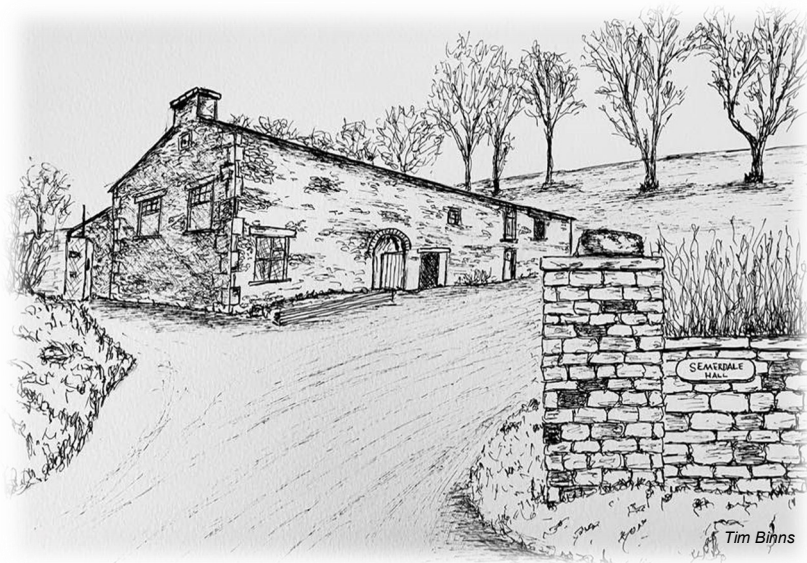


# THE UPPER WENSLEYDALE NEWSLETTER

**Issue 327**

**February 2026**

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

## Guest Editorial

### Notes From the Observatory

It's long been a source of mild to moderate disgruntlement in my life that I wasn't born in North Yorkshire and, more specifically, the Dales. Somehow, perhaps through my first experience of living up here, in the 1980s, I've come to regard Yorkshire as a sort of spiritual home. I can't pin it down any better than that. I've lived many more years in other places and, unless I should live to be 120, Norfolk's thirty-four years will likely remain my personal record. But I had always harboured a wish to come back to the Dales. Imagine my delight, then, when I was able to come to Wensleydale and, by almost the ultimate fluke, ended up in the one house that has a perfect night time view of the aurora borealis from its bathroom window! I've nicknamed it the Wensleydale Bog Observatory.

#### Are you local?

In the time since I've been back in God's own country, I've had a few people say things like, "You're not from round here, by the sounds of it," or just straight out ask where I come from. That's a tricky one to answer, as I've lived in a few places. After all my years in East Anglia, I can knock out quite a convincing Norfolk accent if I put my mind to it ("swimming pole" and "telegraph pool" indeed) but, otherwise, I'm in that odd netherworld where southerners say I sound northern and people up here assume I'm a southerner. Well, we all have our crosses to bear.

As I write this, I've done something I haven't in a long time and put music on in the background. As it happens, my choice fell to the score from the 2020 film, *Greenland*. It's the tale of a little family in the midst of working out its problems when events overtake them and fragments of a comet begin raining down on Earth. I found it refreshing because it reined in the special effects in favour of telling a good story. It's one that I revisit from time to time and I admire the filmmakers for their creative restraint. And, like so many films I enjoy, it benefits from a really well-crafted musical score.

#### Name that tune:

Film scores have always been one of my favourite kinds of music, going right back into my childhood. Probably my favourite composer would be none other than the late, great Yorkshireman himself, John Barry. I'm going to date myself here and say that, when all the other kids were listening to the Bee Gees and, heaven help us, the Bay City Rollers, I was going home

and putting on the music to On Her Majesty's Secret Service or The Black Hole. I suspect there were other movie-score buffs in my year but nobody dared admit it, probably for fear of being roughed up later.

Once I discovered that a local record shop had a huge selection of film scores, other composers from the golden age of film music quickly filled my collection. Ron Goodwin, Jerry Goldsmith, Bernard Herrmann, Elmer Bernstein and so on. Nowadays, the market is flooded with film composers and their scores. So much so that the average earnings of up-and-coming composers have nosedived. It's harder than ever to get into that business and a new caste of gatekeepers has arisen, forcing much of what's produced to conform to a rather sterile and faceless template. It's easy to demonstrate. Just ask yourself when you last came away from any film humming the main theme.

#### Peeling back the layers:

When it comes to my own creativity, especially with music, I've found that the pieces I really have to wrangle into existence often end up being the most well-rounded and rewarding. I've also noticed that I seem to write with more conviction when life is proving tricky for whatever reason. It's as though all of life's chaff gets funnelled into an oven and combusted, with the resulting heat driving the turbines of production. The music I end up with might thus be deemed a byproduct but the process itself serves as a nice distraction.

#### Let it breathe:

A writer friend of mine, Dave Hopwood, talks about the creative process as "daring to step into uncharted territory and do something unexpected. Taking a seemingly mundane idea and then asking, 'what if...?'" And he has another analogy; that of taking something that is "too much" and then paring it back into something usable. Like a sculptor with a block of stone or hunk of wood, chipping away the excess to reveal what's underneath. And what waits underneath may change as the work progresses.

Another example. Some years back, I had a guitar teacher called James who used to talk about the "spaces between notes". At the time, I would come away from the lesson wondering quite what this meant; was it artsy vagary or something more tangible? But in the end, I worked out that James was talking about interpretation; letting a piece of music breathe as

the instrumentalist breathes life into it. Taking every aspect of what was written down and then forming it into something unique. A moment or series of moments frozen in time, hopefully remembered by those listening.

### Peeling spuds:

OK, back to earth for a minute. There was a chippy in Norwich, a most unassuming place, on the edge of a huge residential estate. I have to be honest here and note that Norfolk isn't renowned for its fine cuisine. The ratio of mediocre chip shops to good ones in that part of the world is quite breathtaking and from the outside, this particular shop definitely looked like the former. It was run by a shockingly blunt, borderline insulting chap, whom we ironically nicknamed Chipper Chris. But the quality of his work was worth the occasional lapse in customer relations and the fish and chips he served were extraordinary. Chris did his job to perfection and had a singular, careful way of serving and wrapping the food, which I would observe with fascination.

One evening, long after I'd moved out of Norwich to the Norfolk countryside, I had occasion to go back into town and, on the way back home, decided to stop and get some fish and chips at Chris's. The old shop was still there, including the dilapidated sign, but it was now run by someone else. This person had meticulously copied every aspect of the way Chris used to work, right down to his careful movements when packing an order. But when I got the food home, I found it just wasn't the same. The oil wasn't fresh and the fish was dry. The new owner had studied and replicated everything... except how to make good fish and chips. The real skill had gone and in its place was a poor imitation.

I'd like to conclude with a most revealing story as told by the renowned educationalist, Sir Ken Robinson. He spoke about Dame Gillian Lynne's childhood in the 1930s and how, doing badly at school due to poor concentration and general fidgetiness, she was taken to the doctor by her mother.



### Eunice the Ewe

In December I was hiding in the Hear and Now advert on page 12. The lucky winner is Mary Wilson from Shropshire who donated her £10 prize to St Oswalds Church, Askrigg.

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

With extraordinary insight, the doctor chatted with mother and daughter and then said to young Gillian that he needed to speak with her mum privately for a moment. As the adults left the room, the doctor flicked his radio on for Gillian to listen to. As they watched from the hallway, they observed Gillian get to her feet and start moving to the music.

"Mrs Pyrk, your daughter isn't ill. She's a dancer," said the doctor. "Enrol her in a dance school."

That one moment altered the course of Dame Gillian's life. She went on to dance for Sadler's Wells and the Royal Ballet and later moved into choreography and directing. Her list of credits is massive but includes The Phantom of the Opera and Cats.

Creative power can appear or be discovered in the most unlikely settings. We just need to be open to the possibility.

Jon Dellar

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

**TUESDAY FEBRUARY 17TH  
PUBLISHED ON FEB 26th**

## Dales Charity



**Wednesday 11th February 2026**  
**Hawes Market Hall**

Entry from 7.00 pm, for  
 Eyes down at 7.30pm

*Tea, coffee available during the break*

***In Aid of Stop Ure Pollution***

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### Submission of articles

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

### Drop-off points and contacts

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

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

## February Competition

Below are anagrams of sports, disciplines or events which are taking place during the Winter Olympics in February. (Events are competitions within a sport or discipline).

1. Glue
2. Hi cockeye
3. Lost knee
4. It fakes urging
5. Gibbs hole
6. Nice cod born dim
7. Is son currying stock
8. I am no tinkering Sue
9. I got all mans
10. Taskmaster designs taps
11. Argos knitters sketchpad
12. Brisk if I agree
13. Ape pardon blowfish
14. Latin hob
15. Spain like gin

Please send in your answers to arrive by **Tuesday, February 17th**. Remember to include the details of your nominated charity which will receive the £50 prize should you win.

## December Competition Answers

1. British Red Cross
2. Save the Children
3. Children in Need
4. Friends of the Earth
5. Salvation Army
7. Comic Relief
8. Air Ambulance
9. Water Aid
10. Cancer Research UK
11. Action for Children
12. Dementia UK

A number of correct entries this month. The winner is Tim Tonkin of Countersett, whose chosen charity to receive the £50 prize is Yorkshire Wildlife Trust.

## News From Sycamore Hall

Phew! All the chaos of the festive period is over, and indeed long forgotten already!

We had a varied programme of events and activities prior to Christmas which was lovely. We really enjoyed seeing the children from Bainbridge and Hawes Schools who entertained us with songs and their nativity. What a joy!

We also enjoyed music from Mal Carruthers and Amy Cockett which was just wonderful - and gave us the chance to join in! The Askrigg Ladies who Sing came along after our Christmas lunch to entertain us whilst our delicious meal settled. Huge thanks to Emily and her team for a truly delicious meal and to all those who came along to entertain us.

We raised £72 for Save the Children from the Christmas Jumper Day which is great - thank you to everyone who donated.

Emily's Winter Wonderland was just amazing! There were real donkeys and reindeer grazing on the lawn whilst Santa was very busy in his grotto meeting lots of children and hearing what they had on their wish list for Christmas. Hopefully, he might return again this year so look out for information nearer the time!

Lianna, our Beauty Therapist, is visiting us every five weeks or so to keep us all looking beautiful and provide some lovely pampering treats. This service is available to everyone in the area (men and women), not just our residents and staff, so do get in touch with Lianna if you fancy a bit of pampering - or if you would like to buy a gift voucher. The next visits are on **Monday, March 2nd and April 13th**. Call Lianna on **07792 086189** to make an appointment or discuss a gift voucher.

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. Maisy'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 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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## Children's Story and Poetry Writing Competitions – The results are in

In September 2025, we challenged children in years 3 and 4 to write a poem about their favourite things and we challenged children in Years 5 and 6 to write a story that started with the words "I knew it was going to be one of those days when..."

We received a fantastic response from children in BAWB and Hawes Schools. Our new judge Alyson Jones really enjoyed reading the poems and stories. Alyson said that it was a very tough decision to pick the final winners. It was brilliant to see how the students interpreted the challenge in their own way and we had lots of stories that were filled with excitement and suspense, and poems that used great and unusual rhymes. She's really looking forward to judging again next year and says to anyone who is thinking of entering, keep reading your stories and poems out loud, and have lots of fun writing them. Alyson wanted to congratulate every single child who entered and encouraged everyone to keep on writing.

**Story writing competition:** The overall winner was **Sayuni Hewa-Kuttige** who is in Year 6 at Hawes Primary. Congratulations to her and to Hawes School who will hold the Alan Watkinson Memorial trophy this year. The runner up was Rueben Iveson (Y5 Hawes). There were also highly commended awards made to Eva Cockett (Hawes) and Patrick Keiley (Hawes).

**Poetry writing competition:** The overall winner was **William Tennant** who is in Year 3 at BAWB Schools. Congratulations to him and to BAWB Schools who will hold the trophy this year. A very close runner up was Ada Middleton (Y4 BAWB). Highly commended certificates were awarded to Fyfe Lancaster (BAWB), Noah Hugill (Hawes) and Zara Killgallon-Sharples (Hawes).

Sayuni's story and William's poem are printed in this issue and Ada's poem and Rueben's story will appear in next month's Newsletter.

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

## Year 5/6 Story: Winner Sayuni Hewa-Kuttige

I knew it was going to be one of those days when I turned on the television and heard the terrible news. My heart froze with fear for the villagers.

The dragon of dark magic who lived in the deep dark woods had set a curse on my tiny village. It was going to plunge daylight into darkness for eternity.

I knew there and then I had to do something. I went to the front door shaking and shivering and stepped outside. It felt even more terrifying now. It was already starting to get dark. When I looked around, I could see shop owners packing in a hurry to go home and everyone, including my neighbours, started locking their doors. It felt dreadful wherever I looked.

There was a small house right in front of mine and a grandpa lived in it. I could see he was also about to go inside. I shouted to him to wait... and ran to him. When I reached him, I asked what was going on. He sighed and started to explain. I thought he was going to say the same as on the television, but then he said something that made me really interested. He said there was only one way to break the curse. I was hopeful again. My eyes widened... I asked what I could do. He replied that the dragon lived in the deep dark woods and by killing it the curse would be broken. He also told me that I needed a golden arrow from an abandoned castle to pierce the creature's heart.

Bravely, I told the old man I would kill it. He was delighted. I was about to leave when he said "You're a very brave person." I took his words to my mind then I returned home to pack a bag with some things I thought I might need. When I was done I went outside and started walking towards the woods. I thought that these woods might not just be any woods, it had magical powers. And I knew this was going to make the way through harder.

I suddenly remembered the old man had given me a map that I had put it in my bag. I took it out and saw that the abandoned castle and where the dragon lived were in two different directions. This was going to take me some time.





When I reached the woods, I suddenly felt hesitant but then I remembered what the old man had said. "I'm going to be brave," I said to myself and took my small sharp knife from my bag and entered, using the knife to cut some sharp branches in the way.

I was heading for the castle first because I needed the arrow to kill the dragon. I followed the map and on the way I realised that even if the woods were magical, they hadn't tried to harm me.

That's when I heard a howling noise.

**Sayuni Hewa-Kuttige**  
Year 6, Hawes Primary School

**Judge's feedback:** I really enjoyed this story written by Sayuni. I was looking for a story that really grabbed my attention and I felt the suspense that Sayuni created through the descriptions and the words she used had me gripped and wanting to know what happened. I also wanted a story that took me by surprise and I have to say the last line of Sayuni's story did that and left me wanting more. Very creative. Well done!

**Year 3/4 Poetry Winner - William Tennant**



### Chameleon Chameleon

Chameleon Chameleon colourful and bright  
Rainbow scales shining like lights

Chameleon Chameleon a master of disguise  
With its prehensile tail and its swivelling beady eyes

Chameleon Chameleon meaning ground lion in ancient Greek

The warm hot climates of Africa and Asia are the ones they seek

Chameleon Chameleon thriving in tropical rain forest canopies

Deforestation now threatens to destroy their beloved trees

Chameleon Chameleon through the trees and branches they climb and cling

A tongue twice its body length coiled tight like a spring

Chameleon Chameleon a tongue so fast it takes everyone by surprise

Enjoys its dinner of plants, cockroaches, caterpillars and flies.

**William Tennant**  
Year 3, BAWB Schools

**Judge's feedback:** I thought William has written a lovely and informative poem about a chameleon. I liked the way he repeats the animal's name at the start of each new verse which gives a great structure to the poem. I also liked the way William has used rhyme, matching words like 'surprise' and 'flies', 'canopies' and 'trees'. He's used some great words in his poem.

*Hawes Christmas Lights present*

# TAKE THAT

# RULE THE WORLD

**SATURDAY 27th JUNE 2026**  
7.00 for 7.30pm

## HAWES MARKET HALL

**Ticket £25**  
Entry by Ticket only; £30 on the door  
from [lizlawson@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lizlawson@hotmail.co.uk)  
Wensleydale Press: 01969 667575

*No Bar - Bring your own drinks*

## Heavens Above

Mercury, the innermost planet, puts on a great display this month low in the western twilight soon after sunset. Not many people get to see this elusive little world as its nearness to the Sun makes it quite difficult to observe. It's only ever visible for a few hours in the west after sunset and in the east just before dawn, and then only at certain times of the year. It also stays quite low down so we never get to see it in a properly dark sky. You've got a good opportunity to catch Mercury this February, however, as it's due to put on its best evening performance of the year. If you can find a clear horizon it should be fairly easy to spot, even though it's quite low in the sky, from around **February 8th** until the first couple of days in March when it sets as late as **7.00pm**.

Towards the middle of the month Mercury is joined by Venus, the second planet out from the Sun. Venus is even closer to the horizon than Mercury but you can't really miss it as it's so much more brilliant. It sets around **7.45pm** by the end of the month. On **February 18th** the two planets are separated by a very slim crescent Moon - a beautiful sight in the gathering darkness. Saturn, the ringed planet, is also visible in the early evening sky this month. It lies higher in the sky above and slightly to the left of Mercury on **February 18th**. The Red Planet, Mars, is currently lost in the Sun's glare, but the largest planet, mighty Jupiter, is still with us blazing away at magnitude 2.5 high in the south by **10.00pm**.

It's your last chance this month to get a really good view of Orion the Hunter and the rest of the bright winter constellations before they disappear into the western twilight. Sirius, the Dog Star, trailing behind the Hunter, is a brilliant object at its best in early February. It's the brightest star in the sky and flashes all

the colours of the rainbow on a clear and frosty night.

Towards the end of the month some of the springtime stars led by Leo the Lion have climbed into view in the east with orange-hued Arcturus, the main star of Spring, standing low over the eastern horizon. High overhead lies brilliant yellow Capella, the She Goat, which means blue-white Vega, the main star of the Summer Triangle, is perched right on the northern horizon. Come summer they'll have traded places. The Plough stands on its handle in the north-east at this time of the year with its two Pointer stars at the end of its 'blade' showing the way to Polaris, the Pole Star. In the NW about the same distance from Polaris, you'll find the large 'W' of Cassiopeia, the 'Queen of Ethiopia' often called the Lady in the Chair. Finally, this month look out for the pale ribbon of the Milky Way running up from the southern horizon right across sky past Orion, Capella and Cassiopeia down to the northern skyline. A wonderful sight on a dark, Moonless night. Have clear skies!

Al Bireo

## Salvation Army Christmas Appeal

A big thank you to those who kindly supported our events at Christmas and helped to raise money for the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal.

East Witton Male Voice Choir	£650.00.
Askrigg Bingo Night	£316.00.
Askrigg Ladies Sing for Pleasure at Redmire	£145.00.
Making a grand total of	£1,111.00.

Thank you all for your generosity.

Diana Hartley

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## Wow.... What a Year It's Been !

Looking back over 2025, it's been a pretty full on year. We kicked off with our very successful 'Musicals for a Midsummer's Evening' concert at Hawes church back in June which raised £700 towards the organ restoration fund. This was followed up at the end of October with another packed church in Hawes for our 'Music From The Movies 3' concert in which we raised over £1,000 for the organ fund at St. Margarets Church. Following an invitation to perform, we then travelled across the border to Grange-Over-Sands in early November and gave another concert at the main parish church in the town. It was then time to turn our attention to the upcoming seasonal events in December.

Our first event on December 3rd was the 'Carols by Candlelight' concert at Hardraw Church which was so well attended it was standing room only at the back! We managed to raise £610 which will go towards the future maintenance of the recently restored and updated organ at St. Marys and St. Johns Church. Then, hot on the heels of that event, the following Saturday saw us bring 'The Magic Of Christmas 3' concert to Hawes church in the afternoon to coincide with the big Christmas lights switch-on and Santa's arrival in the town. On this occasion we managed to raise £680 to be given to the Salvation Army's Annual Christmas Appeal. To round off the main concerts for the year, together with the Askrigg

Handbell Ringers and Rev. Dave, we gave a concert on the first evening of the week's events for the Askrigg Christmas Tree Festival which raised £180 to help towards the cost of the Festival. And... if that wasn't enough, we even managed to squeeze in a couple of 'acoustic' performances for the residents of Sycamore Hall back in June and just before Christmas, which they seemed to thoroughly enjoy.

Our thanks of course to Rev. Dave who also participated in the 'Musicals' evening, 'Movies 3', 'The Magic Of Christmas' and the 'Tree Festival' Concerts. A massive thank you to Mike Hirst, our audio/visual whizz who supports us so ably in all our endeavours. And last but not least, to all of you who so keenly support and encourage us, and give generously to our fundraising causes, we can't tell you how much it means to us and we hope that you will continue to do so.

So, what's in store for 2026? Well it might not come as any surprise that we will be doing more of the 'established' concerts such as 'Musicals' and 'Movies' and the Christmas events, but who knows what else we might throw into the mix, the sky's the limit!! In the meantime, a date for your diary – on **April 18th at 7.00pm** we will present 'Movies, Musicals and More.....' at St. Andrew's Church in Aysgarth, more details to follow nearer the time. So, THANK YOU so much for supporting us, and we hope to see you at one or more of our concerts in 2026.

Happy New Year.

**Mal Carruthers and Amy Cockett**

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## Postcard

I'm not a big fan of long holidays, each to their own, but I've found that a couple of nights away in a hotel getting spoilt rotten is more my idea of fun, so last weekend away in York was ideal. Ok, apart from the usual mountains of food and lakes of drink there was loads to do: choral evensong in the minster, tick, a 3-hour street tour, phew, tick, stroll along the city walls, tick, and still to come, saving the best till last, a visit to the Yorkshire Museum to ogle, among other artefacts, the Middleham Jewel. We detectorists, even a rookie like me, fantasise about finding treasures like this, so for a blissful hour or two, I would be in dreamland.

We didn't take a direct route, as I was aware of a snicket of a path which passed through the museum gardens, well off the beaten track and cutting through a heavily wooded area. Now you couldn't purposely construct a more inhospitable area for planting up – it was like midnight under there, with the criss-crossing branches of a murky forest of yew trees creating a dense mesh of a canopy. The ground beneath was Saharan dry, threaded through with roots and offering absolutely nil encouragement to a gardener yet, hang about though, some genius had been at work researching, preparing and introducing, as healthy shrubs and herbaceous growth flourished – there was just SO much inspired and off beat planting of specimens that a blinkered me would never have considered suitable for such a hostile site. Obvious choices like Fatsias were thriving, with those enormous, glossy palmate leaves and a promise of small, upright candelabra flowers later on; they will manage in upper Wensleydale - I planted one over 10 years ago which is doing fine, just ensure shade and shelter from strong winds. Generous clumps of ground cover geraniums then led into a trio of evergreen *Elaeagnus ebbingei*, imposing six footers, although these were dwarfed by a majestic *Mahonia*, perhaps 'Winter Sun' - apologies for guesswork, along with 'Charity', these are the only giant ones I know, however the larger types are all quite similar so that's my lame excuse.

Underplanting then transformed from Geraniums into swathes of *Pachysandra terminalis*, a true mat forming, groundcover specialist, whose foot high leathery leaves and summer blooms made a decent attempt at piercing the gloom. Less successful was a cringing, puny *Choisya ternata* 'Sundance'...it's

always very tempting for a misery like me to be wise after the event, (oh, I wouldn't have done that, what were they thinking etc) but I couldn't think for the life of me why this had been included. Surely Mexican orange blossoms demand bright light? Anyway, there it was, and something for me to grumble about.

That priceless Middleham Jewel would have to wait as I was now in full dawdling mode, gawping at the huge Australian tree ferns – six footers, splendid and totally unsuited to our up-dale climate, so don't waste your hundred quid. Less ambitious were the massive clumps of *Brunnera* and *Euphorbia* 'robbae' surrounding a park bench where, oops, there appeared to be someone sleeping off a liquid lunch.... reality, how dare you intrude. We tip – toed past, timidly avoiding a beery confrontation and on to a gaggle of *Osmanthus decorus*, another glossy star with scented white flowers followed by black shiny berries – this is one of those 'must haves' so get yourself to a garden centre.

Emerging from the magical tunnel, me rather dragged away kicking and screaming, in the half-light were to be found scatterings of Hart's Tongue fern and giant *Stipa*, the pheasant grass, a perfect conclusion and, apart from that *Choisya* (just leave it...), simply marvellous.

So, on to the museum and that exquisite Middleham Jewel, clawed back from the numb soil and premature oblivion all those years ago, surprisingly tiny but breathtakingly intricate and something for all us detectorists to aspire to. The Ryedale Roman hoard was also in there, so talk about an embarrassment of riches - three hours it was before we reappeared, bleary eyed, culture glutted and totally starstruck. Later on, maybe it'll be back down to earth, hope not, with one of York's famous spooky ghost tours, although you'd be pushed to find anything quite as scary as the price of a pint in the hotel we're staying at.

Ed Gardener

### Tuesday Hawes Fish Market

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What a great start back at Dalesplay for 2026! A very big thank you to Irving Joinery and Fothergill Building Services for working over the Christmas period to fit our new kitchen, it looks great!

The team started the new year updating their Paediatric First Aid training. We also had a few others from the community join with us to update their first aid training too - it is good to work together in the community.

The children, old and new, have settled in well, with both the Duckling's room and

Sunshine's room having been exploring winter. We have been developing our language, learning new words and describing words, developing our fine and gross motor skills, and counting and shape recognition, all through play. The children loved playing with the skating penguins, feeding the penguins and fish, playing in the sensory snow, learning about animals living in the cooler climates and lots more.



We have been a full house this term and we have lots of children already booked in to start after Easter and in September. If you are wanting to use your funded hours or pay for sessions at Dalesplay, we strongly recommend you get in touch. sooner rather than later, to book your place. Please contact [dalesplay1@btconnect.com](mailto:dalesplay1@btconnect.com).



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## Protecting Birds of Prey

As an independent charity free from all financial and political ties, Friends of the Dales has spent more than four decades campaigning on the big issues affecting the Yorkshire Dales.

Its new campaign is no different, speaking out against the ongoing criminal persecution of birds of prey, a barbaric practice that continues, despite these majestic species having been protected in law for over 70 years.

To learn more about justice for birds of prey, sign up for one or both of the charity's next two free online talks:

**Wednesday, February 18th, 5.30pm – 7.00pm.**

Saving Our Precious Sky Dancers – with Indy Kiemel Greene and Adrian Rowe from Hen Harrier Action.

Indy – familiar from Springwatch, 8 Out of 10 Bats, and the HHA Skydancer Day – will introduce the iconic, red-listed hen harrier, how to recognise it, its key behaviours, and why it's a vital indicator of upland ecosystem health.

Adrian will then reveal how satellite tagging helps monitor raptors and exposes illegal persecution, and how the charity is funding both tags and specialised wildlife-crime detection dogs to strengthen protection efforts.

**Wednesday, March 18th, 5.30pm – 7.00pm.**

Talking Raptor Persecution with Dr Ruth Tingay.

Hear from wildlife conservationist Dr Ruth Tingay, who has worked in the field of raptor research and conservation for more than 30 years. A former President of the international Raptor Research Foundation, Ruth now focuses on campaigning against the illegal killing of birds of prey in the UK through the blog Raptor Persecution UK. She is also a co-director of the hard-hitting wildlife conservation organisation Wild Justice with Chris Packham.

Book for both of these free talks at: [www.friendsofthedales.org.uk/events](http://www.friendsofthedales.org.uk/events). All talks can also be viewed later via: [www.youtube.com/@friendsofthedales](http://www.youtube.com/@friendsofthedales).

## The Garden Rooms at Tennants Events Showcase

On **Saturday, February 7th**, the Garden Rooms at Tennants is hosting its annual Events Open Day, perfect timing for those planning a get together of any kind in 2026 and beyond.

The event is open to anyone organising a party, wedding, charity fundraiser or event and the friendly team of event organisers will be there to give advice on how to make it an amazing occasion to remember.

Free admission. You are welcome to drop in between **11.00am - 4.00pm**, however if you would like to make an appointment for a specific time slot please either call our events team on **01969 621146** or visit [www.tennantsgardenrooms.com](http://www.tennantsgardenrooms.com) to fill out an enquiry form.

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## Photography Competition

Want your photograph to feature in an exhibition at the Dales Countryside Museum or in a regional calendar? The Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust Rivers4Life Winter photography competition is now open.



The charity is looking for the best photographs of Yorkshire Dales rivers and wildlife this winter, 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/](http://www.ydrt.org.uk/photography-competition/) The winter stage of the competition closes on **March 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.

The Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust was established in 2004 as a Registered Charity, working to enhance and protect the rivers of the Yorkshire Dales for the benefit of everyone. By working in partnership with landowners, businesses, land managers and the public, it aims to care for the rivers, streams and catchments of the Swale, Ure, Nidd, Wharfe and Ouse as sources of pure water, as habitats for aquatic and other wildlife, and as havens of quiet recreation for everyone to enjoy.

It also works with schools and communities to inform children and the wider public, to ensure a better understanding, care and appreciation of rivers and their associated habitats.

Find out more at: [www.ydrt.org.uk](http://www.ydrt.org.uk).

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## Natural Solutions Continue on Local Farms

Ousewem's delivery team, led by the Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust, has been working with farms across Upper Wensleydale and the wider SUNO catchments to put practical natural flood management in place. The focus is on simple measures that fit normal farm work, avoid disruption and still make a difference in wet and dry spells.

Scrapes in awkward corners, small wetland pocks, better hedge condition and leaky features built from local materials have proved the most workable. Their success comes down to careful placement rather than size, which means each site needs a tailored design. Conversations at events and on farm walkovers have also reinforced how much hedge shape and density matter for soil and water, so we are supporting farmers who want to thicken or replant where needed.

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Some sites near Hawes and up into Wensleydale have needed extra checks, and a small trial using Wensleydale wool behind leaky features is now underway to see how it performs over winter. Work with estates and local farmer groups continues to shape the next phase of design. Walkovers remain the starting point for every site. All of this also give Ousewem clearer evidence about how NFM behaves in different conditions across North Yorkshire.

If you're interested in flood resilience projects or think your land could benefit from fully funded NFM measures, visit [www.ousewem.co.uk](http://www.ousewem.co.uk) or email us at [ousewem@york.gov.uk](mailto:ousewem@york.gov.uk).

### Bainbridge Village Hall Service

**Sunday, February 15th at 2.30pm.**

Come and join us at Bainbridge Village Hall for our monthly informal service with refreshments to follow.

Everyone welcome.

Have you heard of the new website that is designed for people to buy chewing gum whilst they are in Yorkshire.

It's called [e.buy.gum.com](http://e.buy.gum.com).



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## Penhill Ladies

A warm welcome awaits you at our first open meeting of the New Year 2026. Visitors are welcome to join us as we are entertained by a new speaker to our group David Johnson. He will be presenting 'Men Who Stare at Goats'. Mmm... well I'm intrigued. Light refreshments will be served during the evening.

So, see you there on **February 18th** in Carperby Village Hall at **7.30pm**.

There is a charge of £5.00 for visitors. Members' subscription is £25.00 per annum. New members are always welcomed.

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Fundraising Quiz Night with Supper

**Saturday, January 31st**

**7.00pm for a 7.30pm start**

Back by Popular Demand - our special fundraising Quiz Night with Linda our Quiz Master. All proceeds go to support the Leyburn Arts and Community Centre. Teams of six, individuals to join with others. So come along and join us - not to be missed!

Tickets are £10 including supper. See: [www.ticketsource.co.uk/leyburnartscentre/](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/leyburnartscentre/).

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# WENSLEYDALE SCHOOL

LEYBURN

## From the Dales to the World: Life at Wensleydale School in 2026

As we navigate the start of 2026, the familiar sight of our students around Leyburn reminds us of the vital role Wensleydale School plays in our community. While the school has seen significant changes recently - officially rebranding last year to focus entirely on Years 7 through 11 - its heart remains firmly rooted in the Dales.



### A Focus on Excellence:

The decision to focus resources on the 11–16 age group has already borne fruit. For our young people, being part of a smaller secondary school isn't a limitation; it's an advantage. In a 'small but mighty' school, no student is just a number. Whether they are debating at Eton or participating in the Combined Cadet Force, our students are proving they can compete on any stage.

### The Power of the Page:

You may have heard a lot about 'Reading Weeks' lately. As 2026 kicks off as the National Year of Reading, Wensleydale School is ahead of the curve. With the generous support of the Leyburn Co-op, the library has been refreshed, and 'Drop Everything and Read' sessions have become a staple of school life. It's not just about exams; it's about giving our young people the vocabulary to express themselves and the empathy to understand the world beyond the hills.

### Rural Resilience and Tradition:

Life at a rural school comes with its own unique flavour. Where else would you see a

Year 11 Prom where students arrive on vintage tractors, lorries, or even a horse and cart? This connection to our agricultural heritage remains a point of pride.

However, being a rural student also requires resilience. With the Sixth Form now closed, our Year 11s are preparing for a bigger jump to colleges in Richmond, Darlington, or York. The school is working harder than ever to ensure these students leave not just with great grades, but with the 'Wensleydale character' - independence, kindness, and a strong work ethic.

Our school thrives because of the community. From the Friends of Wensleydale School (FOWS) meetings at the Golden Lion to local businesses like Metcalfe Farms and The Forbidden Corner supporting the Gardening Club, the link between the classroom and the parish is vital.

As our students head into the spring term - some preparing for their first trips to Paris, others for their GCSE mocks - let's continue to cheer them on. They are the next generation of Dales innovators, farmers, and leaders.

**Julia Polley, Headteacher**



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whilst enjoying a coffee and cake with our dog  
friendly outdoor seating area.

**wensleydale.co.uk**

## Bainbridge Christmas Lights

Once again, Bainbridge was illuminated with lots of fairy lights for the festive period - and didn't it look fantastic!

None of this would be possible without the hard work and efforts of a small number of volunteers who fundraise, scramble up trees and then regularly monitor the lights whilst they are on. We are hugely grateful to this little group for all their efforts which really put Bainbridge on the map for Christmas.

The first fundraiser of 2026 took place on January 16th when Bainbridge Village Hall was absolutely packed with people all eager to enjoy a few games of bingo. And wow - what a night they all had! Who would have thought that crossing off a few numbers on a card could be such fun and result in such a great total for the Bainbridge Christmas Lights!

The evening was punctuated with delicious cakes and a raffle with some great prizes, but it was the bingo that we had all gone for!

The event raised £647.83 which is truly amazing! Due to the inclement weather this festive season, the money will be well spent on repairs to a lot of lights so that this year's display will be just as good as ever.

Thanks go to Jan and her team for organising the event; to Mark for his entertaining calling and to all those who supported this brilliant night. Let's not forget all those dedicated members of the Bainbridge Christmas Lights Committee whose efforts to cheer us all up every winter are so much appreciated.

Hopefully, there will be more fun fundraising events to look forward to later in the year!

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## Penhill Benefice

**Church Services:** In case of bad weather, please check our website for updates at [penhillbenefice.co.uk/services](http://penhillbenefice.co.uk/services).

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

### Sunday, February 1st - Candlemass

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

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

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

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

### Sunday, February 8th

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

### Sunday, February 15th

**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.

### Wednesday, February 18th - Ash Wednesday

**7.00pm** Holy Communion Ash Wednesday Service with the invitation to receive the imposition of ashes.  
St. Margaret's, Preston under Scar.

Kathy Fawcett  
Financial Adviser



EMERALD  
ASSOCIATES

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## Sunday, February 22nd

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

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

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

### February Mid-Week Services:

**Thursday, 5th and 19th at 9.30am.**  
Holy Communion, at St. Bartholomew's,  
West Witton.

Church Coffee Morning: **Wednesday, February 4th** from **10.30am to noon** at Redmire Village Hall.

Church Afternoon Tea: **Wednesday, February 18th** from **2.00pm to 4.00pm** at Redmire Village Hall.

Lent Lunch for Christian Aid: Soup and Cheese Lunch with Coffee and Tea. **Friday, February 20th** from **noon until 1.30pm** at Redmire Village Hall. No fixed charge, donations to Christian Aid.



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## Upper Wensleydale Ladies Luncheon Club

The next meeting of the Luncheon Club will be on **February 25th** and thereafter on the **4th Wednesday** in the month at the Street Head Inn at **noon** for **12.30pm** lunch.

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

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## The Garden Rooms at Tennants Exhibitions

**Until February 15th** - Postcards from Masham.

A collection of vintage photographic postcards of Masham and Swinton by local collector Clive Torrens. Mostly dating from 1900 - 1925, all the postcards give a fascinating insight into life in area a century ago. The postcards have been reproduced in the exhibition on a larger scale for ease of viewing.

**March 18th - May 3rd** - Michael Bilton: Changing Landscapes Exhibition, A Retrospective.

At 85, Michael Bilton is still changing and evolving as an artist, but the constant in his work is his desire to explore his relationship with Swaledale through paint.

Open afternoon: To celebrate the opening day of the exhibition, join Michael from **2.00pm - 4.00pm** on the Upper Gallery on **March 18th**. Free event.

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



**Focus on the  
Yorkshire Dales**

**January**

28-31 Hawes Panto. Market Hall.

31 Quiz night at LACC. See p.15.

**February**

4 Bellerby Study Group Talk. Bellerby Memorial Hall. 7.30pm. See p.37.

6 Dominoes. Carperby Institute. 7.30pm.

7 Events Showcase. Garden Rooms, Tennants. 11.00am. See p.12.

11 Bellerby Study Group Talk. Bellerby Memorial Hall. 7.30pm. See p.37.

11 Charity Bingo. Hawes Market Hall. 7.00pm. See p.35.

17 Domino Drive. Stalling Busk Schoolroom. 7.00pm.

17 Beetle Drive. LA&CC, 4.00pm. See p.25.

18 Penhill Ladies Meeting. Carperby Village Hall. 7.30pm. See p.15.

18 History Group Meeting. Harmby Village Hall. 2.00pm. See p.37.

18 Friends of the Dales Online Talk. 5.30pm. See p.12.

19 Bainbridge WI Meeting. Sycamore Hall. 7.30pm. See p.34.

20 u3a Meeting. LA&CC. 10.00am. See p.28.

21 Needlefelt Workshop. Hardbanks Barn. 10.00am. See p.32.

24 Art Society Meeting. Tennants, Leyburn. 2.00pm. See p.34.

25 Bellerby Study Group Talk. Bellerby Memorial Hall. 7.30pm. See p.37.

25 Upper Wensleydale Ladies Luncheon Club Meeting. Street Head Inn. Noon. See p.19.

28 Needlefelt Workshop. The Station, Richmond. 1.30pm. See p.32.

**Photography competition returns to  
celebrate our most loved landscapes**

Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust (YDMT) and The Garden Rooms at Tennants are excited to announce the return of their popular photography competition – and this year, it's all about celebrating the landscape, people and wildlife that inspires us.

The competition invites photographers of all levels to explore the Yorkshire Dales and share images that showcase its breathtaking scenery, wildlife, and character. By taking part, entrants will help YDMT highlight why this special place deserves protection – and support the charity's work to care for the Dales for future generations.

Why it matters: Lindsay Wallace, Development Director at YDMT, said: "Every photo tells a story about the beauty and importance of the Yorkshire Dales. This competition isn't just about stunning images – it's about inspiring people to connect with nature and helping us raise awareness of why these landscapes need looking after."

About the competition: 35 finalists will have their work featured in a summer exhibition at The Garden Rooms at Tennants;

12 shortlisted images will appear in the Yorkshire Dales 2027 charity calendar, on sale from August at [www.ydmt.org/shop](http://www.ydmt.org/shop).

The overall winning entry, as voted for by the public, will receive a prize of a £100 photographic voucher and a Yorkshire Hamper.

Alison Tennant, Director at The Garden Rooms, added: "The Yorkshire Dales has inspired artists for generations, and we are looking forward to this year's entrants showing us their own unique view of the life and landscape of the Dales – from iconic views and to the people who play such an important role in protecting and caring for the land. We are delighted to support YDMT and showcase the talent of our region's photographers."

How to Enter: The competition is open now and runs until **April 26th**.

For full details and entry guidelines, visit [www.tennantsgardenrooms.com/whats-on/events/ydmt-amateur-photography-competition](http://www.tennantsgardenrooms.com/whats-on/events/ydmt-amateur-photography-competition).



2026 has started at a rapid pace with thoughts already having to turn to planning what we will be doing beyond the end of the year. Briefly, we need to pause and reflect on what has happened since our last update. A chance to say thank you to all our performers, volunteers and audiences - without you it wouldn't be possible. We finished the year with some amazing workshops, a FEAST Christmas themed activity day and festive concerts. From a fun afternoon at St. Matthew's Church for our Christmas Together Concert to an amazing, combined concert with the Service Children's Community Choir at the Garden Rooms at Tennants. Over 60 performers of all ages took to the stage and entertained enthusiastic audiences full of festive cheer. As well as sharing the magic of Christmas, memorable experiences were created which, I know from my own childhood, will continue to inspire generations for years to come. Wishing you a creative and rewarding year ahead.

By the time the February editions circulate, we will have supported three professional and community pantomimes, submitted entries for the Wensleydale Tournament of Song and hosted our first music workshop of the year. Our



fingers will be crossed for Alex Douthwaite (11yrs) who will represent Wensleydale Rotary as the local nominee for the District heat of the Rotary's National Young Musician competition. The District heat takes place at Sharrow Church (near Ripon) on **Sunday, February 8th at 1.00pm**. All Welcome.

### **March:**

Music themed Quiz Night – **Saturday, March 7th**, Leyburn Arts and Community Centre. Angela and Bee invite you to an evening of music related quiz rounds from across the decades. I'm sure there will be history, geography, fashion and general knowledge needed too. Teams of six or make a team on the night. Always a fun evening. Tickets £10 including Pie and Peas supper. Available online at [www.leyburnartscentre.com](http://www.leyburnartscentre.com) or **01969 624510**. Doors **7.00pm for 7.30pm** prompt start. Proceeds in aid of BlueBoxt and Leyburn Arts and Community Centre.

Fundraiser for The Friends of Marrick Priory – **Friday, March 27th**, Reeth Memorial Hall. Vocalists Gail Barlow and Colin Bailey present a programme entitled “Mediterranean Medley” raising funds for Marrick Priory Outdoor Education and Residential Centre. There will be a bar and raffle. Doors open **6.00pm for 6.30pm** start. Tickets £15, including two course meal - available from Reeth Post Office or on the door.

### **2026 Diary dates (so far!)**

Spring Lunch with vocalists Gail Barlow and Colin Bailey – **Saturday, May 2nd**, (Thoraby).

The A684s concert at Leyburn Arts and Community Centre – **Saturday, May 9th**.

Wensleydale Community Arts Festival – Various events throughout June.

Twice Nightly - A celebration of the glory days of Variety, with Dominic Goodwin as Freddie Francis. **Friday, June 5th**, (Askrigg), **Saturday 6th** (Leyburn) and **Sunday 7th** (Reeth).

Colours Fashion Show with entertainment by Bee Darcey and local Makers Stalls – **Wednesday, June 17th**, (West Burton).

Quiz Night with Simon Eastwood – **Friday, October 9th**, (West Burton).

Leyburn Jazz Festival - **Thursday 15th to Sunday, October 18th**.

Young Musician of the Year Competition – **Sunday, November 22nd**, (Leyburn).

**Volunteering** – We welcome enquiries from potential volunteers – from stewarding events, mentoring or helping in the office, there is a role to suit everyone. Like all Charities, it's tough going at the moment – We are seeking people interested in helping to fundraise and secure funding. Please contact us for an informal chat and to find out how you could help.

**Raising Creative Aspirations** – We finished 2025 with some amazing news. Our mentoring and freelance creative project for 16-26 year-olds have been awarded additional funding. Supported by Youth Music and using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England we will be able to support 20 young people with coaching and business advice and 3 paid placements designed to build careers in the music and creative industries. See website for more details or contact us to find out more.

To find out more or book places for our events and activities visit [www.blueboxt.org](http://www.blueboxt.org) or contact Colin Bailey on: **01969 745810/ 07711 211169** or email: [info@blueboxt.org](mailto:info@blueboxt.org).

## Dales Countryside Museum News

Opening times: Daily **10.00am to 5.00pm**  
February to October. Last entry one hour before closing. Contact: [hawes@yorkshiredales.org.uk](mailto:hawes@yorkshiredales.org.uk) or call **01969 666210**.

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

- We're family friendly - children visit free - we have SEND packs and lots of activities for children around the whole site. Pushchairs and breast feeding welcome.
- The lovely Firebox Café is on site.
- We're an accessible site with a Changing Places facility and assistance dogs are welcome.
- We have a dog owners shared ticket.
- You can get a £1 discount on our admission fee for one person with a DCM / YDNPA car parking ticket.
- We have electric car charging points.
- We have free WiFi .
- Our ticket includes entry to the Research Room where you can access Ancestry if you're looking into your family history and receive research support from our volunteer team on Mondays and Wednesdays.
- The Yorkshire Dales Young Archaeologists' Club is based here.
- We're supported by a volunteering team and the charitable organisation, Friends of the DCM. If you'd like to get involved, please get in touch.

**Exhibition: February 1st to May 31st:**

**Middle of Somewhere:**

Joanne Coates is a working-class visual artist who lives and works in the Yorkshire Dales. She uses photography to question the concepts of power, identity, wealth, and poverty. By exploring the social histories of land, gender, and class, Joanne narrates stories that have either long been forgotten or simply never told. In the creation of this exhibition, Joanne Coates has collaborated with participants to explore parallels between people and places. She has delved into questions around climate change, the cost-of-living crisis, disparities of wealth and the impact on low-income communities.

Rural women research project:

We're continuing to work with Joanne Coates on our project exploring the lives and work of women in rural areas. We hope this work will lead to an exhibition in 2027. If you have any stories to share from within your family, village or local community, please get in touch at [dcm@yorkshiredales.org.uk](mailto:dcm@yorkshiredales.org.uk).

Young Creatives:

Our Young Creatives group have been exploring photography, collagraph printing and the collections here at DCM. They have worked with creative practitioners and over the coming months will be learning about oral history recording and the creative use of sound for interpretation. Supported by The National Lottery Heritage Fund and the Julia Rausing Trust with Art Fund, this UK-wide programme is engaging new and underrepresented 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, please just get in touch.

Yorkshire Dales Young Archaeologists' Club:

2026 is the 20th Anniversary of the club and we will be exploring the theme of celebrations beginning with traditions and ceremonies linked to the early part of the year. Please email [dcm@yorkshiredales.org.uk](mailto:dcm@yorkshiredales.org.uk) if your child is interested in joining us for a trial session.

Learning:

Our loan boxes can be booked for a half term to enrich learning in your school or as part of a

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free led session. Give us a call to chat through your needs.

Home educators:

If you're interested in bringing your children to explore the museum and our collections, please get in touch.

DCM events in February and March:

Events are included in the Museum admission unless otherwise stated. Bookings can be made online and via [hawes@yorkshiredales.org.uk](mailto:hawes@yorkshiredales.org.uk). For the full listing, please see [www.dalescountrysidemuseum.org.uk](http://www.dalescountrysidemuseum.org.uk).

Trapap printmaking with Hester Cox

**Tuesday, February 17th, 10.30am – 1.30pm**

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

Family Activity - Starry Night Felt Art

**Wednesday, February 18th, 1.00pm – 4.00pm.**

Be inspired by Van Gogh's The Starry Night and make your own needle felted version. There will be a needle-free version for little fingers.

FDCM talk - Richard Hunt: Bread Ovens

**Friday, February 20th, 2.00pm – 3.30pm**

A talk on bread ovens by Richard Hunt.

Donations welcome from non-members.

Dark skies presentation and celestial experience with Richard Darn

**Friday, February 20th, 6.30pm – 9.30pm.**

A dark skies presentation and celestial experience of a guide to the night sky with Richard Darn. We'll go in search of wonders in the night sky as the winter stars give way to those of spring. We will spy distant star clusters and have a fantastic view of a near first quarter moon. Bring your smartphone and we will show

you how to take a picture of the lunar craters, lava flows and mountains! Plus a short distance away is Mars, glowing with its trademark red tint. There will also be a fascinating dark skies beginner's tour of the heavens using planetarium software. £20 Booking essential.

Book signing with Mike Appleton

**Saturday, February 21st 11.00am – 1.00pm.**

Author Mike Appleton Book will be signing his upcoming book, Celebrating The Yorkshire Dales and hosting a panel to discuss why the Dales are so special and their challenges.

Recipes and Remedies from the museum archives

**Tuesday, March 10th, 11.30am – 12.30pm.**

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.

FDCM talk - Lead Mining by Gerard Marsh

**Friday, March 20th, 2.00pm – 3.30pm.**

Donations welcome from non-members

Stonewall Soap - Melt and Pour

**Monday, March 30th, 10.30am – 1.30pm**

Family friendly activity. Replicate the distinctive Yorkshire Dales drystone wall in soap, using a non-chemical melt and pour soap base. Fun for all ages to enjoy. Children to be accompanied by an adult. Suitable for ages 5 and above. £35 (per child) Booking essential.



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## Hawes Primary School

### Christingle/Carol Singing:

We enjoyed the annual Christingle service in St Margaret's Church before Christmas, which is always a magical time especially when the candles are lit. We were able to take our youngest children and were really pleased to share this experience with Dalesplay. Our KS2 children were also out in the community carol singing around Hawes and at Sycamore Hall. It is so lovely to share our wonderful singing voices with the wider community.

### Ukulele Performance:

Before Christmas all our KS2 children started to learn to play the ukulele with weekly lessons in school. They performed their Christmas songs for parents before Christmas. We are really proud of the progress the children have made learning to play chords to accompany songs. As ukulele teacher Mrs. Rhodes said, some of the chord combinations are quite tricky to switch between, so well done to all of them. And of course, the children sang their hearts out too!

### Class 1 Nativity:



Class 1 performed their annual nativity in the school hall for families and friends before Christmas. This year they performed "Knock Knock! The Nativity". All the children were amazing taking on their parts with enthusiasm and learning their lines. They made us all very proud of them and all the hard work they put into their performances (especially the jokes!). Nursery also joined the performance in the afternoon and sang really well and were excited about their actions.

### Pantomime - December 10th, 2025:

All the children from Reception to Year 6 went to Richmond Georgian Theatre to see Cinderella on December 10th. It was a super morning of entertainment and all the children

and staff enjoyed the performance. We would like to say a huge thanks to our supportive PTFA for paying for the trip for all the children to enjoy.

### Dales Countryside Museum:

All Class 3 visited the Dales Museum to take part in a Victorian workshop. The children looked at different primary sources from the era and sorted them into different categories. They also looked at the census from 1861-1881 to see how families changed and what jobs they had over the years. It was a great afternoon.

**Andrea Caygill**  
Head of School

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## Leyburn Arts & Community Centre

Well, that's awful January over.... February usually shows some signs of Spring which lift the heart and Leyburn Arts and Community Centre is getting busier. Lots of activities - see the flyer or the website or just pop in and talk to the volunteers. We are still seeking someone with website experience who may have an hour a week to volunteer, amongst other roles if you are wanting to try something new.

By the time you are reading this we should have some new windows installed, thanks to North Yorkshire's Business Sustainability Programme funding support. This has been a big boost for us volunteers as we know our old but very loved building can be draughty and shows its age at this time of year. The windows will make a huge difference to everyone's comfort and hopefully to our gas bills too. We still have some fundraising to do as the grant does not cover the whole cost so we are reminding

everyone that it is time to renew or join our 100 Club. For the bargain price of £12 a year you are entered into a draw each month for the chance to win £25; £15 or £10. If you are interested please contact us on **01969 624510**.

The Little Shop still has a good range of books and jigsaws, jams and marmalades for sale. As part of the fundraising we are holding a Beetle Drive on **February 17th at 4.00pm**, and hope it will be a fun social occasion!

If you are a fan of R.E.M or Buster Keaton we have a Silents Synced classic silent 'Sherlock Jr' paired with epic rock music to bring to audiences a unique big screen experience; 'Tragic Lovers' Tales' with storyteller David Brown; a repeat of the National Theatre Live 'the Audience' with Helen Mirren, last screened a decade ago, and to finish February off in style, 'A Night with the Hooliemen'.

A variety of events for all tastes! Come and join us, book via [www.leyburnartscentre.com](http://www.leyburnartscentre.com).

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Trips will depart between **9.00am and 10.00am** and will return no later than **5.00pm** on the same day.

**April 8th** – Kendal. Pick-ups at Askrigg, Bainbridge and Hawes. £14.

**May 9th** - Northallerton Shopper. Pick-ups from many villages in the Hawes Area. £10.

**May 18th** – York. Pick ups at Hawes, Bainbridge, West Witton and Leyburn. £23.

For more details and timings, please visit <https://littlewhitebus.co.uk/day-trips/>. Tickets for excursions can either be bought online, over the phone or pop into the Community Office.

Tickets to see the Red Squirrels (Snaizholme) are bought on the bus until **March 2nd**. After that date, tickets are bookable and can be bought online at <https://littlewhitebus.co.uk/red-squirrels/>. They can also be bought on the bus.

**Operations Manager. Little White Bus**  
**01969 667400**



## Little White Car

I would like to compliment the Little White Car Service which delivers an excellent service, providing door to door transportation, run by volunteers.

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**Deborah Kerr**

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## Upper Wensleydale Benefice Services in February

	<b>St Mary &amp; St John's, Hardraw 9.00am</b>	<b>St Margaret's, Hawes 10.30am</b>	<b>St Oswald's, Askrigg 10.30am</b>	<b>St Matthew's, Stalling Busk 2.30pm</b>
<b>February 1st</b>	<b>The Gathering – Benefice Family Communion, St Oswald's Church 10.30am</b>			
<b>February 6th</b>	<b>Communion in the TV Lounge at Sycamore Hall. 10.00am</b>			
<b>February 8th</b>	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion	Café Style	Soup followed by Communion <b>12.30pm</b>
<b>February 15th</b>	Holy Communion	Family Service	Morning Prayer	
<b>February 22nd</b>	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Afternoon Prayer Pathfinders and Explorers
Evening Prayer by telephone is held at <b>4.00pm</b> every Sunday. For details see the website <a href="http://www.upperwensleydalechurch.org/services">www.upperwensleydalechurch.org/services</a>				

### Lent and Given

Searching for Christmas decorations in December I came across some boxes of books and musical manuscripts that I had used as an undergraduate whilst studying at Bretton Hall College in West Yorkshire. Some of them had the words 'On Loan' or 'Lent' written inside. Now, before any of you might accuse me of a misdemeanour or attempt to calculate the fines that may have accrued over the last 45 years (some of you had already thought of doing that!) they did also have the simple statement (written by hand) 'Given' in the margin. Those two words 'Lent' and 'Given' struck me with a new significance a few weeks later whilst presiding at a funeral service.

In the Church calendar, February brings the season of Lent; Lent being that period of forty days where Christians the world over remember the forty days Jesus spent in the desert in preparation for His earthly ministry.

Traditionally it is a time of reflection and self-examination on the BIG issues of life such as our own mortality. If I were to maintain the musical theme then Lent might be in a minor key. But should it be so?

At a time where our media regularly reminds us of the problems faced by so many others across the world, perhaps this Lent could be a time where we consider these issues in a different way? As we think on all that we have been given during the time lent to us, perhaps we can do so in a brighter and more grateful key? The Bible speaks on numerous occasions about how God desires us to experience and to enjoy the wonder of life to the very full and that giving thanks is a key part of that satisfaction. It is Paul who writes: 'Always give thanks for all things to God the Father.' <sup>Eph.5:20</sup> Maybe this Lent, we could consider the good things in our lives in a new and more grateful way? Now: I wonder what that might look like for you?

*Peri Ave.*

## Leyburn and District u3a

Rotters by Jeff Coates

**Friday, February 20th at 10.30am**

The North Yorkshire Rotters promote home composting; reduce, reuse and recycling and the 'love food hate waste' campaigns at events, talks and school workshops, highlighting the practical ways that residents can reduce waste, save money, and help the environment.

This talk will cover the key issues of food waste and the importance of reducing it to help the environment. Home composting will also be covered and members will learn about the importance of getting the mix right when making their own compost at home and the different options for compost bins. Approximately 60% of the contents of an average bin are biodegradable and could be composted. Members will also learn about Allerton Waste Recovery Park which processes the rubbish collected in North Yorkshire and York. Jeff Coates is Volunteer Coordinator at North Yorkshire Rotters.

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 Membership secretary [www.leyburn.u3asite.uk](http://www.leyburn.u3asite.uk).

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## Prodigies and Whizz-kids

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Rossini String Symphony No.2;

Britten Simple Symphony;

Mozart Divertimento in D major K136;

Gershwin Lullaby;

Mendelssohn Octet for strings.

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## Dales Archaeology Day 2026 - Save the Date!

We are pleased to announce that the Dales Archaeology Day will be held on **Saturday, March 21st** at the Key Centre in Middleham (Park Lane, Middleham, Leyburn, DL8 4RA). As usual there will be stalls, information displays and talks on a range of topics relating to the historic environment of the Yorkshire Dales National Park. There will also be refreshments in the form of tea and coffee.

We anticipate that tickets will go on sale in February via our website and that bookings will close on **March 18th**. It will also be possible for people to pay via a cheque for those who don't wish to use the online method. But please note - there will be no cash or telephone ticket sales. We will announce the full details in due course when ticket sales open.

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## Mystery Picture

December's Mystery Picture was of Back Lane in West Witton.

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## What was the weather like in 2025?

Rainfall Figures for last six months of 2025 (in mm)								
	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total for first six months	Total for 2025
Hawes	103	42	225	135	242	242	581	1570
Breconbar	100	36	200	113	182	178	341	1250
Thornton Rust	112	39	194	114	200	161	375	1195
West Burton	70	33	160	106	175	152	313	1009
Carperby	79	23	157	86	160	126	253	884

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

Heavy continuous overnight rain after a very wet end to 2024 greeted the New Year. This turned to sleet later on New Year's day and heralded a much colder spell. Heavy snow on the 4th gave a covering of 15cm which persisted for many days with severe overnight frosts. By the middle of the month, milder weather brought a quick thaw and it was more changeable with rain at times and occasionally stormy. On the 24th Storm Eowyn crossed the country and was the most powerful wind storm for over a decade.

**January Max Temp. 8.5°C on 15th.**  
**Min. Temp. -7.3°C on 11th.**

The first half of February was fairly dry with temperatures near average. Easterly winds returned in the second week and it turned cooler and cloudy at times with occasional showers of rain and sleet. The second half of the month was more changeable with mild south westerly winds bringing spells of rain and showers. The month ended with a drier, colder spell with overnight frosts.

**February Max. Temp. 10.4°C on 24th.**  
**Min. Temp. -3.2°C on 6th.**

March was generally a dry month with below average rainfall. It was quite cloudy at times but on the days when it was fine and sunny, overnight temperatures fell quickly giving

ground and occasionally air frosts. More changeable, but milder weather on the last few days of the month, brought rain and heavy showers.

**March Max. Temp. 12.8°C on 7th.**  
**Min. Temp. -3.2°C on 14th.**

April was very dry overall with wind mainly from the north and east which kept temperatures near or below average. Some days were cloudy and cool with light drizzle at times. Fine sunny days led to clear nights when temperatures fell quickly causing ground frosts. By the end of the month the wind turned westerly and with the sun becoming stronger, it became much warmer.

**April Max. Temp. 21.0°C on 30th.**  
**Min. Temp. -1.2°C on 7th.**

The very dry weather continued into May but the wind turned easterly again. This resulted in more cloud being drawn across the country from the North Sea which is quite cold at this time of year. At times the cloud cover was thinner and this would break up over the land with good sunny periods. In the last week of the month, westerly winds returned with much needed rain and it became warmer.

**May Max. Temp. 21.0°C on 29th.**  
**Min. Temp. 0.6°C on 6th.**

The changeable weather with rain at times continued into June with the temperature rising and falling from day to day as frontal systems

crossed the country. Eventually by the middle of the month it became drier and warmer with long sunny periods. This was not to last however and it came to an abrupt end on 21st with an outbreak of thunderstorms and lightning which heralded a changeable spell to the end of the month.

**June Max. Temp. 25.2°C on 21st.  
Min. Temp. 6.2°C on 11th.**

The changeable weather continued into July with rain at times, occasionally heavy. A spell of warm, sunny weather followed after the first week, but by the middle of the month heavy rain and showers returned. The last week was mainly dry and sunny, but the westerly wind was quite humid and some days were cloudy with light drizzle.

**July Max. Temp. 25.1°C on 12th.  
Min. Temp. 9.6°C on 8th.**

After a dry start to August the named Storm Floris crossed Scotland from the Atlantic bringing heavy rain and strong winds. A storm of this severity is unusual at this time of year. This cleared after a few days and it became mainly dry, warm and sunny for much of the month. However, the wind direction varied considerably during this period and there were some brief cooler, cloudy spells. The last week was unsettled with rain and showers.

**August Max. Temp. 25.0°C on 14th.  
Min. Temp. 9.0°C on 10th.**

The beginning of September was cooler than average with showers, but there were some drier sunny days. By the second week the weather was really autumnal with a strong Jet Stream driving a succession of depressions across the Atlantic with heavy rain and gusty winds. By the final week it became drier and the wind turned easterly for a time with variable amounts of cloud and sunny periods and much cooler with the risk of overnight ground frost.

**September Max. Temp. 17.4°C on 1st.  
Min. Temp. 1.1°C on 22nd.**

Storm Amy, the first storm of the 2025/26 season hit north-western parts of the UK on 3rd. and 4th of October, bringing heavy rain across most of the country and flooding in

places. It became slowly drier but cooler through the middle of the month with the wind turning easterly for several days. It was generally overcast with occasional sunny periods. Westerlies returned towards the end of the month with rain and showers..

**October Max. Temp. 15.2°C on 4th.  
Min. Temp. 1.5°C on 30th.**

The first week in November was unsettled and very mild with heavy rain and strong gusty winds. On the 14th Storm Claudia brought extensive heavy rainfall across the country and parts of England and Wales received the whole-month of November rainfall in six days from 9th to 14th. The stormy weather slowly subsided and it turned colder with overnight frosts. Light snow fell before dawn on the 18th and 19th. The remainder of the month remained cold and unsettled with another spell of snow overnight on 30th.

**November Max. Temp. 14.0°C on 24th.  
Min. Temp. -2.8°C on 26th.**

The weeks before Christmas were very unsettled with frequent heavy rain. Storm Bram hit the country on the 9th and 10th of December with winds gusting at over 69mph in the worst affected locations, and up to 100mm of rain in the wettest areas falling on already saturated ground causing flooding. Overall this was a notable, but not exceptional, Atlantic winter storm. The temperature over this period was about average but turning quite mild at times during the second week. An anticyclone near Norway over Christmas and up to the New Year began to influence the weather. It was cold and dry but many days were overcast. Overnight frosts occurred when the sky did clear.

**December Max. Temp. 11.8°C on 9th.  
Min. Temp. -2.7°C on 31st.**

At the time of writing this report in January 2026 another storm named Gorette by Meteo-France has brought more severe weather to the country, but that must be saved for next year when, no doubt, there will be much more to write about!

**John Turner**

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## Blue Mouse Art Picture Needle Felting Workshops

Winter Trees at Sunset: Venue: Wensleydale Ice Cream, Hardbanks Barn, DL8 3AS. **Saturday, February 21st, 10.00am – 1.30pm**, followed by lunch (finishing at around 2.00pm).

Create a beautiful winter scene with silhouetted trees against a glowing sunset sky in this beginner-friendly needle felting workshop. Learn how to blend and layer wool fibres to achieve depth, texture, and atmospheric colour, with step-by-step demonstrations and one-to-one guidance. Suitable for adults and teenagers. Price: £48 per participant - includes booking fee, all equipment and materials to create a 6" × 6" (15 × 15 cm) picture, and lunch.

Winter Sheep: Venue: The Boardroom at The Station, Richmond, DL10 4LD. **Saturday, February 28th, 1.30pm – 4.00pm.**

Create a charming winter felt painting inspired by Yorkshire Dales sheep at sunset. In this beginner-friendly workshop, you'll learn how to blend, layer, and add texture using a variety of wool fibres to bring your snowy landscape to life. With step-by-step demonstrations and one-to-one guidance in a relaxed atmosphere, it's perfect for adults and teenagers. Refreshments available to purchase from The Station Café. Price: £48 per participant - includes booking fee and all equipment and materials to create a 6" × 6" (15 × 15 cm) picture.

Spring Flock: Venue: The Boardroom at The Station, Richmond, DL10 4LD. **Saturday, March 21st, 1.30pm – 4.00pm.**

Create a charming spring scene with little sheep grazing in lush green fields dotted with colourful spring flowers. In this beginner-friendly workshop, you'll learn how to use felting needles and a variety of natural and dyed wool fibres to build depth, texture, and detail. Enjoy a warm, relaxed atmosphere with step-by-step demonstrations and one-to-one guidance. Perfect for adults and teenagers with no prior experience. Refreshments available to purchase from The Station Café. Price: £48 per participant - includes booking fee and, all equipment and materials to create a 6" × 6" (15 × 15 cm) picture.

Spaces are limited, so early booking is recommended. [www.bluemouseart.co.uk](http://www.bluemouseart.co.uk).



## Hawes Christmas Lights

We would like to thank everyone who so generously contributes to make Hawes 'shine'. In particular the businesses, in the form of the electricity and support of various fund raising events which keep our funds going. Our winner of 'The Friends' draw was Enid Middleton, congratulations.

We are always looking for new members, the younger the better, to join our Christmas Lights Committee. We meet up throughout the year to check all the lights, make repairs as needed, so all are ready for the next festive season. We also rely on volunteers to erect and dismantle the displays in November and January and would welcome anyone who could help for even a couple of hours on those days.

If you can make any suggestions on how we can improve please get in touch, either by email [lizlawson@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lizlawson@hotmail.co.uk) or see Liz at Wensleydale Press.

## Hawes Christmas Lights Committee

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## Bainbridge WI News

Is it really February already? Perhaps I have been hibernating (if only!) as the time seems to have passed very quickly!

Although it is a long time ago already, we had a good time in the run up to Christmas. We held our Christmas Coffee Morning at Sycamore Hall and issued gift bags to all the residents which were very much appreciated. Some of our members took part in a wreath-making workshop which I gather they really enjoyed. No doubt their creations adorned their doors over the festive period.

Our Christmas party was at the Middle House in Askrigg where we enjoyed a lovely Christmas Lunch. We were entertained by a Murder Mystery written by Alyson and performed by some of our members. It was great fun!

Our January meeting was held at Sycamore Hall where we took part in a fun quiz prepared by Claire. We also listened to summaries of the proposed WI Resolutions for this year and voted for our favourite which was the provision of free, accessible public toilets for all.

Our next meeting will also take place at Sycamore Hall in Bainbridge from **7.30pm on Thursday, February 19th**. Our speaker will be Ruth Lindsey who is going to talk to us about the use of local wool/fleeces in managing the peat bogs and moorlands around the area. It should be really interesting and will follow on nicely from the talk by The Woodland Trust last year.

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Our clubs are resuming and there is plenty to keep us busy with walking, gardening, reading, crafting, lunching and theatre trips! I really don't know how we fit it all in! The Lunch Club visited The Wheatsheaf in Carperby in January and the Walking Group took a stroll from Hawes to Hardraw on a bright but frosty day - brave souls! The Garden Group had a social gathering at Sycamore Hall where they looked at slides from some of last year's wonderful gardens and planned this year's activities. The Book Club has met in the warmth of Sycamore Hall to discuss their latest read over a few nibbles and a cuppa. The Crafters have just had a paper craft workshop with Diana Hartley where they had the opportunity to make some cards. We are now looking forward to throwing some pots at a workshop with Liz Carlisle - that could be interesting!

If you are interested in joining our busy and friendly group you will be very welcome to come along to any of our monthly meetings and see what we get up to. There is no commitment to join on the day, so give us a try! 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!

## Arts Society Wensleydale

### Decoding the Saints

Can you ever remember which saint is which? Who carries the wheel? And which John is the one with the lamb and which is the one with the chalice and snake? This month's Arts Society lecture by local speaker Anna Bianco is designed to give you the edge when travelling around the churches, galleries and museums of the UK and Europe - helping you to 'decode' the saints. Drawing from paintings, metal work, sculpture and manuscripts, we'll explore ancient saints such as St Stephen (the first Christian martyr) to historic saints such as St Thomas Becket and St Louis IX King of France.

So do join us on **Tuesday, February 24th at 2.00pm** at Tennants Auction House, Leyburn. Non-members/guests are always welcome at all Arts Society Wensleydale lectures. A donation of £10 is suggested or why not become a member? For more information on Wensleydale Arts Society, visit <https://theartssociety.org/wensleydale>.

## Reeth Memorial Hall

We start again with concerts at the hall in March. Details and dates for 2026 concerts on our website.

**Saturday, March 14th** – Gaz Brookfield. Tickets direct from Gaz - £15.00 gazbrookfield.com.

**Friday, March 20th** – Blackbeard's Tea Party:

Drums, electric guitars, fiddle, melodeon and 4-part vocal harmonies combine to create music that is drenched in tradition, but filtered through a kaleidoscope of modern rock and pop. Tickets £17 (£19 door).

**Saturday, April 18th** – The Haar:

Anglo/Irish quartet with a radically fresh, boundary-pushing take on traditional songs and tunes. Tickets £20 (£22 door).

**Saturday, April 25th** – Rosie Hood Band:

Reworked traditional English songs and original material, touching on nature, human struggle, women's voices and unheard stories. Powerful and clear vocals, with melodeon, fiddle & percussion. Tickets £17 (£19 door).

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

## Dales Charity Bingo Report

We have enjoyed 3 bingo nights since our last report, with two nights held in December and one in January. In December, our first night was held in Askrigg, in support of the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal and our second night was back in Hawes in aid of the Burtsett Village Hall. Both nights were well supported and together raised over £600 for the month.

We kicked off 2026 with a great night in Bainbridge for the Bainbridge Christmas Lights. It was a record attendance for our Bainbridge events and raised a mighty £500, which will be used to repair the many elements in their display that were damaged by the extended bad weather conditions that prevailed throughout the festive period.

Thank you to everyone who came out and supported these 3 great causes. Our next bingo night will be held in Hawes on **February 11th** for the Stop Ure Pollution initiative – please see our advertisement on page 4.

If you would like to know more, please email us at [dalescharitybingo@gmail.com](mailto:dalescharitybingo@gmail.com).

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## Yoredale Strummers Seek New Members

Looking for a new skill in 2026, given a ukulele by Father Christmas or want to get your ukulele out from under the stairs? Do you just enjoy singing? The Yoredale Strummers are seeking new musicians and singers for the group.

The Yoredale Strummers is a long-established ukulele band who are lucky enough to have a percussionist to keep us in time and ukulele bass player to give a rich sound. We also play banjolele and kazoo when the music suits! We play an eclectic mix of folk and pop with a bias towards the 1960's probably due to our age! The good news is you don't need to read music to play as the chords are written into the lyrics.

We meet up for a couple of hours at **7.00pm on Tuesday** evenings at the lovely Wensley Village Hall. Each member pays £10 a month to cover hall hire, tea and biscuits! We play for pleasure and practise songs from an extensive catalogue of 150 songs. Members suggest new songs to add to the catalogue. The Strummers currently play two or three gigs per year raising money for the Yorkshire Air Ambulance or

supporting local events and venues. Please contact us if you would like us to perform at an event.


So if you are a Dedicated Follower of Fashion, a Sweet Caroline, a Galway Girl or just a Bird Dog please come and join us. We are also looking to organise some taster sessions. Please email us at [yoredale.strummers2005@gmail.com](mailto:yoredale.strummers2005@gmail.com) if you are interested in playing, singing, trying a taster session or want us to entertain at an event.


Many thanks


### The Yoredale Strummers


PS some Uke facts:


A ukulele is a small, guitar-like musical instrument that originated in Hawaii in the late 19th century. It was inspired by Portuguese string instruments (such as the machete or braguinha) brought to Hawaii by immigrants. Some of the key features are:

 **Strings:** It usually has four nylon strings (sometimes six or eight on special versions).

 **Size:** Much smaller than a guitar — easy to hold and play.

 **Sound:** Bright, cheerful, and light — often associated with Hawaiian music.

 **Tuning:** The most common is G–C–E–A.

 **Types:** There are four main sizes — soprano, concert, tenor, and baritone (each with a slightly different sound and pitch).

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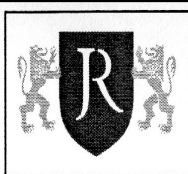
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## Middleham and the Dales Local History Group

**Wednesday, February 18th, 2.00pm**  
at Harmby Village Hall

History of Copper Mining in Richmondshire  
By Jane Harrison

Jane Harrison is one of our members who is interested in the geography, geology, and archaeology of the Dales. She first became aware of Richmondshire's copper mines when looking at old Ordnance Survey maps. Since then she has visited a number of the locations to photograph what remains on the ground today.

Her talk will look at the background geology and trace the history of copper mining from a royal charter in the 15th century to the closure of the last mine at the beginning of the 20th century.

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](mailto:dotandtonyk@btinternet.com).

## Stalling Busk Domino Drive

**Tuesday, February 17th at 7.00pm.**

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## Bellerby Study Group

In 'The Quirks and Pitfalls of Great War Family History Research' on **Wednesday, February 4th**, Steve Erskine from the Green Howards Museum describes how seemingly harmless family history enquiries have led to questions about parentage and dubious medical conditions! And the bizarre, humbling and truly awe-inspiring stories that such research revealed.

On **Wednesday, February 11th**, Jonathan Riley of Friends of the Dales National Park will discuss 'The challenges facing the Yorkshire Dales National Park' and the role that an independent campaigning charity like Friends of the Dales can play in holding to account policymakers and the authorities responsible for the National Park and surrounding areas.

In 'Saving our Heritage from Climate Change' on **Wednesday, February 25th**, David Banks describes how the Skell Valley Project bears witness to the benefits of working with nature, controlling extreme river floods and empowering the local community to make the valley landscape resilient to future climate change.

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 eight talks, visitors are welcome at £3 per meeting. For more information contact **Judy Asher 07968 596676**.

## THE HEALING COLLECTIVE

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## Yorebridge Sport and Leisure Centre

The Wensleydale Centre, Askrigg.  
Tel. **01969 650060**

Did you know you can go to the gym without leaving home? Yorebridge Sport and Leisure, have two classes a week that you can either access in the studio with their instructor, Kirsten, or you can follow live from the comfort of your home via Zoom.

The exercises do not need any specialised equipment, just a bit of space with no trip hazards. You do the exercises to your own fitness level; you can choose to increase the resistance by using bands (or a towel) and weights where you feel able. Kirsten guides you through an hour of activity from warm up to cardio, strengthening and stretches before a cool down at the end. They run on **Monday and Wednesday, 9.15am – 10.15am**. Classes are £9 pay as you go, there are discount options for monthly memberships and for purchasing 8 vouchers.

The team at the gym are always happy to show anyone around the excellent facilities and chat through what your needs are, don't hesitate to get in touch, even just to pop down and see all the hard work we have been putting in.

Gym membership – purchased through ClubRight gym management system [www.yorebridgesportandleisure.co.uk/](http://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.

Our fully equipped gym and studio space is open **6.00am to 10.00pm**, 7 days a week. A live Membership / Voucher, set up through ClubRight, is required to access the electronic door.

Can I come to the gym? Yes. A gym is a safe place to exercise for anyone of any fitness level. All gym users must receive an induction, this will build your confidence and understanding of how to get the best out of the equipment and machines. If you are visiting the Dales and would like to keep your regular gym sessions going during your stay, we have a self-certification form for those who have undertaken an induction in their local gym and are confident and competent gym users. This is

available on the sign-in desk. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with any questions.

Class Timetable - via Zoom or live class as indicated. Booking is essential for all classes. Email [admin@yorebridge-sport.co.uk](mailto:admin@yorebridge-sport.co.uk) or phone **01969 650060**. Classes are: (£9 pay as you go or class membership option available with discounts.)

**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](mailto:yorebridgetennis@gmail.com).

**High Intensity Bootcamp Monday and Thursday** (live) **6.00am – 7.00am**. Get that morning metabolism boost.

**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](mailto:yogafusionbyj@gmail.com).

**Strong and Able – Wednesdays** (live) **1.30pm – 2.30pm**. 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](mailto:yorebridgetennis@gmail.com).

**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 helps us to keep delivering.

Simply scan the QR code and follow the steps, thank you so much for all your support.

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



## LEYBURN ARTS AND COMMUNITY CENTRE



Friday 6 February 6pm  
Save The Cinema (12A) 1hr 49m

Friday 13 February 6pm  
Lee (15) 1hr 57m

Friday 20 February 6pm  
A Good Person (15) 2 hrs 08m

Friday 27 February 6pm  
Roofman (15) 2hrs 06m

### Coming Soon:

- The Choral
- Nuremberg

Thursday 5 February 7pm £12/£6  
Cinema Live: R.E.M. X Buster Keaton's Sherlock Jr

Saturday 14 February 7.30pm £5  
Tragic Lovers' Tales by David Brown

Thursday 26 February 7pm £15/£7.50  
National Theatre Live: The Audience

Saturday 28 February 7.30pm: £15/£7.50  
A Night with the Hooliemen

### Coming Soon:

Thursday 5 March - Trafalgar Releasing: Othello  
Saturday 21 March - Fakespeare - A Merely Players  
Production  
Thursday 26 March - Exhibition on Screen: Turner  
and Constable

- 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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by the late Alan S. Watkinson**