased to welcome back the Fitzwilliam String Quartet, this year marking the 50th anniversary of the death of Shostakovich, a composer the quartet has long been associated with.

For further details of all concerts and tickets please visit our website at www.wenslevdaleconcertseries.co.uk.

Come and join the celebration this year!

Leyburn Arts and Community Centre

Welcome April! Spring is here. The volunteer gardeners are now full of enthusiasm and preparing for May's Plant Fayre.

Amongst the April Films and Events are Twiggy, the documentary focused on the life of the greatest IT girl of all time; music from Eddy Smith, country and soul artist; Andre Rieu, 75th Birthday celebration concert; Bonnie and Clyde the musical on May 1st and live music from Twangtown Paramours from Nashville on May 3rd. See more on the website.

The National Theatre Live screening of the comedy Dr Strangelove starring Steve Coogan on March 27th had Closed Captions (subtitles) for the first time. We would really like feedback on this. Would subtitles encourage you to attend cinema screenings, does it improve the experience or would subtitles put you off?

As always, we are looking for more volunteers, but in particular to train as projectionists. If you are interested in cinema and have a spare Friday evening (occasional Thursdays/Tuesdays) for approximately three hours would you be interested in finding out more? Please contact the Centre if you think you can help. Tel. 01969 624510. Our IT drop-in support sessions are continuing, please pass the word around to anyone you feel we might be able to help. There is no need to book, no problem too great or too small for our volunteer helpers. Again, telephone the Centre.

The Community Support sessions are on the first **Thursday**, **April 3rd** when Carers Plus will be in the Cafe with free tea/coffee and biscuits. On the second **Friday**, **April 11th**, Staying Healthy Independent and Connected advisors will be in the Centre. Book ahead if you wish but you can just drop in.

The Community Shed is flourishing, there are more members now and when people are trained and confident with all the equipment then it will be opening on more days. If you are not sure if this facility is for you, pop in and have a look around first.

Spring means getting healthy and active! The Wednesday Walking group meet at **10.00am** to do a 3-5 mile walk around Leyburn and return to the Centre for a Coffee. No need to book, just arrive before **10.00am** and join the group. Cost is £2 towards our fundraising.

After their recent Dancing Break in January, our Sequence Dancers are learning more new dances and practising older ones. Unfortunately, we have one lady without a partner. She is willing to dance as either man or woman. If you would like to learn to dance or have done some dancing but would like to improve and don't have a partner, please contact Joan via the centre. The group are very friendly and there is always a lot of laughter. As your doctor will tell you, dancing is also very good for you, physically, mentally and socially. Dance classes are every Wednesday from 6.30pm until 9.00pm and the highlight of the evening is the tea break!

Finally, we would like to draw your attention to the Little Shop which is in the cafe at the centre. You will be surprised at the wide range of books on offer. The largest section is of ever-popular crime fiction, but we have general and literary fiction, history, biography, and a wideranging selection of books on Yorkshire.

Prices are rock bottom with paperbacks at £1.00 and most hardbacks at £2.00. Just leave your cash in the sweet jar and don't miss your chance of a good read.

Best wishes to everyone.

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Dales Charity Bingo

We have now completed our first full year of charity bingo nights in the dales with March being our twelfth month. Our March bingo night was held in Hawes Market Hall on what turned out to be an extremely cold night. A smaller number of players than usual came out, which meant most took home a prize or two. We raised £150 for St Margaret's Church Organ Fund.

Reflecting on our first year, we are happy with what has been accomplished. None of us had done anything like this before, but we started with a goal of finding a balance between providing an affordable social outing for friends and families, along with fund raising for local causes. As we learned things along the way, we adjusted accordingly and at the end of the year feel we have achieved the goal we set ourselves.

In our first 12 months we raised a total of £3,719 for the various local charities we worked with and over 200 bingo prizes were won by players.

Our next Bingo night will be in Hawes on **Wednesday, April 9th** for the Hawes PFTA – please see our advert on page 12.

If you would like to know more, please email us at <u>dalescharitybingo@gmail.com</u>.





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Swaledale Festival

Saturday, May 24th to Saturday, June 7th

Highlights coming to you in Wensleydale!

Whether you are a resident or a visitor wanting a local blast of culture in the spectacular spring Dales, this year's Swaledale Festival brings a feast of outstanding music, arts and walking, plus a giant of comedy. Head to www.swalefest.org to book your tickets.

Fauré in a Day: Sarah Latto's Big Sing Saturday, May 24th 10.00am – 6.00pm. St Andrew's Church, Aysgarth.

A workshop day focusing on Fauré's beautiful and popular Requiem, led by the inspirational Sarah Latto with organist Richard Selwyn Sharpe. All singers are welcome, regardless of experience, although some music-reading ability is desirable. Tea and coffee will be provided; please bring a packed lunch. The day will finish with a free informal performance at **5.00pm**, with soloists Margaret Lingas and Themba Mvula. Everyone is welcome!

Royal Northern Sinfonia and Matilda Lloyd Sunday, May 25th 7.30pm. The Garden Rooms at Tennants, Leyburn.

Beethoven's iconic Fifth Symphony and Haydn's famous Trumpet Concerto with superstar soloist Matilda Lloyd, performed by the wonderful North East orchestra with conductor Delyana Lazarova. Continuing our French strand, this splendid programme also features an orchestral version of Ravel's grand Le Tombeau de Couperin.

Trouvere Medieval Minstrels

Monday, May 26th 4.00pm. St Michael's Church, Spennithorne.

Gripping storytelling and wonderful music combine in Ludus Danielis, the Minstrels' new interpretation of a 12th-century drama. Packed with gorgeous melodies, instrumental interludes and lively narration, it tells two stories of Daniel from the Old Testament: The Writing on the Wall and Daniel in the Lions' Den. All in the perfect setting of Spennithorne's 12th-century church!

Leyburn Band

Wednesday, May 28th 7.30pm. St Andrew's Church, Aysgarth

Under the baton of musical director Rebecca

Lundberg, the award-winning Leyburn Band has had another successful year as the current Stanley Brass Entertainment contest champions. This varied and eclectic programme features some of their top-class soloists in the beautiful acoustic of St Andrew's Church..

Mark Steel: The Leopard in My House **Thursday, May 29th 7.30pm.** The Garden Rooms at Tennants, Leyburn.

Multi awardwinning, BAFTAnominated writer and comedian Mark Steel presents his hilarious new touring show. The topic: his battle with throat cancer. A battle he is winning



(thankfully) and which only his rapier wit could fashion a comedy tour from. Cancer has done nothing to dull Mark's acute observations or quash his frankly bonkers energy; you will laugh, you will cry, but then you'll laugh again and again! The Leopard in My House is proof that this Radio 4 favourite truly deserves his place in the UK comedy pantheon. Contains some strong language. Recommended for age 16 and over..

Martha Tilston with Matt Berry Saturday, May 31st 4.00pm. St Michael's Church, Spennithorne.

With her silken voice and captivating lyrics, folk singer and guitarist Martha Tilston has gained a worldwide following for her heartfelt songs. Here she performs with Matt Kelly contributing on a variety of instruments. "She has probably the purest voice I have heard and at times it sent shivers up and down my spine" - Lee Allen, BBC.

Jervaulx Singers: The Dream.

Saturday, May 31st 7.30pm. Aysgarth, St Andrew's Church, Aysgarth.

An enchanting choral journey through the night in the company of this outstanding ensemble. The evening falls with Rodney Bennett's A Good-Night; dark nightmares appear in Mäntyjärvi's Four Shakespeare Songs; we dream in Laura Mvula's Sing to the Moon; and finally we awake to the sun in Lili Boulanger's Hymne au Soleil. Glorious!

www.swalefest.org

Mystery Picture

Last month's Mystery Picture was of the newly restored lamp on the monument in Redmire.

Where can you find this bench?



Penhill Ladies

Our next meeting has a musical theme. Debbie Allenby, who is a local music teacher and celebrated musical director of the fabulous 'Dales Community Pop Choir' will be joining us for the evening of Wednesday, April 16th at 7.30pm at Carperby Village Hall.

At our meeting Debbie will give a short introduction about her work and the benefits of singing followed by leading us in a 45-minute group singing session. The Dales will be alive with the Sound of Music and happy people.

The session is free to members and is open to visitors at a cost of £5.00. Light refreshments will be served. Looking forward to seeing you there, just getting the vocal chords warmed up! Best wishes.

Jan Howard

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Churches Together in Upper Wensleydale

Good Friday Walk of Witness

The annual Churches Together in Upper Wensleydale Walk of Witness will start at 10.30am Good Friday, April 18th from Gayle Methodist Church. We will process into Hawes to conclude with an 11.30am service at St Margaret's Church.

If you can't make the walk you are still welcome at the service. We hope you will ioin us.

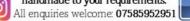


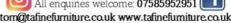
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Dobson's Have Arrived at Sycamore Hall!

It had to be done! I don't need much of an excuse to go out to eat, and for a long while have been trying to persuade the Newsletter committee that we should have a regular restaurant review section. For some reason that has never got the go-ahead!

Anyway, to give my poor, busy husband a break from the cooking, I decided we should go along for Sunday Lunch to see just what was being served up in the restaurant at Sycamore Hall which is now named 'Dobson's at Sycamore'. I wasn't disappointed.

Lisa and Andrew Dobson now run the restaurant and I have caught up with them to find out how things are going since they arrived at the end of January.

Lisa and Andrew moved to the Dales last year, after many years of holidaying in the area and growing to love it. They have moved from Northumberland with their three boys and are now putting down roots in the local community.

Andrew has grown up in a hospitality environment, with his father owning several hotels in Northumberland, including Beadnall Towers and the Horton Grange Hotel. As a result, Andrew has practically grown up in the kitchen, working his way through the various roles and learning on the job. Whilst that is great, I was much more excited to learn that Andrew's grandfather owned and ran Dobson's Sweet Factory in Pontiland where he invented

fizz bombs! Now, a few of those wouldn't go amiss here!

Having grown up and honed his skills in the kitchen, Andrew has worked in various eateries but most recently ran a bistro on the quayside in Newcastle along with his sister. During the pandemic, when hospitality venues had to close, Andrew went to do caring in a local care home-probably unaware at that stage of where he has now ended up! Perhaps we can call on him to multi-task when we are short-staffed?!

Meanwhile, Lisa is a trained dance teacher and, I have heard, is very good at it! She has launched her own local business (Strictly Wensleydale) offering dance classes to adults and children along with wedding dance coaching in Wensleydale, In fact, one class is currently running at Sycamore Hall where the residents have enjoyed watching - and in one case, joining in! Lisa and Andrew's son, Jack, is a champion dancer and he and his current dance partner, Evie, have put on some amazing demonstrations at Sycamore Hall, and some you may have seen him pantomime at Hawes this year. For more see Lisa's Facebook (Facebook@strictlywensleydale).

Andrew and Lisa are currently serving up delicious lunches at Sycamore Hall which the residents are really enjoying. However, they have great plans and really want to get the local community, and visitors, to see them as the place to eat in Bainbridge. There are plans to offer breakfasts (either eat-in or takeaway) as





well as various offerings throughout the day. On Fridays, Andrew has been offering a feature takeaway meal which you can collect and heat up at home, saving you from cooking on a Friday night! Look out for details!

The couple are really keen to attract the public to use the restaurant so why not call in to see what is on offer when you are in the village? There are also plans to launch a takeaway service for jacket potatoes pizza and burgers again, look out for details and come along to enjoy good, freshly cooked food.

In the longer term, it is hoped to offer themed events and to link with the other businesses and facilities at Sycamore Hall to create a real hub in the community. Watch out for details in due course! We are excited to see how things develop and wish the family well in their new lives here.

If you would like more information, or to make a booking, please Lisa and Andrew by email on dobsonsatsycamorehall@gmail.com or by phone on **07303-059-667** or **07739-045-266**.

K.P.



Heavens Above

If you look south around the middle of the evening on a clear night this month, you'll find a fearsome feline prowling across the sky. Its Leo the Lion, one of the oldest of all the constellations dating back to the time of ancient Babylon. Its perhaps best known these days for representing the lion in the old Greek myths which was slain by Hercules as the second of his twelve 'labours'.

Leo's easy to pick out as it's one of the few constellations that actually looks a bit like what it's supposed to be. Its main feature is a large sickle-shaped curve of six stars, outlining the creatures head and mane, which looks like a giant backwards-facing '?'. Marking the question-mark's dot (and the Lion's heart) is Regulus, the King's Star. a young star around 250 million years old about 3½ times heavier than our own Sun but much more luminous. Incredibly it only takes 16 hours to spin round on its axis compared to roughly a month for the Sun. That's a million kilometres an hour at its equator, fast enough to make it bulge outwards like a gigantic satsuma!

After March's rare Planetary Parade, it's a different picture this month planet-wise. Venus, an impressive Evening Star right through the winter, is now low in the eastern morning twilight rising around 5.00am. Saturn, Neptune and Mercury are lost in the Sun's glare but mighty Jupiter and the Red Planet, Mars, are still on view. Jupiter is a brilliant object, low in the north-west in the constellation of Taurus the Bull. Mars, much dimmer than Jupiter, lies in the constellation of Gemini, the Heavenly twins, at the beginning of the month. It moves into Cancer the Crab towards the end of April setting around 3.30am. Right at the beginning of the month on April 1st/2nd the Moon passes in front of the beautiful Pleiades star cluster starting at 9.30pm and finishing at 12.30am. A really impressive sight in binoculars. You'll have to find a site with a clear view to the NW though, as the Moon is *very* low in the sky.

If you're out and about on the night of **April 22nd/23rd** look out for shooting stars. The annual Lyrids meteor shower reaches its peak late on in the evening when up to 15-20 meteors an hour can often be seen. With no Moon to spoil the view it should be a pretty good show this year. Have clear skies!

Al Bireo

If in Doubt, Go to the Library

Chapter 2.

Three melancholy facts. 40% of the population say they have not read a book during the last year; fewer people use their local library than ever before (excepting the Covid years); Netflix has stated that its aim is to persuade people to watch their products instead of reading.

Put them beside these more cheering statistics. In England during 2023/24, 30% of adults aged 16 and over used a public library service at least once in the previous 12 months. That's around 13m adults, 60% of whom go for 'browsing, borrowing, and returning reading and media materials', and 27% for 'taking a child to borrow, browse or return books'. 23% go to use free Wi-Fi, computer or printing facilities, and 19% use the library as a study space. Figures suggest about 65% of children aged 5-15 visit a library each year in England [Figures from DCMS Participation Survey 2023/24]. The figures for Yorkshire Libraries 2018-19 are similarly encouraging, with 2,118,855 visits to libraries: 2.145,589 book loans: 4.000+ events and 40,875 home visits. Since Covid they have begun to recover, but it's worth noting that some libraries continued to provide a service.

Yorkshire is nationally recognized as having one of the 10 best library services in the country. There have been national press features, the Chartered Institute of Public Finance has stated that it is 'a high performing low cost service' and the Department for Digital Culture, Media and Sport has called the service a high performing 'trend- buster'. The network of volunteer community libraries is the envy of many local authorities. Libraries have made themselves a centre for resources of all kinds, not just books: study, job searches and information gathering for example. Laura Dinning, this area's outreach manager, described what they now do:

'We offer a range of resources and activities for children: Storytimes for under-5s, a Summer Reading Challenge for primary school children, and activities such as art groups, coding clubs and Dungeons and Dragons for teenagers, to complement the selection of young adult books and other resources. There are numerous groups and activities for adults, including knit and natter groups, dementia cafes, slipper socials and author talks.'

Reading groups flourish, not initiated but supported by the library, with multiple copies of books being summoned to Leyburn from all over the county to await the attention of, for example, the two Redmire reading groups. There is a home delivery service (it depends on volunteers who can take books to the outer reaches of the Dales). The occasional volunteer enjoys supplying a 'Personal Shopper' service to the house-bound, choosing a bag-full of books they may like. And there is a supermobile library. There's very little doubt that our libraries earn their keep.

In search of some local feedback to compare with these I asked a small sample of local people about their local (mostly Leyburn) library and what they wanted from it. If in doubt, would they go there? 30% expressed no particular interest, while the expectations of the remaining 70% were roughly grouped under four headings.

- 1. A good selection of books.
- 2. Wi-Fi and printing facilities.
- 3. Accessibility and convenient opening times.
 - 4. A friendly atmosphere and helpful staff.

Only a few said that if in doubt they would go. Do Wensleydale libraries satisfy these expectations?

Books first. When you visit Leyburn Library (in Thornborough Hall, on the right hand side of Moor Road), you will find magazines, the D&S, a wide range of information, 4 computers for public use (free for an hour), a classy photocopier (20p a black and white A4 sheet), more volunteer librarians, comfortable seating; peace, unless enthusiastic small children are there. And 600,000 books. Yes, 600,000 literally at your fingertips, the total stock of the Yorkshire Libraries Service. Fiction for all age groups, audio books, large print books, non-fiction, biography, history, cookery, science, crafts, maps, guides etc etc). About 6,000 of them are in the room with you, while the other 594,000 are staring you in the face...ironically enough, online.

Everyone wants to browse, as they would in a bookshop, and here are over half a million books to choose from. In your free hour on the computers (a staff member will help you) you can see book covers, read the blurbs, and find suggestions about 'what to read next'. If you only look at the Leyburn shelves and something

you want isn't there, you request it (£1.00 fee), and you'll get an email telling you when the book has been transferred from another Yorkshire library and is ready for you to collect. Perhaps you want a book that isn't in the catalogue at all: ask for it to be purchased. They will quite possibly get it for you unless it's very expensive or very obscure. What is purchased is decided by the county library's stock specialists, based on popularity, quality and price (I'm pursuing a freedom of information request to find out the annual budget).

Atmosphere and ambience. People agreed that our local libraries have a friendly atmosphere in which the volunteers go the extra mile and offer advice and practical help when asked. They aren't experts, but they know where to find the answers, and they wouldn't be there if they didn't value books. There is some comfortable seating, areas for children, computers, well organized shelves, lots of information. It is a safe, warm space, and quiet unless there is a children's session going on!

Opening times are a tricky area, and to be honest a bit erratic. Hawes Library is open 43 hours a week (it's part of the information centre); Leyburn 22, Bedale 20, Richmond 35. The choice of opening hours is up to the volunteers who staff the library. It's based on what is feasible and useful: market days, some late opening, after-school times for parents and children. Perhaps more could be done, but only with more volunteers to staff it.

A word about bookshops. Does advocating the use of libraries only hasten the decline of independent booksellers? They are precious and always under threat from online sellers, charity shops and business taxes. Last year their number declined to 1,052, while 45 new ones opened. Leyburn and Richmond each have one. I think the two can feed off each other: the library enables you to try a book for free, then buy your own copy if you want to go back to it. People who borrow library books read more, and are thus more likely to go on to buy their own. I try to buy something from every bookshop I come across: it's the least one can do, and there are some books one just has to possess. So browse and borrow, browse and buy (and shun Amazon).

Yes, Hermione Grainger's words 'If in doubt, go to the library' do still apply, but in a slightly different sense. In 1997 doubt was about facts:

28 years later it may be about whether it's worth the trip. It is: try it! If we don't use libraries we may lose them: if we make sure they are seen to be being used they have a better chance of surviving. And the 1200 volunteers who rescued them in 2017 and have kept them going since will not have done so in vain. You could start on https://www.northyorks.gov.uk, and browse the catalogue...

Local library opening times:

Hawes: Market Place, Hawes DL8 3RA Email: hawes.library@northyorks.gov.uk

Phone: 01609 534597.

Open: Mon - Fri 9.00am - 5.00pm,

Sat 9.00am - noon.

Leyburn: Thornborough Hall,

Moor Rd, DL8 5AB

Email: clerk@leyburntowncouncil.gov.uk

Phone: 01609 535971.

Open: Mon and Fri 10.00am - 4.00pm, Tues 10.00am - 6.00pm, Sat 10.00am - noon.

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Yorkshire Dales National Park Local Plan

The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority is preparing a new Local Plan that will guide planning decisions for development, during the 15-year period 2025 to 2040. A final draft Local Plan, that the Authority considers to be legally compliant and fit for purpose, was published in March in accordance with Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

Anyone with an interest in the Local Plan can submit formal representations until **noon on Tuesday, May 6th**. Representations should relate to whether the Plan is legally compliant and fit for purpose and, if not, the modifications that are required to make it sound.

After this stage, the Authority intend to submit the Local Plan, together with all supporting documents and the representations received at this stage, to the Government, for examination by a Planning Inspector. The purpose of examination is to determine whether the Local Plan complies with various legal requirements and decide if it is fit for purpose.

Formal representations can be made by filling in the online form (or by email), specifying the policy, map or paragraph that you wish to comment on, and any modifications that you deem to be necessary to make the Plan sound.

The Local Plan and its supporting documents and details about how to submit a formal representation, are available to view here: https://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/park-authority/living-and-working/planning-policy/local-plan-2023-40/local-plan-process/publication-stage-regulation-19/.

Paper copies of the Publication Draft Local Plan are available for inspection at the National Park office in Bainbridge.

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Tennis Time! We are proud to be Members of the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA), our courts booked through their clubspark.lta.org.uk/YorebridgeTennisClub.

You don't even need to worry about having the correct equipment, we have rackets and balls available on the court at no extra cost.

Planning to play regularly during the year? membership tennis includes Our membership, free court bookings for 12 months and membership of our tennis club, which includes weekly club night and the opportunity to book lessons with our Level 4 Coach, Mark.

Tennis membership can be purchased on our ClubRight website, we have individual memberships family available: www.yorebridgesportandleisure.co.uk/ membership.

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 selfcertification 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.vorebridgesportandleisure.co.uk/.

We have a variety of gym memberships including monthly, couples, student, and junior memberships, as well as pay as you go vouchers. 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 or phone 01969 650060. Classes are: (£9 pay as you go or class membership option available.)

Fit for Life - Mondays (live and on zoom) 9.15am - 10.15am. Building and maintaining

strength to live life your way. Weights, resistance bands and equipment available to borrow in the gym.

Warm and Well – Mondays (live) 11.00am – **noon**. Enjoy a social, active class building core strength. Standing and chair-based exercise.

Running Skills & Drills (£5) **Mondays** (live) **6.00pm** – **7.00pm**. Half an hour of running skills and drills followed by half an hour of strengthening exercises specifically for runners.

Tennis – Mondays (live) 6.00pm – 7.00pm. Social tennis, weather permitting. Get in touch to join the group: <u>yorebridgetennis@gmail.com</u>.

High Intensity Bootcamp Tuesday and Thursday (live) 6.00am - 7.00am. Get that morning metabolism boost.

Conversational French – (£7) **Tuesdays** (live) 9.30am - 10.45am with Ms. Sowter.

Circuits – Wednesdays (live and on zoom) 9.15am - 10.15am. Exercises to keep active people, active. Work at your level through a mix of cardio and strengthening exercises. Weights, resistance bands and equipment available to borrow in the gym.

Yogafusion – (£6) Thursdays (live) 9.30am - 10.30am with Janesse. To book please email yogafusionbyj@gmail.com

Strong and Able - Fridays (live) 11.00am **noon.** Maintain your ability to get out and enjoy life, build muscle tone, stability around movement and keep flexible and mobile around joints. Standing and chair-based exercise.

Over 40's Walking Football (£3) Fridays (live) 6.30pm - 7.30pm with Glenn on the MUGA, vorebridgetennis@gmail.com.

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Upper Dales Health Watch

The Patient Participation Group for the Central Dales Practice

Synopsis of the minutes of the meeting held on February 18th

- Dr Josh Milner will be joining the CDP March - October. He is a fully trained Military doctor who wants to become a GP. He will be at the Aysgarth Surgery for 3 days a week and in Hawes on a Wednesday.
- Niall Pain will start as a trainee dispenser in March. Richard, Tara and Elizabeth will remain as the Receptionists.
- Book Club in Hawes is open to all CDP patients. It is being enjoyed by the present group.
- Emails can only be used for contacting the Dispensary. All patients who currently use email are being contacted to explain they need to use the Practice website so that their information goes directly on to the patient record. This saves a very considerable amount of admin time.
- Collective Action update The situation is still not resolved, and funding for Frailty and Pharmacy is going to be removed. The UDHW letter to the Dept for Health and Social Care sent via Rishi Sunak has been replied to by Stephen Kinnock, Minister of State for health and Social Care. This letter has been forwarded to Parish Representatives.

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• It was agreed the UDHW could do nothing helpful until the outcome of the annual GP contract for 2025-26 is known. However, if this puts the CDP and its patients at risk, we did want to be informed and involved in any public meetings. These would probably be on a Richmondshire / Hambleton basis as all practices share the same concerns and were working with the LMC (Local Medical Council), the PCN (Primary Care Network) and the ICB (Integrated Care Board).

- The Step-up Step-down rooms at Sycamore Hall, Bainbridge and Kirkwood Hall, Leyburn will continue to be supported by the ICB and have had their care support doubled to 20 hours a week. This will allow more vulnerable patients to use the rooms and is very good news.
- The synopsis of the UDHW meetings will be put on the CDP website.
- The ICB Deep Dive report into Patient Transport due to be published by Easter 2025 may be delayed because of pressure of other issues.

Jane Ritchie, Hon Secretary, Upper Dales Health Watch



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Cinema & Events





Tuesday 1st April 7pm The Teacher's Lounge (12A) 1hr

Friday 4th April 6pm Sound of Hope: The Story of Possum Trot (12A) 2hrs 10m

Friday 11th April 6pm Twiggy (U) 1 hr 33m

Friday 18th April Good Friday - No film screening



Friday 25th April 6pm The Graduate (1967) (12A) 1hr 46m



Sunday 13th April 2025 2pm Piece of Magic: Andre Rieu's 75th Birthday Celebration: The Dream Continues

Coming Soon:

- Bridget Jones: Mad About The Boy The Penguin Lessons
- Cinema Live: Bonnie & Clyde The Musical Live Music: Twangtown Paramours

Please book tickets online where possible. You can book & pay online via our website. Our licensed café/bar opens 30 minutes before all events & screenings. Visit our website for a full list of April's screenings and events.

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> Editors: Barry Cruickshanks, Kevin Davis,

Committee: Malcolm Carruthers, Roy Chapman, Tony Hutchinson, Alyson Jones, Karen Jones (Treasurer), Alastair McLachlan Neil Piper, Karen Prudden,

> Founded in 1995 by the late Alan S. Watkinson