

THE UPPER WENSLEYDALE NEWSLETTER

Issue 325

November 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

Everyone knows that in Britain people talk a great deal about the weather, possibly because it is so infinitely variable but also because there is a long tradition of discussing weather in casual conversation. We might be furious with politicians, outraged by rising prices, appalled by dismal public services, but we feel on safe ground when chatting about the weather. We check the weather forecasts when we plan an outing and such is the general interest in weather prediction that I have met quite a lot of people who say they listen to the shipping forecast in the middle of the night as a cure for insomnia.

We would probably all agree that over the last few decades there have been changes to the weather. This year has seen torrential rain and long weeks of glorious sunshine that at times felt positively Mediterranean. In August I had sunburned arms after a day at the Reeth Show and hosepipe bans were in place across the country. Three years ago in 2022 a temperature of 40.2 degrees Celsius (104.4 Fahrenheit) was recorded at Heathrow airport. When it rains these days, the rain is often so heavy that it leads to serious flooding in many parts of the country. I don't remember apocalyptic rain in England years ago, but today torrential downpours are increasingly common. Friends across Europe report similar changes in the intensity of weather phenomena in winter and in summer. And of course, out in the countryside we experience the weather more directly, we can see the clouds gathering long before the rain starts, we can see the power of the wind increasing as we look at the way it shakes the trees. Weather matters more in the countryside, harvests depend on weather, drought or flooding can cause enormous damage that jeopardise people's livelihoods.

Here in the Dales we can see how important weather is for farmers, and we can see how even animals are attuned to the changes in weather. Mention sheep to townspeople and they might think of rather silly creatures, but the reality is that sheep are highly intelligent especially when it comes to weather prediction. I have often driven up the dale and seen sheep gathering in the lee of stone walls, anticipating the storms that will be coming in from the west, sometimes well ahead of the BBC weather forecasters. Sheep are canny weather predictors, and we can also learn from sheep when it comes to having a

sense of direction. I remember once following a flock of sheep moving down the Kettlewell road, through Gayle and over the beck, past the Creamery, then turning right through Hawes, turning left by the medical centre and on over the river to their final destination. How did they know where to go, I asked the shepherd who had been following them on a quad bike, to which he replied that it was just sheep instinct. Not one sheep tried to turn the wrong way throughout that 25 minute run! My admiration for sheep rose to new heights after that experience.

Sheep are an essential part of living in the Dales. In the Midlands village where one of my daughters lives there are fewer sheep because the village is primarily agricultural, so there are fields of potatoes, corn and cabbages. There used to be more cattle, but many of the old byres and barns have been converted into luxury homes, often bought by people moving out of big cities. Now we walk dogs past what used to be the sheep dip and the fields where I would take my small children to watch the cows heading back at milking time. The sheep dip has become a narrow strip of grass and the fields belong to someone who trains horses. Still rural, but differently so than in the north.

Three years ago when I was having chemotherapy I stayed with another daughter, who lives in London, albeit in a part of London with big parks and plenty of trees. But the shift away from nature can be seen in the fact that so many houses have replaced lawns with astroturf or, even worse, done away with their front gardens to create parking spaces. You see this now in many cities - desolate concrete areas in front of houses which means the end of habitats for insects, worms, butterflies and garden birds, not to mention the lack of flowers and the ugliness. What I find odd is that some of the people who have done this sort of thing are keen to pontificate about the effects of global warming, without making the connection between their behaviour and the impact it has on the environment for us all.

Thankfully, even in London, where you cannot see the stars because of the light pollution, nature is not entirely subdued. At night the shrieking of foxes as they wandered around the streets looking for waste human food kept me awake. The first time I heard a fox late at night I thought someone was being attacked, but eventually I adjusted to the noise. Urban

foxes are an example of how nature refuses to give in, even when fields have become housing estates.

I have come to think that the biggest factor that divides this country is not the growing gap between the haves and have-nots, nor the much discussed differences between north and south, nor even the gap between younger generations trained to use electronic media and older people who are less confident, but rather the great gulf between life in cities and life in the countryside. Everything in cities moves at a faster pace, but the biggest difference is surely the way in which nature is subjected to that heightened speed. In my daughter's road, theirs is the only house that has not replaced the lawn with astroturf. In my garden here in the north I listen to birdsong, and an app on my phone allows me to identify birds. One afternoon in summer there were 13 varieties of birds singing their different notes. In the last week the owls are back, calling just before dawn. And everywhere there are the gentle sounds of sheep. However bad the winter weather can be, being able to live so close to nature is a great consolation.

Susan Bassnett

Bring and Buy Toy Fair

St Andrew's Church fund raiser

All welcome for coffee, cakes and savouries
and...

you can swap toys for Christmas

Carperby Village Hall

Saturday, November 1st

11.00am – 3.00pm

Submission of articles

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

**DEADLINE FOR COPY FOR THE
NEXT ISSUE IS
TUESDAY NOVEMBER 25TH
PUBLISHED ON DEC 3rd**



Eunice the Ewe

In October I was hiding in the Woodcraft Studio advert on page 31. And the lucky winner of the £10 prize is Sheila Clarkson of Bainbridge.

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

Bainbridge WI invites you to a

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR

Local handmade crafts and cakes

Saturday, November 8th

Bainbridge Village Hall

10.00am – 4.00pm

Come and buy your Christmas gifts,
decorations and so much more!

Linger a while – refreshments on sale.

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bainbridgewi@gmail.com

Facebook: Bainbridge WI- Inspiring Women

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November Competition

Below are Dingbats - visual word puzzles hiding a saying, phrase or word in them. How many can you identify? Good luck!!

1. CA SE CASE
2. KNOW IT NO
3. ACRIML
4. BIG BIG IGNORE IGNORE
5. EVER EVER EVER EVER + EVER
6. GR12"AVE
7. I CORRECT I
8. WAETHER
9. AGE A G E AGE
10. EAINR EAOUTR
11. ALLWORLD
12. COTAXME
13. BOTOMDICKHARRYAT
14. AUSPEEDY
15. CHAWHOWHORGE
16. LOVE | HATE
17. ROBOBEBERS
18. 02YRROW
19. O_ER_T_O_
20. R. P. I.

Please send in your answers to arrive by **Tuesday, November 25th**. Remember to include the details of your nominated charity which will receive the £50 prize should you win.

October Competition Answers

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Builder | 11. Funeral Director |
| 2. Tailor | 12. Carpenter. |
| 3. Veterinary | 13. Hairdresser |
| 4. Accountant | 14. Joiner |
| 5. Plasterer | 15. Optician |
| 6. Butcher | 16. Music Teacher |
| 7. Chimney Sweep | 17. Physiotherapist |
| 8. Craniosacral Therapist | 18. Plumber |
| 9. Mechanic | 19. Solicitor |
| 10. Financial Advisor | 20. Estate Agent |

Only a few correct entries this month. The winning entry chosen at random was from Jane Ritchie of West Burton whose nominated charity to receive the £50 prize is the Health Accommodation Trust for the Step up Step down flat at Sycamore Hall.

Free Christmas Greetings

The next issue of the Newsletter will be the Christmas edition. As usual we will be including **free personal Christmas greetings**.

Please ensure that your greeting reaches us in plenty of time well before the deadline of **Tuesday, November 25th**.

Citizens Advice

Citizens Advice will be at The Hub, Hawes on **November 3rd from 11.00am to 1.00pm** if anyone needs any advice from them.

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Drop-off points and contacts

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

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
Aysgarth:	Hamilton's Tearoom	663423
Redmire:	Kevin Davis West Cottage	624165
Thoraby:	Neil Piper	663747
West Witton	Christine Barker, Chestnut Garth	624934
Preston and Castle Bolton	Alastair McLachlan	07817 709167

Red Alert

Every year, spring and summer always make a promise before autumn and winter come along to break it – that’s how it feels to me anyway. There’s a garden down dale which, months back, was budding up, brim-full with potential and readying to break out and display; it’s all over and is now a blank canvas again, but rather than mooning about, I’m eagerly tensed up and plotting, awaiting the first decent day to take advantage and try a new scheme.

Red’s the theme – I’ll cram as much in as possible; listen up, you wily garden centres, I’ll insist on a ‘fire engine red’ shade so don’t fob me off with purples and oranges, are you colour blind? I’ll want those almost scarlet blooms of dependable Weigela ‘Bristol Ruby’ as a starter - very easy to grow but best mothball those secateurs as any hard pruning means you’ll never see a flower – just allow to reach 6 – 8 ft and enjoy the show. Let’s include the shrub Potentilla ‘Red Robin’, an absolute shoo-in, in my opinion winning hands down against its brother, ‘Red Ace’, which I’ve rechristened ‘Mucky Orange’ as I’ve found it soon fades in direct sunlight.

If you’re feeling more adventurous then why not try Callistemon ‘Splendens’, the Australian bottlebrush, which sounds exotic, but for the last 10 years we’ve had an absolute bonzer one down in tropical Leyburn, thriving and eventually topping off at 5ft, so be brave. A sheltered, well-drained site in full sun’s the order of the day here; bees and butterflies swarm over those crimson bristles and, last year, we were mesmerized when even a dandy little hummingbird hawk moth fussed over it for an hour.

True red perennials, hmm, that’s a tough one. Ladybird poppies, red cosmos, shouty geraniums are all done in a year - what we want are permanents like Crocosmia ‘Hellfire’ which, I believe, wins over the more popular ‘Lucifer’ by having a deeper, purer red. The latter is watered down with yellow flecks, spreads like a virus and gets so tall it tends to collapse and become a magnet for house hunting hedgehogs which is all well and good but no consolation in midsummer when you’re after an upright display.

Another contender for back of the border would be Lobelia ‘Queen Victoria’. So, a 6-inch ground hugging annual, only good for stuffing

into hanging baskets as a dangling filler... wrong! This is a 3 foot absolute dish whose wine-red leaves perfectly complement masses of scarlet flowers which last for months - however, be aware that this short-lived diva demands moisture retentive soil, so site near a pond or marshy area to guarantee survival. Of a similar size are the Champions, but unfortunately I find that they’re the main culprits for red/orange/purple confusion; I’m not aware of a true red one although would try ‘Arkwright’s Vesuvius’ for the name alone – christened by a foul tempered, Victorian, mill owning plant finder by the sound of it, splendid stuff.

On to smaller reds with the indispensable Helianthemums. I’ll go for ‘Beech Park Red’ and ‘Fire Dragon’ rock roses to site towards the front; they’re redder than a fire engine, more like a Royal Mail post box, oh I could talk distinctions all day, anyway, THAT kind of red, and I love them but just remember to prune lightly after flowering and they’ll then keep their shape and live for years.

Two fiery herbaceous potentillas I’ll use are ‘Gibson’s Scarlet’ and ‘Monarch’s Velvet’. Wine tasters use ‘muscular red’ to describe shiraz etc but I’m rolling it around my mouth and borrowing it for my two pet potentillas, perfect. These two will burn away and beef up the border and, if planted alongside Heuchera ‘Red Tears’, will give us the full squad. I’ve struggled with Heucheras over the years; fiendish capsid bug grubs eat them from the fleshy roots up, so they’re always a risk for me, but you may have the magic touch.

So that’s ‘Red Alert’ done, corrections, suggestions welcome; no doubt you’ll have your own favourites, but admit it, aren’t they just the tiniest bit purple or orange? - go on, be honest.

Ed Gardener

Turkey and Tinsel Christmas Lunch

Thorlby Village Hall
Sunday, November 30th
12.30pm for 1.00pm

Bring your own drinks – no bar

Tickets £17.50.

Tel Phil 01969 663875.

Churches Together Toy Service

This year the Churches Together in Upper Wensleydale Toy Service will be held on **Sunday, December 7th at 10.30am**, at St. Margaret's Church, Hawes. All toys donated will be taken by The Salvation Army for distribution.

A particular request has been made for suitable gifts for 8+ years including teenagers. All are welcome to attend this service. All donations of new toys will be gratefully received and help make the Christmas of children who might not otherwise receive a present.

Please leave the toys unwrapped so the distributors can choose the appropriate age and sex of the children who will receive them but you may wish to donate wrapping paper with the toys.

A Winter Concert

With **SWALE SINGERS** in Askrigg

On November 15th, 4.00pm, at St Oswalds Church

SWALE SINGERS are performing a wonderful programme of music.

Two pieces by Elgar:

Great is the Lord, and Banner of St George,

In Terra Pax, by Finzi

Fantasia on Christmas Carols by Vaughan Williams

This beautiful concert, sponsored by Tennants, is **FREE** entry, with donations to the "**Swale Singers Bursary,**" which will be

enabling 16-19 yr olds to sing with our choir from 2026.

Please come along and enjoy this fabulous music, and support us in developing our next generation of choral singers

Carols By Candlelight

To welcome in the Christmas Season, on the evening of **Wednesday, December 3rd** at St. Mary and St. John's Church, Hardraw, Amy Cockett (Vocals) and Mal Carruthers (Organ and Keyboard) will present 'Carols by Candlelight'. In a slight departure from their more recent 'Musicals' and 'Movies' style shows at Hawes Church, this concert is a recital style performance of Traditional and Contemporary Carols in the intimate and beautiful setting of St. Mary and St. John's Church.

The event will also offer the chance to hear the newly restored and re-installed organ. The concert starts at **7.00pm** with free entry. Interval refreshments will also be provided. Retiring donations will be greatly appreciated and will go towards the Organ Restoration and future maintenance fund. We look forward to seeing you there.

Another date to put in your diary: Amy and Mal, together with Rev. Dave, will once again present 'The Magic of Christmas' concert at St. Margaret's Church, Hawes at **2.00pm** on **Saturday, December 6th**. This concert is also a free event with retiring donations gratefully received for the Salvation Army's Annual Christmas Appeal.

Bainbridge Village Institute

Come and join us for an informal service with refreshments on **November 16th at 2.30pm**. The service will be taken by the Rev. Phil Clarke.

Also our Christmas sing-a-long will be held on **Sunday, December 7th at 2.30pm** with Askrigg Ladies.

A warm welcome to all. There will be retiring collections for charity at both events.

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News From Hawes Primary School

We started the Term celebrating Dream Big Day joining in with this international celebration which is designed to celebrate the limitless potential of all young people. The children dressed as inspiring people, took part in lots of activities and talked about who inspires them and why, as well as celebrating their own talents and sharing hopes and dreams for the future. It was lovely to hear about family and community members as well as famous stars providing inspiration to our pupils. This event made curriculum links with our PSHE, wellbeing and oracy learning.

We also marked World Mental Health Day across school, thinking about our wellbeing and understanding that we all feel a huge range of emotions but thinking particularly about how we can feel calm, positive and happy. Mrs Metcalfe, along with the wellbeing ambassadors and other members of staff, led the first of this year's 'Wellbeing Walks' where we are reminded about what a positive effect being in nature has on our wellbeing. We also had a non-uniform day and looked amazing in our sunny yellow shades, proudly raising money to support the Young Minds charity.

September saw some sporting competitions too, with both the boys' and girls' football teams representing the school well in tournaments.

Key Stage 2 have taken their learning to other places this term, taking part in art workshop as part of the Rivers for Life project who are working in collaboration with the Museum in

Hawes. They have learnt about the river, food chains and observed microscopic river life too!

Class 2 then sketched riverside animals and transferred these ideas into stunning watercolour paintings. They thought about the visual elements of line, shape, colour, texture and form and were encouraged to represent the animal in their own unique ways too. The end results were absolutely incredible! What talented children we have! They also completed some creative writing and a piece of bunting for the final display which will appear in the Museum later this term.

Class 3 also explored their creativity in the context of the nature that surrounds our rivers. After learning a lot of new techniques, they created incredible lino prints of river animals. We were all blown away by the quality of the artwork! I'd definitely urge you to go and see it once it is displayed at the museum.

In October, children took part in a virtual author visit from writer Catherine Johnson, all about her book 'Dance of Resistance' which tells the story of dancer and WW2 spy, Josephine Baker. Learning about this lesser known story is just part of the learning we have been sharing through school to mark Black History Month.



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**WOODCRAFT STUDIO &
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**Christmas
Shopping Days**

**SATURDAY & SUNDAY
15th & 16th NOVEMBER
29th & 30th NOVEMBER 2025**

10.30 am - 4.00 pm

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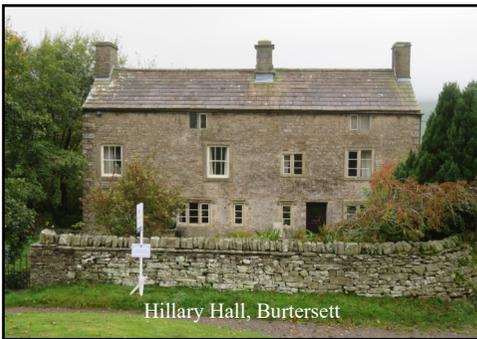
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From the Norah Worth Collection at the DCM.

The Hillary Family of Hillary Hall, Burtersett – Quakers, Tropical Diseases and Lifeboats!

There have been Hillary's in Wensleydale dating back to at least the 1600s, when a Matthew Hillary was born in Wensley. His grandson was William Hillary, born 1629, whose second wife, Ann Metcalfe, was the only child of Trinian Metcalfe of Birkrigg and Rigg House in Upper Wensleydale. On his death in 1686, these properties came to the Hillary family.

William and Ann had a son, John born in 1666, who became a Quaker as a young man and met Mary Robinson, the daughter of Richard Robinson of Countersett, head of a leading Quaker family. On their marriage, Richard and Mary lived at Birkrigg and had five children there, including William born in 1697. Birkrigg was a very isolated farmhouse, and around 1699, the growing Hillary family moved five miles down the Dale to Burtersett and a larger property, which became known as Hillary Hall. It was also much nearer to Mary's Robinson family in Countersett and more convenient for attending Quaker meetings.



Hillary Hall, Burtersett

Hillary Hall is today described as Grade Two listed, built in the late 17th century, and altered by John Hillary who put in larger windows and a moulded doorway and a keystone inscribed 1729. The house was altered again the 19th century. John and Mary had four more children born at Hillary Hall in the early 18th century. Hillary Hall passed to their eldest son Isaac, who lived there unmarried, until his death in 1783.

William Hillary, born 1697, began adult life as

an apprentice apothecary with a fellow Quaker in Bradford, but decided to take up medicine. At that time, Quakers were not allowed to study at Oxford or Cambridge due to their religious beliefs, as they were not members of the Church of England. William therefore went to Leyden University in Holland and graduated there in 1722, his dissertation being concerned with fevers. He returned to England and started a practice in Ripon, later moving to Bath. His interest in epidemic diseases led to published research papers on mumps, smallpox and influenza. In 1747, he became the chief medical adviser in Barbados. There he specialised in the study of tropical diseases and gained a reputation in medical circles for his many books and pamphlets on this topic. He returned to England in 1759 and died here in 1763.

William's younger brother Richard Hillary, born 1703 in Burtersett, became a wealthy Liverpool merchant and ship owner. He was a partner in several companies trading with the West Indies, where he owned plantations with some 900 enslaved people. Richard married Hannah Wynne and they had three children – Richard, Mary and William. His son Richard continued the family business as a merchants and slave owners, but never married. He became a member of the Jamaica House of Assembly and died in Jamaica in 1803, leaving all his property and estate to his younger brother William.

His sister Mary born in 1775 also has a claim to fame, as she published a number of books of poetry and was a contributor to several periodicals such as *The Literary Gazette*. She married Henry Rolls, who became ordained and served as the rector of several parishes in Northamptonshire.

However, perhaps the most well-known of the Hillary family is Sir William Hillary who was born in 1770 in Liverpool, the youngest son of Richard Hillary and Hannah Wynne. William spent two years as an Equerry to Prince Augustus Frederick, Duke of Suffolk, the sixth son of George III. He learnt basic seamanship and navigational skills whilst sailing with the Prince in the Mediterranean. In 1800, William married Frances Elizabeth Disney Fytche of Danbury Place, an Essex heiress. In the same year, they had twins – Augustus William and Elizabeth Mary. William inherited the West Indian sugar estates from his elder brother in 1804 and, together with his wife's money, he

spent some £20,000 on creating the First Essex Legion of Infantry - England's largest private army at the time, numbering some 1,400 soldiers. This army was put at the disposal of King George III, to defend against Napoleon's threatened invasion. As a result, he was rewarded with a baronetcy in 1805, becoming Sir William Hillary Bart, of Danbury Place, Essex, and of Rigg House, Yorkshire.

William got into debt, despite his inheritances, and had to sell off Hillary Hall and Rigg House. His marriage broke up and he divorced his wife under Scottish law in 1812. She continued to live at Danbury Place until her father died.

Leaving Essex, William went to the Isle of Man, possibly to evade his creditors. He married a Manx woman, Emma Tobin in 1813, but the wedding took place in Scotland. There is some controversy as to whether his divorce from Frances was truly legal, and this is partly borne out by the fact that William and Emma married a second time in the Isle of Man in 1828. Emma's family also had connections with slavery, as her brother Sir John Tobin, was a captain on several slaving voyages.

Living on such a small island, and with a nautical background, William was acutely aware of the dangers of ships being wrecked off the Manx coastline. He drew up plans for a lifeboat service for the British coast, manned by trained crews. In 1823 he published a pamphlet entitled 'An Appeal to the British Navy on the Humanity and Policy of Forming a National Institute for the Preservation of Lives and Property from Shipwreck'. At first, the Admiralty showed very little interest in his ideas, but William still had influential contacts with politicians and West Indian merchants who backed him. On March 4th 1824, the National Institute for the Preservation of Life From Shipwrecks was set up at a meeting in a tavern in Bishopsgate Street, London. King George IV later granted the royal prefix to the title. The first of the new lifeboats to be built was stationed at Douglas, in recognition of Sir William Hillary. He himself was actively involved as a crew member, helping to save over 300 lives. He was awarded three gold medals for gallantry, one of which was for saving the lives of those on board the steamer St George off the Douglas coast. The RNLI still use the family motto 'with courage nothing is impossible' on their long service medals which also feature a bust of Sir William Hillary.

Sir William Hillary died in 1847, two years



after his wife Lady Emma, and they are both buried in Douglas. In 1854, the name changed to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, and 200 years after its formation remains a vitally important volunteer service in saving lives at sea. A service of commemoration is held in Douglas each January to remember the work of their founder.

There have been several references in various publications to a link between Hillary Hall and Sir Edmund Hillary, the famous explorer. As yet, it has not been able to prove such a link, but if any reader knows of definitive evidence to prove or disprove this theory, the DCM would be very grateful to receive it, in order to respond to an enquiry from a distant Hillary relative in Australia.

V. Davis



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Heather and Grouse Askrigg

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Fridays, November 14th & 21st
open until 8.00pm.

Weekends of **November 15th/16th and 22nd/23rd** mulled wine and mince pies will be served.

The Bakewell will hold a festive weekend on **November 22nd/23rd**.

Pop in to place your Christmas orders. Everyone most welcome, we look forward to seeing you.

Penhill Benefice

Church Services: In case of bad weather, please check our website for updates at penhillbenefice.co.uk/services.

There will be a Telephone Service each **Sunday (except November 9th) at 9.30am**. Dial **0333 0110 946** and enter room number 61337190# and PIN 7450# (local charges apply).

Sunday, November 2nd

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

9.30am Memorial Service for all who are bereaved, St. Mary's, Redmire.

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

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

3.00pm Memorial Service for all who are bereaved, St. Andrew's, Aysgarth.

Remembrance Sunday, November 9th

(No telephone service)

10.45am Remembrance Service, St. Mary's Redmire.

10.45am Remembrance Service, St. Andrew's, Aysgarth.

10.45am Remembrance Service, Holy Trinity, Wensley.

All Remembrance Services will pause for the Silence at **11.00am**.

Sunday, November 16th

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

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

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

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

Sunday, November 23rd

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

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

3.00pm Evening Prayer, Thornton Rust Mission Room.

Sunday, November 30th - Advent Sunday

10.30am Holy Communion, Penhill Together Service, St. Andrew's, Aysgarth.

November Mid-Week Services:

Thursday, 6th and 20th at 9.30am.

Holy Communion, at St. Bartholomew's, West Witton.

Church Coffee Morning: **Wednesday, November 5th, 10.30am to noon** at Redmire Village Hall. This is also Bolton cum Redmire Gift Day

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

A St Andrew's fundraiser **Toy Swap, Saturday, November 1st, 11.00am - 3.00pm** at Carperby Village Institute.

STURDY TRAVEL

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Tony Philpott

It is with sadness that we would like to make readers aware that Tony Philpott, previous resident of Thoraby and Gayle, died peacefully at home in Farnham, Surrey on October 7th 2025.

Tony worked on the newsletter in its early days with Alan Watkinson and enjoyed making information about Wensleydale available far and wide. Tony and Marilyn lived in Wensleydale from 1984 until moving to Surrey in 2006; they have lots of fond memories of the Dales and the many friends they made there.

Marilyn, Nicki and Paul Philpott
marilynphilpott@btinternet.com

(if any old friends would like to get in touch).

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Financial Assistance for Students – 2025/2026

Grants are being offered to students under the age of 25, who live in Upper Wensleydale, and are moving into, or are already within, higher education for the academic year 2025/26. The grants are awarded to provide students with financial assistance in meeting educational costs, including transport costs.

The Trustees of Yorebridge Education Foundation are now inviting grant applications; applicants should provide details of their age, the educational establishment that they are to attend, their chosen course, how they would use the grant if awarded one, plus any additional information that they consider relevant.

Students are welcome to apply this year even if they have been awarded a grant in previous years. All applications must be received by **December 31st** and sent electronically to The Clerk: clerkvfyf@outlook.com.

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Bainbridge WI

Well, that month flew by quickly and we are most definitely settling into autumn now. Thankfully, the weather has been pretty kind to us and we have enjoyed some lovely days, interspersed with a bit of rain and an occasional storm. Still, we won't complain.

We started October with a craft workshop, learning how to lino print. It was a great activity and we were all really proud of our achievements - and there were no accidents! We are even thinking of having another go!

Our Walking Group managed a nice walk at Ribbleshead in some glorious weather. Of course, they had to follow their walk with a visit to the local hostelry for refreshments!

The ladies of the Lunch Club seem to be out a lot and have enjoyed lunch at The Wensleydale Heifer and The Sandpiper Inn. There can't be many places they haven't tried out now!

Our gardeners have paid a visit to Whitegates Garden Centre although I am not yet convinced they go for the plants as much as the food!

Our October meeting saw David Mason from The Woodland Trust come along to update us on the Snaizeholme project, following his visit in April 2023. It was fascinating to hear about the progress of this project where 700,000 trees have been planted. This is the biggest woodland restoration project being undertaken by The Woodland Trust and will encompass the re-creation of the woodland and the river, maintenance of the peat bogs and re-introduction and maintenance of the natural wildlife. David reminded us that 'Every tree is a Good Tree', benefiting the environment and offering us the opportunity to do some 'forest bathing' which is believed to be good for our wellness.

Some of our members went along to Carperby to enjoy a High Dales WI event where local chef, Tristan Prudden, entertained and educated whilst cooking up delicious dishes. Perhaps we will be inspired to have a go ourselves!

We have held another Soup and Sweet Lunch in the Village Hall where members of our communities, and occasional visitors, can enjoy some delicious homemade offerings.

It isn't long now until our Christmas Craft Fayre which will take place at Bainbridge Village Hall on **Saturday, November 8th from 10.00am to 4.00pm**. Do come along to see what

is on offer and enjoy some delicious homemade cakes. Entry is free and there will be lots of things to help with your Christmas shopping.

Our November meeting will be held on **Thursday 20th at 7.30pm** in Bainbridge Village Hall. This will be our AGM where we will be voting for our President and Committee for the forthcoming year. We usually share a light supper at this meeting and have an activity or entertainment to lighten the atmosphere. All members are welcome but please make sure your name is on our list to ensure we cater for enough people.

If you are interested in joining our busy and friendly group why not come along to one of our monthly meetings to see if you like it? You can get further details from our President, Sue Stokes on **07816 955723**. We would be delighted to see you and offer a warm welcome and lots of opportunities. Do come along.

HAWES CHRISTMAS LIGHTS
2025
Art
Competition

This year's theme is Christmas or Winter.
Any medium- paint, crayon, pencil, felt tip ...

There will be a prize for the winner of each class and the overall winner wins The Regg Fagg Trophy and will also be the cover of December's Upper Wensleydale Newsletter.

All entries need to be A4 size and have your name and class on the back of the picture and sent into Hawes Primary School before
WEDNESDAY 19th NOVEMBER.

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Redmire Craft Market

Saturday, November 22nd,

10.00am to 2.00pm

Redmire Village Hall

Artists Carole Rutherford and Dinah Francis have brought together crafters, woodworkers, fused glass and watercolour artists, printers, knitters, stitchers and jam makers from around the Dales to display and sell their work. Many unique items, ideal for Christmas shoppers.



A call has gone out to Redmire and Castle Bolton to "Make and Bake" for the cake stall. All proceeds will go to Alzheimer Society.

A warm welcome awaits, so pop along and see what's on offer. Refreshments will be available just up the road at Redmire Village Pub.

For more information please email either dinahfrancis307@gmail.com or carrut99@gmail.com or find us on Facebook - Redmire Craft Markets.

Hawes Christmas Lights Help Needed

Looking forward to 'Switch On' day, **Saturday, December 6th**. The final schedule will be published in next month's issue.

We will be putting up the displays on **Wednesday, November 19th**. If anyone can help us, even for a couple of hours, it would be much appreciated. Many hands make light work! We're meeting at about **8.30am** outside Feather and Fern, Town Foot. Please come prepared for cold/wet weather.

Hawes Christmas Lights Festival

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Little Berries at Swinithwaite

Berry's Café and Farm Shop was developed by the Thornton-Berry family in April 2012.

More recently the café was run by Fairhursts but eventually it closed. The café will be missed by many but a new venture has emerged: a Child Care centre called Little Berries.

I visited the establishment last week and was struck by the sense of purpose and the efficient organisation of the enterprise. It is the brainchild of Charlotte, who is local to the Dales, being part of the farming community. She realised that there was a significant demand for child care, somewhere that parents could safely leave their children while they are at work. When Berry's Café site became available, it seemed the ideal place: a central Dales location, good access, plenty of parking and spacious accommodation. So plans were made to go ahead.

It took a lot of effort to get the project off the ground. The biggest stumbling block was Ofsted, the government inspection body. Their slow response meant that it took the first six months of this year for the go-ahead to be given. Finally on July 1st they got the clearance they needed. Fortunately the Thornton-Berrys were understanding and fully accepted the delay.

Since then, Little Berries has gone from strength to strength and is now very busy.

During term time the children are all pre-school age. Those aged from three months to two years are known as Seedlings, of whom there can be a maximum of twelve. Two to five year-olds are called Little Blossoms. There can be up to 24 in this group. Each of them is assigned a key worker who monitors their progress. Naturally, there is a lot of play activity but there are educational targets as well, so each day is well structured. They are long days too, starting at 7.00am and finishing at 6.30pm, which means that the staff have a twelve-hour day. In addition, during school holidays, children up to the age of eleven are also accepted, which must be much appreciated by many parents.

Charlotte has appointed a manager, Katherine, who deals with a lot of the organisation. There are seven child care workers, five full time and two part time, all of whom live locally. All are trained in child care, most to level three, some to level two, and there are two workers who are trained in special needs.

Such a long day requires some sustenance and I was astonished when Charlotte said that the children are fed five times a day: breakfast, lunch and tea, plus mid-session snacks. A full time person is independently employed to cater throughout the day.

It is quite obvious that Little Berries is a great success story. There is a positive atmosphere about the place and it is clear that they are providing a very valuable service. Long may it continue: this Newsletter wishes them well.

N.P.

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YDRT Photography Competition

The Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust (YDRT) Rivers4Life autumn stage photography competition is now open.

The charity is looking for the best photographs of Yorkshire Dales rivers and wildlife this autumn, to be included in its Rivers4Life exhibition which will be mounted at the Dales Countryside Museum in 2026 and will also feature in its 2027 calendar - all funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

For an entry form visit: www.ydrt.org.uk/photography-competition/. The autumn stage of the competition closes **December 5th**.

Remember to include the location of your photographs, taken in the catchments of the Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust which includes the rivers Swale, Ure, Nidd, Wharfe and Ouse and their tributaries. Find out more at: www.ydrt.org.uk.



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Leyburn and District u3a

“Wooden Boats And Iron Men” - How Tragedy, Bravery and Generosity have shaped the RNLI to what it is today!

On **Friday, November 21st**, David Hastings will give us an inspirational history of lifesaving at sea and the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI). From 1790 to the present day volunteers have braved all weathers and shown immense courage to save over 146,000 lives.

David is honorary secretary, Durham Branch, RNLI and has 49 years of hands-on voluntary fundraising experience for the RNLI and is recognised nationally for his fundraising achievements. He combines passion, humour and knowledge to create entertaining talks.

Visitors and new members are always welcome. Doors open at **10.00am for 10.30am** at Leyburn Arts and Community Centre, Richmond Road, Leyburn DL8 5DL. For details contact the Membership secretary www.leyburn.u3asite.uk.

Askrigg Ladies Sing for Pleasure

Askrigg Ladies Sing for Pleasure are getting new members and we would like it so much if any ladies who no longer sing with us and have copies of music hiding at home, would return them for future use.

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Wensleydale Young Musician of the year

Sunday 23rd November 2025
St. Matthew's Church, Leyburn, DL8 5FD

All Welcome | Refreshments Available

Entry from: 1.30pm | Competition begins: 2.00pm
(see website for full details and schedule)

Open to young people aged 7-18 years who live or attend school in North Yorkshire (see rules)
Closing date for entries: Midnight on Monday 17th November, 2025

Class One: Instrumentalist or Vocalist playing acoustically accompanied by a pianist or unaccompanied.

Class Two: Instrumentalist or Vocalist playing with amplification accompanied by backing track or unaccompanied.

Class Three: Ensemble or Group Two or more performers playing acoustically or amplified.

Full details and entry form available from

www.wensleydale.org

email: info@wensleydale.org | call or text 01969 745810
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Penhill Ladies

We invite you to spend an evening 'Celebrating the Seasons', with a flower arranging demonstration by Amy from Rosemary and Twine in Leyburn on **Wednesday, November 19th**.

Amy will show us how to make the best of what's in our gardens and hedgerows to add to our Autumnal and Winter arrangements and decorations. You just might be a lucky winner of one of Amy's arrangements.

Light refreshments will be served to complete the evening. Visitors are very welcome to join us for this open evening, you could even bring along a friend! £5.00 cost for non-members.

So, we hope to see you on **November 19th** at Carperby Institute for a **7.30pm** start to what should be a lovely evening.



Hawes Silver Band

**Remembrance Day Service at
Hawes Parish Church**

Sunday, November 9th, 10.15am

Brian Woof, the Band's principal cornet player, plays the Last Post and the Band accompanies the hymns.

The band plays for local events and celebrations and enquiries are welcome, see hawessilverband.org.uk.

New players with any level of skill on a brass instrument, or complete beginners, are welcome at our regular practice sessions, **7.30pm** at the Market House, Hawes most **Sunday evenings**.

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Dales Charity Bingo Report

We ran two bingo events in October, the first in Hawes for Hawes Amateur Operatic Society (HAOS) raising money to help production costs for this season's pantomime. It was great to see so many turn out in support, and we learned a few 'spoilers' for the pantomime from the bingo calls during the night.

A big thank you to young Ruben who was our guest caller for the raffle and for doing such a great job. The night raised £345 for HAOS.

Our second event was in Reeth as part of their Pink October month for Cancer Research with the town, venue, the players, our team and all the prizes featuring pink. We had a very good attendance and helped raise £729 toward their month of fund raising.

We have now set our schedule for 2026, apart from January which is still in progress. Our 2026 dates from February to December are all

on the second Wednesday of the month: **February 11th, March 11th, April 8th, May 13th, June 10th, July 8th, August 12th, September 9th, October 14th, November 11th and December 9th.** If anyone would like to book one of these dates for a bingo event next year, please let us know as the dates will be assigned on a first come basis.

Our next Bingo night will be in Hawes on **Wednesday, November 12th** for the Gayle Institute, please see our advert on page 31. Everyone is invited to come and play and help raise some money for some much-needed maintenance for the Institute.

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



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Reeth Memorial Hall

We have four concerts left for the year. Thanks to everyone who's supported us so far. Details and dates for 2026 concerts are on our website.

Friday, October 31st – While and Matthews

Their songs are varied and colourful and draw inspiration from the overtly political to key social issues and real-life human stories. Their story is remarkable, one of two empowered women doing it their way, without compromise. Tickets £18 (£20 door).

Saturday, November 8th – Rag Mamma Rag

Ashley and Deborah Dow play a 20s and 30s Blues based repertoire on an astonishing range of instruments including several different types of guitar, plus ukulele, harmonica, washboard and percussion. Tickets £16 (£18 door).

Friday, November 14th – Andy Irvine

One of the great Irish singers, his voice one of a handful of truly great ones that gets to the very soul of Ireland. He has been hailed as 'a tradition in himself.' Tickets £18 (£20 door).

Saturday, December 6th - The Wilderness Yet

Vocals, fiddle, guitar and flute weave a tapestry of traditional and original songs and tunes; from acappella three-part harmonies to luscious instrumental arrangements, to welcome the Christmas season. Tickets £17 (£19 door).

Tickets for concerts are available from Reeth PO or phone **Glen Steward 01748 884989** or visit www.reethmemorialhall.weebly.com. Tickets are half price for under 16s. All concerts start at **8.00pm** – doors open **7.30pm**.

UWSRA AGM

The annual general meeting of the Upper Wensleydale Sports and Recreational Association (UWSRA) will take place at **7.00pm** on **Thursday, November 6th** at Wesley House, on Burtersett Road.

UWSRA is the charity which manages Hawes Community Fields. There will be a report on the year's activities and election of trustee-directors. Any enquiries contact Chairman Gordon Sleightholm or Secretary Andrew Fagg.

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

October

- 31 Concert. Reeth Memorial Hall. 7.30pm.
See p.19.

November

- 1 Toy Fair. Carperby Village Hall.
11.00am. See p.3.
- 2 Bonfire and Fireworks Display. Hawes
Community Field. 6.00pm. See p.16.
- 3 Citizen's Advice Session. The Hub,
Hawes. 11.00am.
- 5 Bellerby Study Group. Bellerby Memorial
Hall. 7.30pm. See p.32.
- 6 UWSRA AGM. Wesley House. 7.00pm.
See p.19.
- 7 Dominoes. Carperby Institute. 7.30pm.
- 8 Craft Fair. Bainbridge Village Hall.
10.00am. See p.3.
- 8 Concert. Reeth Memorial Hall. 7.30pm.
See p.19.
- 9 Christmas Fayre. Hawes Market Hall.
10.00pm. See p.18 & 28.
- 10 Whist Drive. Gayle Institute 7.30pm. See
p.24.
- 12 Bellerby Study Group. Bellerby Memorial
Hall. 7.30pm. See p.32.
- 12 Charity Bingo. Hawes Market Hall.
7.00pm. See p.18.
- 13 Coffee Morning. Gayle Institute.
10.00am. See p.24.
- 14 Story Writing Competition Deadline. See
p.26.
- 14 Soup and Sweet. Stalling Busk
Schoolroom. 7.30pm. See p.25.
- 14 Concert. Reeth Memorial Hall. 7.30pm.
See p.19.
- 15 Concert. St. Oswald's, Askrigg. 4.00pm.
See p.6.
- 15 Quiz Night. West Burton Village Hall.
7.00pm. See p.25.
- 16 & 17 Christmas Shopping. Woodcraft
Studio. 10.30am. See p.7.
- 16 Informal Service. Bainbridge Village
Institute. 2.30pm. See p.6.
- 17 Whist Drive. Gayle Institute 7.30pm. See
p.24.
- 17 Closing date for entries for Young
Musician Competition. See p.25.
- 19 Local History Group Meeting. Harmby
Village Hall. 2.00pm. See p.33.

- 19 Bellerby Study Group. Bellerby Memorial
Hall. 7.30pm. See p.32.
- 19 Putting up Christmas lights. Hawes.
8.30am. See p.13.
- 19 Penhill Ladies Meeting. Carperby Village
Institute. 7.30pm. See p.17.
- 20 Bainbridge WI AGM. Bainbridge Village
Hall. 7.30pm. See p.12.
- 21 u3a Meeting. LA&CC. 10,00am. See
p.16.
- 22 Craft Market. Redmire Village Hall.
10.00am. See p.13.
- 23 Wensleydale Young Musician of the
Year Competition. St Matthew's,
Leyburn. 2.00pm. See p.16 & 25.
- 24 Whist Drive. Gayle Institute 7.30pm. See
p.24.
- 25 Arts Society Meeting. Tennants. 2.00pm.
See p.23.
- 26 Bellerby Study Group. Bellerby Memorial
Hall. 7.30pm. See p.32.
- 29 & 30 Christmas Shopping. Woodcraft
Studio. 10.30am. See p.7.

December

- 1 Whist Drive. Gayle Institute 7.30pm. See
p.24.
- 3 Carols by Candlelight. St Mary & St
John's Hardraw. 7.00pm. See p.6.
- 6 Hawes Christmas Lights Switch On. See
p.13.
- 6 Christmas Concert. St Margaret's,
Hawes. 2.00pm. See p.6.
- 6 Concert. Reeth Memorial Hall. 7.30pm.
See p.19.

Wensleydale Tournament of Song

9th - 20th March 2026

Our syllabus for next year's Tournament is now available. Pick up a copy at Hewsons of Leyburn and libraries in Richmond, Leyburn, Bedale and Hawes, or by post from the Secretary (tel. **07423 532544**).

Early entries are much appreciated!

Thornton Rust Institute

Christmas Wreaths

Hand-made natural Christmas wreaths.
£20. All money for charity. Please phone
Paul Raven on **07786 353987** to order your
festive wreath.

News from Yorebridge House

This month we caught up with brother and sister team, Joanne and David, who are now running Yorebridge House, a 5-star, 3 AA Rosette boutique hotel in Bainbridge. The business partners were very keen to add a luxury boutique hotel in North Yorkshire and not afraid of hard work, Yorebridge is one of four businesses managed by the siblings. Their flagship, The Jolly Fisherman pub and restaurant situated in Craster, Rosie's Bar in Newcastle (a proper boozier right in the city centre), and The Woodmans Arms, a pub and restaurant in Wickham. This includes a wedding venue called 'The Willows at the Woodmans'.

Yorebridge has recently completed renovating an old barn, in the grounds of a meadow. This is a luxury room with a super king-sized bed, small lounging area and an outside terrace area with an outside waterfall shower, and a Japanese bath! so you can sit in the bath and look out over the Dales. (For those of you wondering, it's a luxury metal square bath with small jets, using running water and no chemicals).

Joanne and David are in the process of getting planning for a small spa. The Spa will comprise of a treatment room, sauna and an outside terrace, where you can sit and relax after your treatments and enjoy light refreshments or indulge in another one of their Japanese baths. They plan to open the spa to day guests too. Joanne talked about hosting Spa and Wellness Retreats in 2026. Consisting of a two-night stay at Yorebridge and would include classes of Yoga and Pilates on the lawns or under cover,

guided walks through the Dales and a carefully created healthy living menu. Plans are also in discussion to have some design led pods situated in the grounds. Providing outdoor living with a touch of luxury!

Joanne and David organised a summer outdoor movie screening at Yorebridge House this year, which was very successful, with hopes for this to be repeated next year.

The AA 3 Rosette serves an A La Carte and a tasting menu every evening. The restaurant is available to book online or call to make your reservation. Sunday lunch is available to book from **noon - 4.00pm**, and they serve afternoon tea and a relaxed lunch menu daily too. Yorebridge House offers exclusive use for private celebrations, events and weddings.

This will be Joanne and David's first Christmas at Yorebridge and will be open for the festive season, offering a three-night Christmas event and for New Year's Eve, an evening of fine dining and live music. You don't have to be a guest at Yorebridge House to enjoy Christmas Day Lunch or New Year's Eve, so visit their website for more information and bookings: <https://yorebridgehouse.co.uk/> or email: enquiries@yorebridgehouse.co.uk Call: **01969 652060**.

Hawes Indoor Bowling Club

During the Autumn and Winter months the Hawes Indoor Bowling Club meets every **Tuesday at 7.15pm** in the Market House for a friendly game of indoor carpet bowls. New members (male and female) are always welcome.

No previous experience is necessary, so why not come along and have a go. You might have a hidden talent or just enjoy the company and the light exercise. Ring **Barry** on **01969 667458** if you have any queries.

Upper Wensleydale Ladies Luncheon Club

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

We are a small group and would make you very welcome. Anyone wishing to join please contact **Ray Wilkinson** on **01969 663613**, or **Sue Ryding** on **01969 663551**.

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Dales Countryside Museum News

Opening times: Daily **10.00am to 4.00pm** in November and December.

Closed Christmas Eve to Boxing

Day, New Year's Day and January 6th to 31st.

Open **10.00am to 5.00pm** February to October.

Last entry one hour before closing.

Contact: hawes@yorkshiredales.org.uk or call **01969 666210**.

Exhibitions:

Underground Worlds: from here to Vietnam! Caves from a major part of the limestone landscape of the world. Those in the Yorkshire Dales National Park are some of the finest and include the longest system in Britain: Three Counties. Vietnam's Phong Nha cave system is home to the world's biggest cave: Hang Son Doong. This exhibition explores the link and history between the two National Parks. Come along to see stunning photos of Yorkshire Dales and Vietnamese caves alongside archive material from Ingleborough cave, archive photos from the museum collection and equipment borrowed from cavers and caving clubs.

Yorkshire Dales Young Archaeologists' Club:

We had a fantastic October session exploring Bainbridge Fort and learning how to use surveying equipment. The club meets once a month on a **Saturday morning, 10.00am - noon**. Please call **01969 666210** or email dcm@yorkshiredales.org.uk if your child is interested in joining us for a trial session.

Education and community engagement:

Our Young Creatives group will be meeting this month to explore the importance of peat bogs. We'll be taking a walk up to a bog to explore the site's fantastic plant life, see some of the restoration work that has been installed on the site, visit an area of historical peat cutting and take part in a collagraph print making activity inspired by the environment. Supported by The National Lottery Heritage Fund and the Julia Rausing Trust with Art Fund, this UK-wide programme is engaging new and under-represented audiences with museum collections across the country through the creation of collaborative touring exhibitions.

If you're aged 18-30 and are interested in getting involved, just get in touch! We'd love to

hear from you! We're also looking to meet with groups of young people so that their voices can be shared through the project. If you're in a group or lead a group and would be interested in having a chat, just get in touch.

We're uncovering some fascinating stories through our research project into Rural Women and have been connecting with other museums and galleries. If you have any stories to share from within your family, village or local community, please get in touch at dcm@yorkshiredales.org.uk.

Children from Brompton on Swale School have been exploring prehistory, and those from Gledhow School have been learning how to make butter and discovering more about the Anglo Saxons. If your school is interested in a free led session or in using our loan boxes, just get in touch.

DCM events coming up in November and December:

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

FDCM talk:

Friday, November 7th, 2.00pm - 3.30pm.

Tony Keates takes a look at stone extraction, a once important industry in Wensleydale. All welcome. Free for members, donation welcomed from non-members

Recipes and Remedies from the museum archives:

Tuesday, November 11th, 10.00am - 4.00pm.

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

Mother Christmas:

Saturday, December 6th, 10.30am - 3.30pm.

Come along to meet Mother Christmas, write and post your letter to Santa, have fun doing some Christmas crafting and enjoy a luxury hot chocolate at the Firebox café. Time slots available from **10.30am - 3.30pm**.

Booking essential £8 per child. Once booked,

please email hawes@yorkshiredales.org.uk with your child's age so they receive an age appropriate gift.

Accessible Mother Christmas:

Sunday, December 7th, 10.30am - 3.30pm.

Bespoke SEND event for your family to make memories with Mother Christmas.

Please email the museum to discuss your individual needs and to book your timed slot hawes@yorkshiredales.org.uk. Booking essential £8 per child.

Christmas Wreath Making:

Sunday, December 7th, 1.00pm - 4.00pm.

Christmas Wreath making using all natural ingredients to create a bespoke festive wreath. Enjoy a festive platter and drink, included in fee. Booking essential £45

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Arts Society Wensleydale

Pride, Prejudice and Jewels!

In October, Arts Society Wensleydale had an Austen-tatiously good lecture on 'Pride and Prejudice: how jewellery reflects the world of Jane Austen'. Austen and jewellery fans alike were treated to a lecture that looked at how jewellery was used in her novels to move plots on and create impressions of her characters and to show their changing affections and reflect on their good taste or otherwise.

Next month, we have the wonderful Lars Tharp from the BBC Antiques Roadshow, who will be talking about the amazing fairytale of Meissen porcelain in his lecture 'Of Meissen Men and the Maladie de Porcelaine' at Tennants Auction House, Leyburn on Tuesday, **November 25th at 2.00pm**. Non-members/guests are always welcome at The Arts Society Wensleydale lectures. A donation of £10 is suggested. Tennants will be serving a pre-lecture 2-course lunch in the Versailles Room for £23pp, followed by tea/coffee. Booking essential for the lunch. Please contact info@tennantsgardenrooms.com or call **01969 621146**. And for more information on Wensleydale Arts Society, visit <https://theartsociety.org/wensleydale>.

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Wensleydale Young Musician of the Year 2025

As part of the Rotary National Young Musician of Year competition, Wensleydale Rotary Club is joining again with BlueBoxt Creative and Performing Arts in Leyburn to hold the Wensleydale Area heat of the competition which will be on **November 23rd** at St Matthew's Church in Leyburn, starting at **2.00pm**.

The event is open to young people aged 7 to 18 years who live or attend school in North Yorkshire (or close to the county boundary). There are three classes split into two age groups, under 12 years and 12 to 18 years. The event is organised by BlueBoxt Creative and Performing Arts working with Wensleydale Rotary Club.

The first class will be for an instrumentalist or vocalist playing acoustically, either accompanied by a pianist or unaccompanied. The second class is for an instrumentalist or vocalist playing with amplification accompanied by a backing track or unaccompanied. The third class is for an ensemble or group with 2 or more performers playing acoustically or amplified.

President of Wensleydale Rotary Paul Hardcastle commented "This competition gives competitors valuable performance experience with excellent feedback from the adjudicator. The winner from this competition goes forward to the Yorkshire Area competition which then leads to a national final".

Full details and an entry form can be found on www.wensleydale.org. Closing date for entries is **November 17th**.

The Friends of Hawes Junction Chapel

Present 'The Ayrton Family'
at Hawes Market Hall on
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Light refreshments served. Retiring collection
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Quiz Night

Saturday, November 15th, 7.00pm

West Burton Village Hall
Tickets £10. Contact **07969 359599**,
edavis1095@gmail.com

Stalling Busk Schoolroom Soup and Sweet

Friday, November 14th at 7.30pm

Musical evening with Alan Chandler
All welcome

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**Don't Forget the
Story Writing Competition**

There are two categories in the competition; those in years 3 and 4 and those in years 5 and 6. Primary schools will be encouraging children to enter and can help with advice and access to computers etc.

We have decided this year to challenge the younger children to write a poem about a favourite colour or thing. The poem can be any style and any length.

The older Children are invited to submit a story that must be under 500 words long and can be about anything that captures your imagination. The only rule this year is that you must start your story with the words "I knew it was going to be one of those days when..."

How to enter:

Email your entry to uwnlinput@gmail.com to reach us by **midnight on Friday, November 14th**. Ensure your name, year group, and the name of your school is sent in with your entry. Children at Hawes and BAWB schools can submit their entries via school.

The winner in each age group will receive a £50 book voucher and a trophy to keep. The runners up will receive a £25 book voucher. All entrants will receive a certificate.

The winning stories will be published in the February and March 2026 editions of the UWNL. The winning children's Primary School in each age group will hold the Alan Watkinson Memorial Shield for a year and receive a book voucher for encouraging and collating entries.

Full rules can be found in the September issue of the Newsletter.

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Blueboxt – November Update

That's a wrap on Leyburn Jazz Festival for another year which means our attention turns to the Festive period and planning for 2026 with plenty of opportunities for all ages to enjoy and take part. Registration is open for all upcoming events and activities so please book early and support our volunteers and performers who work tirelessly to keep community arts happening in the Dales.

Events:

Christmas Together Concert - Join Light My Choir!, Musical Director Colin Bailey, and special guests The Stanley Duo, Gail Barlow and Bee Darcey, for an afternoon of classic Christmas songs and festive cheer with a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie. The concert takes place at St. Matthew's Church, Leyburn on **Saturday, December 6th at 2.00pm** (doors open **1.30pm**). Tickets: Pay as you feel (suggested donation £10.00). The concert follows the Church's Christmas Coffee morning with local craft stalls. All Welcome.

A Christmas Cracker - The Garden Rooms at Tennants, Leyburn - BlueBoxt are thrilled to be joining the Service Children's Community Choir and friends for a heart-warming evening of festive music and community spirit. The concert takes place on **Wednesday, December 17th at 7.30pm**. Tickets are available from www.tennantsgardenrooms.com or from the reception and cost £10.00 - Adults | £5.00 - Children.

FEAST Christmas Party: Start the holidays with some festive fun for ages 4 to 12 on **Monday, December 22nd from 11.00am - 3.00pm** at Leyburn Methodist Church Hall. Enjoy an action packed few hours as a family or, let them have all the fun while you sneak in some last-minute preparations for the big day! There will be festive activities including Christmas cards and decorations to make and take home. A family friendly disco with traditional party games, challenges, and plenty of singing and dancing. All fuelled by healthy snacks, biscuit icing, and chance to prepare the party tea. The session will finish with a visit from Mother Christmas for a special festive story time and a gift to take home. Places cost £20 inc. gift and party tea. FEAST voucher

places available from Schools or North Yorkshire Together – contact us to find out more.

Activities:

NEW DAY, NEW VENUE! - Play, Record, Perform (11-19 years, other ages considered) – Sessions now take place on **Wednesday evenings 6.30pm - 8.30pm** at Leyburn Scout and Guides Hall. We cover different styles of music and it is a great to meet and make music with other young musicians.

Get Musical Jam Band (6-11 years, other ages considered) - **Fridays, November 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th from 4.30pm - 6.00pm** at Leyburn Methodist Church Hall. Bee Darcey returns with a fun series of FREE music-making activities including Boomwhackers, Bucket Beats, Sing-along-a Jam Band. The sessions are kindly supported by funding from AMP, Youth Music and Arts Council England.

Wensleydale Young Musician of the Year – This year's competition takes place on **Sunday, November 23rd at 2.00pm** at St. Matthew's Church, Leyburn. Closing date for entries: **Monday, November 17th**. Full details at www.wensleydale.org. The competition is run in partnership with Wensleydale Rotary and form a local heat for the National competition.

Fund raising:

Thank you to everyone who supported us in October for our Coffee Morning, Quiz night with Simon Eastwood, Grand Prize Draw (winning numbers available on our website or by request).

Coffee Mornings – Our final coffee morning of the year takes place at Leyburn Methodist Church Hall on **Friday, November 28th**. Enjoy a cuppa and a chat. Cake Stall and Raffle.

To find out more or book places for our events and activities visit www.wensleydale.org or contact Colin Bailey on: **01969 745810/07711 211169** or email: info@wensleydale.org.



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This month the children have been busy exploring autumn. They all took home an autumn treasure bag to fill with exciting things they found when out on a walk with family as part of their home learning. We have had lots of outdoor play with wellies and waterproofs, playing in the mud kitchen making pumpkin pies and autumn soups. We had a visit to the park in Hawes where we met Henrietta the chicken and enjoyed chatting with the local shop owners on our way down. Our role play area transformed into an autumn woodland. We



dressed up as different animals, learnt how they prepare for winter and explored the changing colours of the trees and the falling fruits and pine cones. We learnt about harvest and how the fruit and vegetables are grown and collected, we made our own vegetable soup and plum crumble cake to help us develop our cutting and measuring skills. Dalesplay would like to say a very big thank you to L.A Dents from Carleton and Vicky Smith who kindly donated some game meat for the children to try. They enjoyed a game casserole and some pan-fried partridge which went down a treat and we are planning some more dishes for them to sample.

We have lots of fun Halloween themed activities planned for the October half term when we welcome back some of the children who have started school full time, we can't wait to hear about your new adventures in our holiday club.

Dalesplay will be holding a Christmas Fayre in Hawes Market hall on **Sunday, November 9th from 10.00am-4.00pm**. Everyone is welcome and the money raised will be put towards our kitchen refurbishment that is due to take place over Christmas.

Dalesplay is now taking bookings for January 2026! Please get in touch now as the list is filling fast, we offer paid sessions and funded sessions. Visit www.childcarechoices.gov.uk to see if you qualify for funding and get your code. Funding is for children the term after they are 9 months old with working families, all 3 and 4 year olds and children aged 2 with low-income families. Dalesplay is a registered charity so we keep our costs to our families to a minimum to cover the running costs of the setting, we aren't here to make a profit, just offer a high rated service for children in the Dales to learn and grow in a safe, stimulating environment. All our staff are full qualified and undergo regular training to keep up to date and able to provide the best care possible for your little ones. Email dalesplay1@btconnect.com for details.

We are on the lookout for some new people to join our board of directors. This is a voluntary role and we meet for approximately 1 hour every 6 weeks in an early evening to discuss the overall running of Dalesplay. If you are available to help us please get in touch, we would love to have the community involved and parents of the setting. All Directors undergo a DBS check to ensure they are safe and suitable for the role.

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Have You Got Half a House?

I am searching for a complete copy (50 pages) of the 2004 (approx) report Half a House, which was published following detailed external research into the feasibility of a scheme for affordable home ownership in the Upper Dales (Wensleydale, Swaledale and Arkengarthdale). An 8 page summary, with colour cover, was published in January 2004 but only the full 50 page report contains the original research and statistics, on which the scheme was based.

The innovative feature of the proposal was that it was not for the acquisition, development or letting of properties but on the feasibility of establishing a Home Equity Fund to help local people to afford to buy their own house. The chairman of the Joint Initiative was Peter Annison, who also wrote a short executive summary of the scheme shortly before he died in 2018. I should now like to trace a copy of the 50 page report published about 20 years ago. Do you - or anyone you know - have a copy that I could buy (or borrow to have professionally copied) please?

Ruth Annison Tel. 01969 650349

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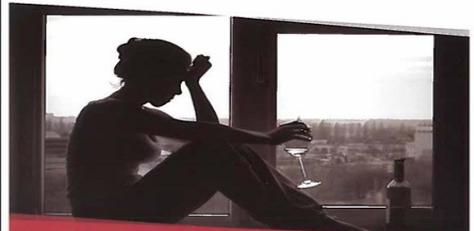
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Heavens Above

If you're out and about on Bonfire Night check out this month's Full Moon. It's the biggest and brightest 'Supermoon' since 2019 – 14% bigger and 30% brighter than the faintest Full Moon. It won't look as spectacular to the naked eye as the images you'll find in the media, but if you can catch it just after its risen early on in the evening, you'll find it will look much larger than usual due to a famous optical effect known as the 'Moon Illusion'. This causes the Moon to appear larger to the naked eye when it's close to the horizon than when it's higher up in the sky. As far as I know no-one has come up with a really satisfactory explanation for why this should happen. Can you think of one?

If you look low in the north-east on a clear night this month shortly after **8.00pm**, you'll spot mighty Jupiter, the Solar System's largest planet. Shining steadily close to Castor and Pollux, the twin stars in the constellation of Gemini, the giant world dominates the southern sky for the next few months. It's at its closest to us on **January 9th** next year when it far outshines any of the stars at a spectacular magnitude of minus 2.7. With a diameter of 143,000 kilometres Jupiter is bigger than all of the other planets put together. Despite its huge size it spins round on its axis in less than 10 hours. As a result, it bulges outwards at its equator like a monstrous satsuma. Befitting its status the giant planet has a retinue of 95 satellites but most of these are tiny objects just a few miles across. The four biggest, however, Ganymede, Europa, Callisto and Io, are much,

much larger (Ganymede is bigger than the planet Mercury) so are fairly easy to pick out with good binoculars, appearing as tiny points of light which change position from night to night as they shuttle round Jupiter in their respective orbits.

There's another opportunity to catch a few 'shooting stars' this month when the Leonid meteor shower comes to a peak on the night of **November 17th/18th**. There's no Moon about to spoil the view so you've a good chance of spotting a fair number of these high velocity meteors which originate from dust and debris left behind by Comet Tempel-Tuttle which was discovered in 1865. Best time to look out for them is before midnight.

We say good-bye to Venus at the end of this month. It's been a brilliant 'morning star' since early April but sinks out of view in the dawn twilight at the end of November. Its place is taken by the tiny innermost planet, Mercury, which puts on its best morning display of the year low in the east during the last few days of November and the first couple of weeks of December. Have clear skies!

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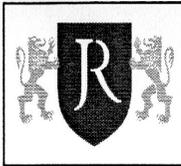
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Leyburn Arts & Community Centre

November's cinema and events mean a full month for our volunteers as the 100 Years of Community Cinema celebrations continue. We also have our usual Autumn French Film Festival with a range of well recommended films, with subtitles.

It is also a busy month for events with two cinema live productions - 'Radiohead and Nosferatu: A Symphony of Horror' and 'John Cleese Packs It In'. The folk rock band Gaelforce make a welcome return for which tickets are selling fast. Not forgetting a National Theatre Live production of The Fifth Step. Details of all our activities can be found on our website, www.leyburnartscentre.com. Coming in December are two Christmas themed workshops, so have a look at those as we expect them to be popular.

November is often cold, dull and grey - look us up for ideas on how to cheer yourself up! It is not the best time of the year for getting out and about, much easier to stay in and enjoy our own homes, however if you do want company and would like a wider social life we are always recruiting for volunteers! The Centre is busy and you may also discover a group or activity you would like to join. Some online tasks can also be done from home and do not entail a lot of time, just a regular hour or so at a time to suit yourself. Just get in touch if you would like more information, no obligation to take it further if you change your mind!



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If you want to pop in and meet our reception volunteers - take time to have a look in our Little Shop. There is an excellent range of books and jigsaws, cards for all occasions and often home-made Jams and Marmalades. The Tuesday Club has vacancies at the moment, an afternoon's social event from **1.00pm – 4.00pm**, with food and a talk or activity and the Community Shed is open on **Friday and Saturday** mornings for visitors who wish to see what is going on. Carers Plus meet on the **1st Thursday morning of the month** and specialist advisors are available on the **2nd Friday, 10.00am - noon**.

Enquiries can be made on **01969 624510** or see our Facebook page.

Dales Charity



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Bellerby Study Group

On **November 5th**, Pat Burguss, from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission will describe the history of the Commission and its work today.

The presentation starts with how the Commission began; its work during the 1st and 2nd World Wars and concludes with its work today in maintaining and preserving our historic estate around the World. It will also focus on the war graves in our local area and tell the stories of some of those we commemorate.

In ‘Captain Barclay and the Fancy’ on **November 12th**, Anthony Wood will relate how Captain Barclay achieved fame as a man who walked 1000 miles in 100 hours for a 1000 guinea bet. The Fancy was a loose confederation of sportsmen whose antics shocked and enthralled early 19th Britain.

Barclay became a leading light whose athletic prowess and training methods won him fame, fortune and the friendship of royalty, making him one of the best-known men of the age.

Dr Tony Nicholson will reveal ‘The Secrets of the Attic 2’ on **November 19th**.

The story continues as we discover how the plot thickens as the ‘vile woman’ is pursued across the globe. An unwelcome guest turns up at Annie’s wedding and a scandal looms. Gus suddenly disappears but we track him down and discover his unlikely fate.

On **November 26th**, find out how Harrogate avoided a disaster when Graham Seel recounts ‘The Story of Edward Wilson Dixon’ At the turn of the 20th century Harrogate faced the prospect of what the local press described as a ‘water famine’. Ironically, there was a real danger that the taps would run dry in this popular Spa town.

However, Harrogate’s newly appointed Chief Water Engineer, Edward Wilson Dixon, saved the day and initiated and oversaw a scheme to build a new water supply for the town, the Roundhill Reservoir

All our meetings are on Wednesday evenings and start at **7.30pm** in Bellerby Memorial Hall, Church Street DL8 5QL. The talks are followed by free refreshments and a chance to chat. Membership is £15 for 8 talks, visitors are welcome at £3 per meeting. For more information contact **Judy Asher 07968 596676**.

Middleham and the Dales Local History Group

Wednesday, November 19th, 2.00pm
at Harmby Village Hall

Wensleydale – an industrial landscape?
By Tony Keates

An alternative look at Wensleydale through the eyes of an industrial historian, which contrasts the natural beauty of Wensleydale with the remains of its industrial past. The talk looks at the various industries which were once a major part of the economy of Wensleydale. Tony is a regular speaker and secretary of Middleham and the Dales Local History Society.

Members, new members and visitors are always welcome, annual membership is £12 for nine meetings and visitors can attend for £3 per meeting.

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

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Yorebridge Sport and Leisure Centre

The Wensleydale Centre, Askrigg,
Tel 01969 650060

Run Club and Couch to 5k is back! Our Evening Skills and Drills club is on a Friday evening, **6.00pm - 7.00pm**, £6 per session.

The session is split in two with half an hour of Tempo Runs, Fartlek Runs, Hill Reps, Interval Runs, Running Drills (to name but a few), followed by half an hour of Strength for Runners exercises. These exercises begin with body resistance exercises and continue through the resistance levels.

This season we are incorporating a Couch to 5K within our Run Club, perfect for anyone who would like support to get off that couch! It is a really friendly club to be involved with.

Bookable through the ClubRight calendar, discount when eight sessions are booked.

I need to do something but I don't want to go to a gym! You don't have to! We have two classes a week which we live stream on Zoom: Fit for Life and Circuits. These are included in the Zoom Membership, Premier Plus Membership and Pay As You Go vouchers. The link is emailed out and there is even a recording made available after the class, so it can fit round your other commitments, and you don't even have to leave your house!

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

Class Timetable - 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.

Adult Tennis Club – **Mondays** (live) **6.00pm – 7.00pm**. Social tennis, weather permitting. To join the group: yorebridgetennis@gmail.com.

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) **6.00pm – 7.00pm** with Glenn on the MUGA, yorebridgetennis@gmail.com.

Run Club and Couch to 5k (£6) **Fridays** (live) **6.00pm – 7.00pm**. Outside at the gym.

We are on Facebook, 'Yorebridge Sport and Leisure', give us a follow to keep up to date with the news from the centre.

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



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**

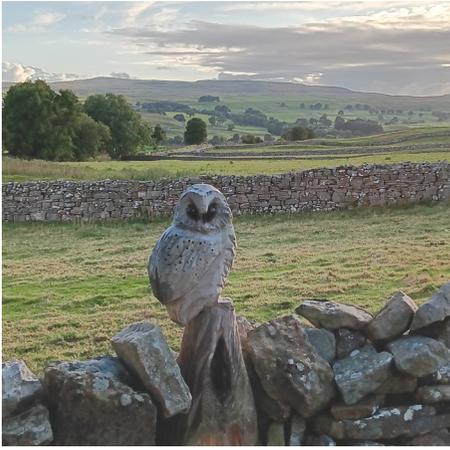
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Mystery Picture

Last month's picture was of the bench mark found on Haylands Bridge at Hawes. Where can you find this carving of an owl?



Christmas Concertos and Carols

Sunday, December 7th at 4.00pm

in the Gallery at Tennants Garden Rooms.

Richmond Chamber Orchestra - Director and soloist Philippa Mo with members of the Swale Singers and Richmond Choral Society, conducted by Ben Noble.

North Yorkshire's unique orchestra presents an early celebration of Christmas, a mixture of traditional favourites and less familiar gems.

Baroque music in the first half, with Corelli's Christmas Concerto, Vivaldi's Concerto for 4 Violins, Telemann's Trumpet Concerto and the dance movements from Bach's Suite in B minor. After the interval there's music with a Christmas theme by Vaughan Williams and Florence Price. The singing starts with carols by John Rutter sung by members of the Swale Singers and Richmond Choral Society conducted by Ben Noble. And finally it's the audience's turn to join in some traditional carols, with some sparkling trumpet descants! With Michael Atkinson (trumpet), David Francis (harpsichord), Sue Francis (flute) and Georgina Wells (harp).

Tickets £15.00 (Under 18 £5.00), from Tennants Garden Rooms - **01969 621146**, www.tennantsgardenrooms.com.



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Upper Wensleydale Benefice Services in November

	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
November 1st	St. Oswald's Coffee Morning at Askrigg Village Hall 10.00am - Noon			
November 2nd	The Gathering - Benefice Family Communion. St. Oswald's, Askrigg 10.30am			
November 7th	Communion at Sycamore Hall in the TV Lounge at 10.00am			
Remembrance Sunday November 9th		Remembrance Service 10.30am followed by a procession to the war memorial	Remembrance Service	Soup Lunch 12.30pm followed by Remembrance Service
November 16th	Morning Prayer	Family Service	Morning Prayer	
November 23rd	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Afternoon Prayer. Pathfinders & Explorers
November 30th	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Benefice Advent Communion Service 10.30am
Evening Prayer by telephone 4.00pm every Sunday (Except November 30th). For details see the website www.upperwensleydalechurch.org/services			Stay Connected and make the most of Bible teaching taking place across the Benefice. Search your podcast provider for: 'Rev Dave from Wensleydale'	

Remembering and Responding

Since I was a child I have always found Remembrance Sunday a moving and a special occasion. Not in any jingoistic or xenophobic way but in a manner of respect and gratitude for the sacrifice of those who have gone before me. Those who had fought and struggled in so many different ways to create a world that would be better than the one they were living in - a world free from tyranny, fear and hardship. I lived with first-hand accounts from my family of what that meant, what that looked like and what that cost. This year the remembering has a particular timeline associated with it as we mark the 80th anniversary of the end of hostilities in Europe and the Far East.

During a recent visit to the Yorkshire Air Museum at Elvington I was struck by the size and fragility of the Halifax Bomber, 'Friday the 13th' that is housed in a hangar there. The Halifax flew in great numbers from Elvington and other airfields across East Yorkshire. My admiration was rekindled as I considered once more the courage and

self-sacrifice of my grandparent's generation and thanked God that I had never had to face such a similar challenge. And yet we know, all too sadly, that violence and injustice continue to ravage our world. It was never meant to be like this.

Writing some 800 years before the birth of Christ, the prophet Isaiah spoke the heart of God when he gave the instruction: 'stop doing evil and learn to do what is right. See that justice is done; help those who are oppressed, give orphans their rights, and defend the defenceless.' ^{Isaiah 1:16f}

In a world where we continue to create and deliver such havoc and horror upon one another, may we be willing to consider our part in it all and to do just that.

The communities of Upper Wensleydale will hold an act of Remembrance in St Margaret's Church in Hawes and in St Oswald's Church, Askrigg on **Sunday, November 9th at 10.30am** and in St Matthew's, Stalling Busk **at 1.30pm.**



News From Sycamore Hall

Goodness - here we are in November and we have passed the 'witching hour'! How did that happen? With the clocks having now changed we are getting used to the dark evenings and already longing for the bright days of spring!

Some residents joined members of the local community on a 'Mystery Tour' which took us around Lower Wensleydale to places some of us had never heard of! It was a glorious day and we saw some lovely scenery. We also realised just how low our reservoirs are, having passed both Thornton Steward and Leighton reservoirs. We had a delicious lunch at The White Bear in Masham and a gentle ride back to Bainbridge.

We have also enjoyed a talk and slideshow about Wainwright which was interesting. Tim, from the Newcastle Building Society branch in Hawes came along to one of our coffee mornings to talk to us about fraud and scams which was pretty terrifying! He gave us advice and tips on how best to protect ourselves - basically by not giving out any personal information to anyone and by putting the phone down on anyone we do not know!

We were thrilled to hear that we had done well in this year's Housing 21 Garden Competition. We got a Gold Award for our 'wild garden' and a Silver Award for our Greenhouse and Vegetable Garden. Well done to those residents who have contributed to this, and our gardener.

Unfortunately, there was insufficient support to go ahead with our trip to Northallerton but, with the help of members of our local community we did manage to go ahead with the visit to Strikes Garden Centre where we enjoyed looking at their Christmas displays, as well as the plants. Of course, we also enjoyed lunch as one must on these trips!

Lianna, our Beauty Therapist, is enjoying her regular visits and is building up a list of clients who are enjoying some pampering in the comfortable surroundings of the salon. She is now taking bookings for her next two visits, the last before Christmas. The visits take place on **Monday, November 17th and Monday, December 22nd**. So, if you would like a bit of pampering (maybe some festive nails or a facial), call Lianna on **07792-086189** to make an appointment. This facility is available to all in the community (men and women).

Meanwhile, our regular activities continue as follows:-

Mondays at 2.00pm - 'Knit and Natter'

Tuesdays at 10.30am - Bingo or Quiz

Thursdays at 10.30am - Coffee Morning

Fridays at 11.00am - Gentle Seated Exercise with Janet Seymour

Every weekday at 2.00 pm - Dominoes

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

You are welcome to join us for any of these activities. We love to meet new faces as well as familiar ones and can offer a warm welcome.

Our 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, sandwiches, bread, pasties, pies and cakes. Come and visit us to see our range!

Sonja's Hair Salon is open **Thursdays and Fridays, 9.30am to 2.00pm and Saturdays, 9.30am to 1.00pm**. If you wish to make an appointment, please try to do so at least a week in advance to ensure you can get booked in. Maisey's Little Gift Shop will be open the same hours. Call in to see the range of toiletries, make-up, jewellery, candles, and other gifts available. There is an extensive range of greetings cards, including some with local scenes!

Olive's Cafe is alive with chat and the smell of delicious food! We are delighted that Emily is being so well supported in her new venture and is building a good reputation for her delicious food and warm welcome. Her homemade cakes have to be seen to be believed and there are a lot making their way out of the building hidden in discreet boxes!!! The cafe is open to all from **8.30am to 4.00pm** daily for breakfast, lunch and tea as well as takeaway. Fish and chips are available as a takeaway on Fridays. If you want to go along for a delicious Sunday lunch, it is best to make a booking as it gets very busy. Contact Emily on **01969 629826**.

The Post Office is with us on **Mondays and Wednesdays, 9.00am to 11.00am** for your posting and banking needs, and the library is open every day from **8.30am to 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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A New Chapter With Rebrand and Sixth Form Closure

From September, The Wensleydale School and Sixth Form in Leyburn has officially rebranded as Wensleydale School, following the permanent closure of its Sixth Form provision.

The Sixth Form was suspended in 2023 and, after a two-year consultation process with the local community and stakeholders, the decision has now been made to close it permanently. Headteacher, Julia Polley, and governors explained that national policy changes, reduced funding, and the limited course offer available at a small school made it increasingly difficult to sustain a high-quality post-16 experience. Students were missing out on the wider opportunities, debates, and experiences that larger sixth form colleges can provide.

Instead, the school has focused on building strong partnerships with local providers, including Queen Elizabeth, Richmond, Darlington and York Colleges, Askham Bryan, and a growing number of apprenticeship routes. Wensleydale students have benefitted from taster days, career guidance, and support with transport to ensure they can make the best possible transition after Year 11.

The rebrand to Wensleydale School reflects its official redesignation as an 11–16 school. The refreshed logo and uniform – which will be phased in gradually – symbolise a simplified, modern identity that reinforces the school’s inclusive and welcoming ethos. Importantly, the rebrand does not affect the school’s values, policies, or behaviour standards.

Julia Polley said, “This is about looking forward. By concentrating all our resources on Years 7–11, we have seen a sustained rise in GCSE outcomes over the past four years. Our Year 11 students now take on senior leadership roles within the school, developing confidence and skills that will serve them well beyond their exams. We aim to continue to raise aspirations, secure high outcomes and teach a generation of young people to be kind.”

For more information about Wensleydale School, visit www.wensleydaleschool.net/.

Julia Polley, Headteacher



Marie Curie Wensleydale Fundraising Group

Over £4,500 has been raised in Wensleydale since April this year. So many generous people have given time to raise this. Some have volunteered to stand in Leyburn and Hawes holding collection tins, washing up in village halls, baking, and organising events. Leyburn Auction Mart let the fundraising group hold a car boot sale on a grey damp Saturday in this glorious summer; there’s been a Victorian fashion show, a quiz night, tombola, bric-a-brac stalls, tins on various counters, and coins and notes have clattered in. Thanks to all who have contributed to 21 nights of care.

Our next fundraising effort will be a Christmas themed stall in Leyburn Methodist Hall, **November 29th, from 10.30am – 4.00pm**, at the Christmas Fair organised by Leyburn Primary PTFA.

The following weekend, **December 6th**, there’s a Christmas concert in Harmby Village Hall. The singers are Musicality, the ladies choir based in Richmond, that has raised money for numerous charities and local good causes. The concert begins at **2.00pm**, light seasonal refreshments will be served in the interval. Tickets are £7.50, and available from Mary Sadler - **07516 544744**, Barbara Martin - **07901 197207**, or Mary Buglass - **07703 437739**.

If you are interested in helping Wensleydale Fundraising Group to raise more money for Marie Curie, please contact Mary Sadler – (**07516 544744**), or email: wensleydale.mariecurie@gmail.com. Helping at, or organizing, events, holding a tin at a street collection, putting up a poster, etc., if you’re able to give an hour or two here and there, you’ll be very welcome. For more information visit www.mariecurie.org.uk or www.facebook.com/Marie-Curie-Wensleydale-Fundraising-Group.

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LEYBURN ARTS AND COMMUNITY CENTRE



Tuesday 4 November 6pm – French Film Festival screening – see special flyer for full festival details

Friday 7 November 6pm – Celebrating 100th Anniversary of Community Cinema –**Ticket price of £3** (see special flyer for further details) Muriel's Wedding (15) 1hr 41m

Friday 14 November 6pm
Cinema Live: Grow (PG tbc) 1hr 55m

Friday 21 November 6pm
Nine Queens (2002) (15) 1hr 54m

Friday 28 November 6pm
White Bird (12A) 2hrs 03m

Sunday 2 November 7.30pm
Ghostly Tales by David Brown 2 hrs 30m

Thursday 13 November 7pm
Cinema Live: Radiohead X Nosferatu: A Symphony of Horror (PG) 1hr 35m

Saturday 15 November 7.30pm
Gaelforce Folk Rock Band 2hrs 30m

Sunday 23 November 2pm
Cinema Live: John Cleese Packs It In (12A) (with subtitles) 1hr 21m

Thursday 27 November 7pm
National Theatre Live: The Fifth Step (with closed captions) (15) 1hr 40m

- You can book and pay online via our website.
- Our licensed cafe/bar opens 30 minutes before all events and screenings.
- For a full list of what's on, head to our website or give us a call.



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

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