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EDITORIAL

Fuss! Don't you just love it? Or hate it? Some of the national media seem to want to blow everything out of all proportion, making a crisis out of "summat and nowt". Why? Presumably because it sells papers or boosts viewing figures. Take, for example, the bank holiday temporary closure of a main railway line to cause the least overall disturbance while major repairs were done. It was interesting to see that almost all travellers were reasonable and laid-back about it all; they weren't going to be stirred up. Let's face it, we used to be a nation that was proud to be able to withstand and get by in much worse than that. Or, this last weekend's attempt to raise the temperature by questioning the Beckhams' marriage; the time given to poor Frank Bruno or the hype over David Blaine when there are genuine hunger strikers and people starving.

It seems sometimes that the people who make the real – and proper – fuss get completely overlooked. It would be easy for us in this Newsletter and in this lovely area to only concern ourselves with the little local rumpuses that crop up and then die down, but in this day and age when we live in a global environment, can we really be silent? **Let's try to get things into proportion.**

Can you really understand what's going on with the intricacies of the Hutton Inquiry? Isn't it a nice way of conveniently pushing into the background the **appalling aftermath** of oppression, neglect and of the attack on Iraq where water and electricity supply and sewage disposal are in chaos, or of not daring to ask whether "loss of sovereignty" to "Europe" hasn't already been lost to America? You might like that! A pity the proper fuss made by demonstrators outside the recent **Arms**

Sale gathering in Britain hardly hit the headlines- except when a few got arrested. The arms being sold will cause a bit more trouble than they! Powerful nations make plans to "up" the arms race into outer space, costing billions of dollars. Who's making the fuss?

Cancun. Heard of it? Yes, that was the very recent vitally important World Trade Conference that was to make progress in the relations between the rich (the very rich by comparison) and the "developing" (i.e. desperately poor) countries. The talks broke down. Who's making any fuss?

As we continue to choke ourselves to death the world over by profligate over-use of fuels, or contribute to what seems now to be a serious global warming, only a few "cranks" make a fuss! We worry about where our next cheap fuel will come from, while much of the world anguishes over where its next drink of clean water will come from. Who makes the fuss on their behalf? The media prefers to dwell on the millions-to-one chance of a meteorite hitting the world at some future moment. A hurricane plays havoc with a strip of the U.S.A. People flee. The media have a field day. Yet in the Indian sub-continent that sort of thing happens to an almost unbelievable degree all the time; we hardly hear of it. Who makes the fuss?

Well, the "emergency" and "caring" agencies try to, with their pitifully small budgets. Faith groups the world over sometimes come up trumps but some, at the minute, seem more interested in scoring points over dogma –or sexuality.

O.K, we all need some light relief, but doesn't it do us good sometimes to ask whether our concerns - and our fuss, about small or personal things- are really in, or out, of proportion? There's enough people-power in the world to make for real change, with the **right fuss!**

**COUNTRYSIDE MUSEUM,
October 2003**

TRADITIONAL CRAFTS IN A MODERN WORLD is the title of an exhibition by the Wensleydale and Swaledale Crafts Group. This is the first time that the group have exhibited together and will be at the Museum until **2nd November**.

The show demonstrates the wide diversity of skills being practised by professional craftspeople in the Dales.

The Museum is open daily between 10am and 5pm and entrance to the exhibition is free.

On the afternoon of Tuesday **7th October**, Friends of the Museum will be demonstrating spinning and woolcrafts in the Museum.

Stickmaking will be demonstrated on Monday **20th October** between 10.30 and 4.30.

Children will be able to "drop in" on the afternoon of Sunday **26th October** and have a go at making mini proddy rugs.

Friends of the Museum will be holding their AGM on Friday **17th October**. After the meeting Friends will be displaying and demonstrating their own artefacts.

Advance notice for November - On the evening of 17th November we will be hosting a family show - CIRCUS BESERKUS !!

More details to follow.....

THE PERFECT SHOT

Ian Sunter, the talented Askrigg golfer, played the perfect shot whilst playing with the Upper Wensleydale Golfing Society at Cleveland Golf Club, on Friday the 5th September. Ian stood on the 6th tee, withdrew a 7 iron from his bag and then proceeded to knock the ball into the hole 167 yards away. **A HOLE IN ONE!** Ian said "It was the perfect shot, it pitched right in the middle of the green, ran forward 4 or 5 feet, then dropped into the hole."

It is the 1st time in the 24 year history of the Upper Wensleydale Golfing Society that anyone has had a hole in one playing in a society event.

The rest of the results are as follows:-

Winner	Ernie Lister
Secon	Kim Robinson
Third	Dave Raw
Fourth	Ali Pratt
Eclectic Cup	Tony Porter
Most Improved	Bob Tunstall
Longest Drive	Nigel Ellis
Nearest Pin	Wilson Hodgson
Domino Pairs Cup	James Metcalfe & Dave Cooper

Mel Dinsdale

BOOKS BOOKS BOOOOBOOKS

Once again the Quakers of Bainbridge are having a Saturday Book event, on **October 25th, from 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 pm**. Coffee, tea and cakes will be served. Bring as many books as you like, and take as many as you like, for a donation. You don't need to bring any; you can just take away.

Those who would like to donate books are invited to leave them in Sylvia's famous Porch in Bainbridge (**650525**) any time, or at Judith Bromley's home, opposite the Crown in Askrigg (**650266**)

The event is in aid of BAINSIDE ARTS and tapes and cassettes are also included.

SANTA SPECIAL!

Treat the kids to a magical Christmas Train Ride with Santa on the **Wensleydale Railway. Saturdays and Sundays from November 22nd to December 21st plus December 22nd to 24th.**

Full details of times (all from Leeming Bar) and fares are available on the Santa Special leaflets. To pre-book tickets phone: **0845 50 54 74**

NEW NATIONAL PARK PLANNING INFORMATION LAUNCHED ON-LINE

Residents of the Yorkshire Dales National Park can now access a new range of information on planning services by visiting the National Park Authority's website at www.yorkshiredales.org.uk.

On-line visitors can view weekly updated lists of all planning applications currently under consideration, as well as a downloadable application form, committee reports, and minutes and agendas from the monthly meetings of the National Park Authority's Planning Committee.

Peter Watson, head of planning at the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, said: "As the planning authority for the National Park, it's important we provide as much information and guidance as we possibly can. Not only does this help residents to understand the planning process in the National Park, it also means that they can access the information they need to get the best possible service we are able to provide.

"By putting this new range of information on-line, we are increasing the opportunities for everyone to get involved with the planning system in the National Park, as well as meeting the increasing expectations of residents to provide our services and information via the internet.

The new information increases the on-line guidance and advice already available, which includes information on when and how to make an application for planning permission, how to object or support an application for planning permission. There is also an up-to-date list of committee meeting dates, information on Listed Buildings, and full contact details for the National Park Authority's Planning Services team.

ALL CHANGE AT YORE MILL

The Yore Mill building is soon to become vacant. The existing Carriage Collection will be moved. The building will be put to a new use.

The proposal under consideration is its use as a Yorkshire Dales visitor centre, attraction, housing and advertising a multiplicity of products and services. Workshop, exhibition and gallery space are planned and an element of retail. The work will be carried out in stages starting at ground floor level, approximately 3,500 sq. ft. that will be opened at the earliest opportunity.

Initial discussions with Richmondshire District Council and the Yorkshire Dales National Park have been encouraging.

Yore Mill is a grade 11 listed, four-storey building dating from 1752. Plans include re-instatement of the Mill Wheel and turbines to generate local electricity.

Sale of the George Shaw Carriage Collection.

The first part of this sale will take place on **November 5th** by Thimbleby and Shorland of Reading by video link. The remainder (items currently in storage) will be auctioned in 2004

For more details please contact:

D and A Kiely 663399

THOUGHTS FROM A SETTLER

The Editor suggested, in his winning way, that I might like to write an article for the series “**My Favourite Spot in the Dales**”. Ugh! Sounded a bit like the “What I Did in the Holidays” essay of early schooldays, just to give the teacher an easy ride on the first day back. But after a while there did seem to be the glimmer of a possible column or two on a more general theme, probably done to death by generations of Dales-lovers, but so what?

When Margaret and I joined the ranks of the incomer's it was not a random step, although the actual spot where we settled was determined by the house and not by the place. But how lucky can you get? Instead of the picturesque, but inconvenient, little old cottage miles from anywhere which we expected would be our final resting place, figuratively speaking, here we are slap in the middle of Hawes, with all the advantages of shops and whatever, practically on the doorstep. And I agree totally with the correspondent in the September issue who sang the praises of this, surely unique, town.

Our many years' flirtation with the Dales, walking in all weathers, including blizzards, gave us a rather piecemeal impression of beautiful hills and valleys, quiet villages and towns and generous-hearted and cheerful people. Now that we have been residents here for a while the picture has become clearer and what seemed then to be an area of uniform character we can now see is a collection of diverse communities, each with its own variation on the distinct style and atmosphere of the whole.

The Dales fall into two groups, one running generally east-west and one north-south. The groups differ in appearance because of the way the light falls on the landscape, particularly at the ends of the day. If Swaledale ran north-south instead of east-west we would not have that wonderful effect of evening sunlight on the pattern of field walls and barns, much photographed. It could be nowhere else on the planet, let alone in the Dales. The geology underlying the landscape here is also important, imparting to the hills the hard-nosed profile that is immediately recognisable and which is known to the world as the Yoredale Series. The views from almost anywhere, particularly from somewhere near the top of a hill, are spectacular. Not always in the sense of dramatic grandeur but in ways that call to mind words like peace, tranquillity, permanence and strength. And

even when familiarity has reduced the sense of surprise these characteristics continue to seep into the subconscious, contributing to feelings of harmony and content.

As for the people, what can I say? Kind, good natured, humorous, helpful, all these things in abundance and so welcoming to a couple of strangers settled in their midst that we felt immediately at home. The doom merchants, some of them exiles from Yorkshire, who warned us before we moved that we would never make friends here, have been **utterly confounded**. And in truth, they are all a bit jealous. Serves them right!

As a sop to the Ed, there is one view which, while I have no favourites, is nevertheless one which never ceases to enchant. **That is the wonderful panorama** of Wensleydale and Bishopdale which suddenly appears as one drives over the lip of the escarpment on the tank road before dropping down to Redmire. There can be few sights so uplifting to the human spirit. It makes me feel thankful for the good fortune that has brought me to this corner of England for what I suppose I must regard as my twilight years! But, God willing, the light will not fail for a while yet.

Hugh Bridgm

TRIUMPH FOR HAWES NATIONAL PARK CENTRE STAFF

Congratulations to the Hawes Tourist Information team for getting nominated for a White Rose Tourism award. The staff were in a shortlist of five centres from the whole of Yorkshire; chosen for their professionalism, knowledge and welcoming manner. Maureen Prince (Centre Manager) and Audrey Thwaite (tourism legend) attended a champagne reception at Leeds United and mingled with stars such as Alan (sniffer) Clark and Paul Reany. This was followed by a four-course dinner and award ceremony, that Maureen likened to the Oscars. There was dancing with The Casablanca Boys and staff are eagerly waiting for the photographs of that!

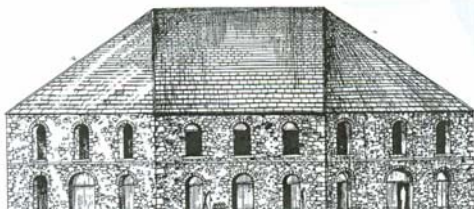
CJLB

MYSTERY PHOTOGRAPH

One of the joys (yes, there are some!) of editing this newsletter is that you are often delighted, shocked, amused or even sickened! by some of the responses. Here is a delight, and also an article of interest and we thank the writer very much:

This month's mystery photo. is **The Great Octagon (lead) Smelting Mill** in Arkengarthdale as it was in 1946 situated on the north side of the Reeth Tan Hill road approx. 200 yards north west of the Stang road junction. All there is to see today is an overgrown ring of unwanted stone.

Built by Easerby, Hall & Co. between 1802 and 1804 it replaced Old Moulds Smelt mill the mill was called the Octagon Mill because of its shape.



an octagon with two sides shorter than the remaining ones. This shape was well suited to house the large waterwheel and group of furnaces. Internally the mill is 107 feet long and 70 feet wide, with an outer wall of random masonry 27 inches thick. (making it one of the largest buildings in the Dales at that time.)

Great timber trusses, with half trusses forming the three sided end portions supported the roof, surely one of the most ambitious of all timber roofs. As seen across the wild open valley from below Windegg., it was especially noticeable how well the structure stood on the levelled site, the long axis facing down the dale. When seen on a summer evening, the sun on the receding wall faces, made the unusual shape appear particularly effective. The rhythm of the arched openings on each wall face was another feature which added to the good quality of the building. Above

the eaves the great roof rose in near equality to the height of the main walls.

Originally there were seven arched openings into the building, each one placed centrally on the wall faces, and giving direct access to the furnaces. On either side of these openings was a circular beaded window with a low sill. The proportions of these openings is based on the classical ratio of two circles in height to one in width. An upper series of similar windows encircles the building above the string course.

The building housed four ore-hearths, which could make around 75 tons of lead per week, were blown by bellows a double set for each furnace were worked by a fine overshot waterwheel 36 ft. in diameter, which was built into the centre of the mill. set with its axle between two massive stone piers, ten feet above the mill floor. This axel ran parallel to the length of the building. Water was carried along the hillside from higher up the valley and brought in at the rear of the mill on a wooden launder. From the wheel pit the water was conveyed under the mill in an arched culvert six feet wide, which can be seen passing down the hillside and delivering into Arkle Beck.

The roof, the most interesting feature of the building, was composed of four large queen post trusses, each rising 23 feet above the beams. At each end of the mill were five half trusses, radiating from the centres of the two endmost trusses. The



roof covering was of local stone slates, with angle stones at the intersection of the roof faces

Six flue openings passed through the south wall and joined at the rear of the mill and ran as a massive pair up the pasture, passing under the Reeth to Tanhill road (one of these flues is still open and it is possible to scramble through to day.) before striking up the fellside to terminate in a chimney high on Crag End.

The Octagon Mill was maintained throughout the 19th. century and, for a time, was used as a store by a local builder. In 1941 part of the north corner of the building collapsed, rendering the structure unsafe. The high cost of putting the defects in order was considered unjustified, hence the whole great roof was dismantled, the slates and wood beams sold to a local contractor.

Most of the information for this article is in the form of quotations from:-

The Lead Smelting Mills of the Yorkshire Dales and Northern Pennines. By the late Robert T Clough first published in 1962 (Mr. Clough surveyed the Smelt Mill in 1949 when most of the walls were still standing.

P.S. What a wonderful building it would have made for a lead-mining museum had it still been standing.

Mason Scarr, Cravenholme, Bainbridge

ALZHEIMER'S SOCIETY

This is the leading charity for dementia care and research in the U.K. and some readers will know that there is a **Richmondshire Branch** (with an Askrigg Support Group) which produces an occasional newsletter with articles relevant to carers and other interested people.

If you would like more information about the organisation the Branch address is Garget Walker House, 25a, Olav Road in Richmond. Phone: **01748 825817**

and there is a website:
www.alzheimers.org.uk/richmondshire

D.C.M. REMAINS!

No, not the left-overs! Some months ago the Dales Countryside Museum enquired of the

public (we put a bit in the Newsletter) if they thought a new name would be appropriate. There was a good response and of the 267 comments the overwhelming feeling was that the name should **stay the same.**

The questionnaire included other items which will help the D.C.M. when planning future activities and marketing. Open

NEW BUSINESS LOCATIONS AT HAWES AND REETH

Business and employment opportunities are being created with the development of two new workspace projects in the heart of the Yorkshire Dales.

Seven purpose-built office units are now completed at the newly extended **Upper Wensleydale Business Park at Hawes** and the construction of a further five workshops are due to commence at Silver Street in Reeth.

There are also 8 fully serviced building plots with planning permission for 2 storey light industrial units adjoining Brunt Acres Industrial Estate, Hawes.

The Hawes development – owned by Richmondshire District Council, the County Council and Yorkshire Forward – has received £260,889 of European Objective 2 funding as part of an initiative to help generate jobs and attract wealth to rural areas.

Councillor John Blackie, member for Hawes and High Abbotside, said: “We have already had considerable interest in both developments and some of the units and workshops are already reserved.”

“The new premises offer an ideal opportunity for those wanting to relocate or start up a new business, whilst enjoying the wonderful landscape and fantastic lifestyles of the Dales.”

Anyone interested in leasing the new premises should contact **Abi Bromirskyj** in the Economic, Cultural and Leisure Unit, on **01748 829100 ext 291.**

OCTOBER GARDENING

So far the autumn has been exceptionally warm & dry. Lots of things in the garden are still going strong and it seems a pity to have to cut them back. However this month is a good time to bring into a frost-free airy shelter those plants that wouldn't survive outdoors much longer; the fuschias, geraniums/pelargoniums, begonias, gladioli & dahlias. They need a bit of cleaning up first. Trim off all the damaged leaves etc. from geraniums and cut back fuschias quite severely. Leave begonias to die down naturally keeping some soil around the roots. Squash geraniums & fuschias into the smallest pots that can take their roots and keep them almost, but not absolutely, dry during the winter.

Dahlias and gladioli should be lifted, shake as much soil off as possible and leave to dry out further. Once completely dry, begonias, dahlias and gladioli can have their last clean and treatment with a fungicide before putting away in a frost free dry store.

Fill the gaps in the borders with wallflowers, sweet williams, forget-me-nots or polyanthus ready for flowering next spring. These stalwarts give good value before the other perennials get going. It's not too late to plant spring bulbs; the later they are planted, the later they will flower. Tulips, in fact are better planted later as they are more prone to diseases than other bulbs. As with all bulbs, the planting depth is 2 or 3 times their own depth. The dwarf varieties of daffodils, narcissi and tulips are becoming more popular as they are able to keep standing upright after a harsh spell of wind and rain. Now-a-days there's so much more choice than the usual daffodils and crocus, - chiono doxas (glory of the snow) ornithogalams (star of Bethlehem). Scillas and miniature irises are alternatives to try. Or staying with this season it may still be possible to plant up some container grown plants. Late season colour could be provided by asters (Michaelmas daisies) crocosmias (montbretias) Japanese anemones, sedums and reidbedkiasso long as it stays fairly mild and they are kept well-watered any "dead spots" will soon come to life again by these colourful perennials. Even the tender nerines (bowdenic being the hardiest) may survive if winters continue to be mild. They really provide a bright display, and that's without considering the shrubs that give autumn foliage colour or fruits and berries. There is still a lot of cheer to be found in the garden at this time of year.

Happy Gardening.

Peduncle.

ART CLASS

Tuesday evenings. Starting on **21st October** at "Tarney Fors. Phone **Moira Metcalfe (667782)** or **Sue Harpley (667475)** for further details.

HAWES OPERATIC

.....has begun rehearsals for this year's Pantomime - Cinderella, written by Howard St Quinton. The cast have been impressed with the writing and the modern overtones to the traditional tale. Colin Bailey is directing with a firm but sensitive hand and has shown his talents in choreography in association with Norma Fowler who is also accompanying on the keyboard. The Dinsdale family are well represented with Rosie as Cinderella, Shona as the Prince, John Willie as Modem (I said there were modern overtones) and Poppy, who is almost ready to join the adult chorus. The first rehearsal for the children (9 to 13 y.o.) took place on the 29th Sept. As there are only twelve children required for this performance, the committee had decided for the first time to hold auditions. If any children did not know of this date please contact Colin Bailey (**650060**) before the children's chorus is finalised. We are always in need of "Friends and Members" support. Forms are available at the Community Office. See you in December for this "new" version of Cinderella. **Dates are December 1st - 6th.**

Please note that the A.G.M. is on **Wednesday October 15th at 7.00 pm** in the National School (Church Hall) in Hawes and friends and members are cordially invited.

S.H.

BROWNIES ARE BACK

Just a short note to say "welcome back, Brownies" from your summer break and I hope you are all ready for some fun-packed weeks ahead for you all

In the last two weeks we have had a quiz night and a T-shirt tie-dye night which you all enjoyed.

Keep a look-out every month for our Brownie News.

Carol Miller

CALENDAR GIRLS -

...a film of the British story of the Yorkshire women who set out to raise money for the Leukaemia Research Fund by posing nude for an alternative Women's Institute calendar. Their courage and chutzpah turned a local story into an international media phenomenon and inspired millions of women worldwide.

The film stars Helen Mirren (*Gosford Park*, *The Madness of King George*, *Prime Suspect*), Julie Walters (the *Harry Potter* films, *Billy Elliot*), John Alderton, Linda Bassett (*East is East*), Annette Crosbie (*Shooting Fish*, *One Foot in the Grave*), Philip Glenister, Ciaran Hinds, Celia Imrie (*Bridget Jones' Diary*, *Hilary and Jackie*), Geraldine James and Penelope Wilton (*Iris*) star.

Helen Mirren plays Chris, the ringleader, based on the real-life Tricia Stewart and Julie Walters is her best friend Annie, based on Angela Baker whose husband, John, died of leukaemia. Mr Baker worked for the National Park Authority for many years and an exhibition hall at the Dales Countryside Museum is dedicated to his memory. It's in his name that the unusual bid for charity funds was launched. Other characters in the film are either heavily fictionalised or entirely fictional.

The British production is directed by Nigel Cole (*Saving Grace*). The original screenplay is by Juliette Towhidi and Tim Firth and the score is composed by Patrick Doyle.

The film features the wonderful scenery of the Yorkshire Dales National Park; **here are just a few of the locations visitors that may be interested to see.**

Settle

The chemist where Chris goes to pick up her first set of photographs.

Kilnsey Crag

The setting of the pub where the men sit, drink and await the production of the Calendar.

Cow & Calf Rocks, Ilkley

Where Chris' son retreats to get-away from the 'weird behaviour' of his mother and friends.

Conistone Ingleton Ribbleshead

Burnsall The site of the village show where WI members compete against one another in the

'tea-tray on an international theme' competition.

Linton

Skipton

Kettlewell

The location of the Knapely, where Chris, Annie and the rest of the women live.

& a number of general views over Wharfedale and Malhamdale.

LETTER

Dear Editorial Team,

Hello again from the Kent branch of Eunice's Fan Club. We have - after a poor patch - managed to spot her - looking arty on page 11 sheltering under the tree in the Bainside Arts display.

We have just come south after a glorious week in Wensleydale. The weather was kind but above all the activities and hospitality of friends and neighbours in Burtersett and beyond made our stay - as always - so enjoyable.

Thanks to Kathleen Iveson who runs the Whist Drive in Burtersett, my capacity to play cards in public has gone from non-existent to just about passable. We also took in the Brass band competition, I

Janet Rawlins' exhibition and the Hopper's Auction - all excellent entertainment even if the last resulted in moans and groans from my husband about me buying yet more items that I have no where to put!

We spent our last morning walking up and around Wether Fell. Of all places in the world, this is the most special and the views over Raydale and Wensleydale are enough to de - stress anyone - even someone whose wife is addicted to auctions!

Shiela Birkin, Sevenoaks

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Shiela Birkin, Sevenoaks

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

We are again organising a collection of shoe boxes filled with suitable gifts for needy children this Christmas.

The boxes will be taken to children overseas whose lives have been blighted by poverty, ill-health, natural disasters or war - regardless of nationality, political background or religious belief.

Suitable gifts for inclusion are: pencils, note pads, picture books without words, puzzles, stickers, soft toys, toothbrush & paste, wrapped sweets (within sell-by date), gloves, scarf.

Do not include any other edible items, war-related toys, other clothing, marbles, sharp objects or any liquids.

Choose one of six categories for the recipient of your box: boy or girl, ages 2-4, 5-9 or 10-14 years.

Boxes should be covered in Christmas paper, lids covered separately and not fastened and

include £2 in cash towards transport. We will then write a cheque for all the boxes. They must be handed in to Hawes Post Office or the Community Office by **Wednesday, November 12th**.

Information leaflets with further details from Hawes Post Office, the Community Office or from **Heather & Nelson Caplin 667625**

UP THE NEUKIN!

It used to be necessary to tell people where the Community Office for our area is. Now, after ground-breaking work, (it was, remember, one of the first such ventures) many people are to be seen using the wide range of services provided there; we have come to rely on it and it seems to me (and I've absolutely no vested interest or connection with it!!) that it is now a vital service to the area.

So what am I getting at? Well, the future of it depends on **grants**. Isn't it terrible how much time has to be taken these days applying, form-filling and struggling for the much talked-about "matched-funding".

That is what is going on now so that the Community work from the Office will be able to continue.

It will help enormously if **we**, the public, will say that we want it to carry on. Will you do that? There is a board (in the Community Office!) for you to write to say so. Please do. **A.S.W.**

INFORMATION LEAFLET

ASKRIGG Parish Council earlier this year produced an information leaflet for all households and particularly newcomers. The purpose of the leaflet is to support all parish businesses, and people who may live outside the parish, but whose businesses serve the parish. This leaflet is to be occasionally updated as the need arises.

This may happen later this year. Anyone who considers their business fits the criteria should contact the clerk, **Caroline Rose** and leave a **message on 650575**.



FOLLOW THAT MINIBUS!

Is he mad? Imagine, driving overland through France and Spain, then to Africa and across the western edge of the Sahara desert, ending up in Dakar, capital of Senegal, the most westerly point of West Africa. In all, a journey of 3,700 miles, in a four-wheel-drive Mitsubishi diesel minibus which, it must be said, has seen better days.

For **David Pointon of Thornton Rust** there is method in this madness. His concern is for a separate country entirely enclosed within Senegal, a ribbon of land called The Gambia, one of the poorest countries on earth. As a special needs teacher in this country, he helped found the **Friends of the Gambian Organisation for the Visually Impaired (FROGOVI)**. He visited Gambia to find out what was needed. FROGOVI built a school for the blind in Banjul, capital of The Gambia, but how can you help blind children unable to get to the school?

This is where the Plymouth-Dakar Challenge comes in. The challenge is intended for drivers whose budgets would not enable them to tackle the Paris-Dakar rally. The idea is to travel in a vehicle

which cost no more than £100 (David's cost a bit more, he says!), to help charitable causes in The Gambia. On December 19th David and his co-driver leave Plymouth in a group of 45 cars. They will cross the Channel by ferry, drive to Gibraltar, take a ship to North Africa, then drive round the coast to Dakar and on to Banjul. They will camp to save expenses.

When they arrive in Gambia the minibus will be left there. It will form the basis of a teaching service for blind children who cannot themselves travel in. They hope also to leave funds for maintaining the vehicle and for buying fuel.

And that is where you come in. David is looking for sponsors. He is hoping to raise about £4000 to be handed over to the registered charity in Banjul, besides his own needs for the journey. If you would like to sponsor him by the mile (up to 4,000) or by the day (about 22) or simply give a money gift, please contact him at **Studio Cottage, Thornton Rust, Leyburn, DL8 3AW, telephone 663 830**. Cheques should be made payable to **Friends of GOVI**.

Colin Day

Hawes Primary School's New Early Years Playground

Hawes Primary School was directed by OFSTED to create a new and separate playground for the very young pupils. This was not an easy task and we were left with the problem of where best to site this. Our only realistic option was to create a flat area around the side and back of the school which was formally the Headteacher's garden. This was not an undertaking for the faint hearted, as a significant part of this area turned out to be a solid rock bed.

A platoon of soldiers from Catterick Garrison first came to our aid and began to physically dig out this area. Governors of the school, Ian Mellish and Griff Thomas volunteered to continue the work and were strongly supported by a number of volunteers. We have also had **overwhelming generosity and support of local people** who amongst other ways of helping have loaned tools and machinery so that the work can be completed. We have had superb financial support from the Market Toll Trustees, people Sponsoring a Brick and the Dales Community Church.

Four hundred tonnes of soil and rock were removed to create an area for the children to play; retaining walls have been built and the original entrance to the school facing the road has been blocked off. A ramp has been created at the Nursery entrance for disabled access and we are almost ready to tarmac the area. Once safety fencing has been installed and the area meets Health and Safety regulations, the first phase of the development will have been completed.

The second phase of the project involves creating a doorway directly on to the new playground so that the children can use the area as an outdoor classroom. We will also need to raise further funds to purchase an embankment slide and to install steps to a grassed terraced area.

If anyone would like to sponsor a brick (£5 each) or help in any way, please contact the school Tel **667308**. The names of all contributors will be displayed in a presentation frame. Some have sponsored a brick in memory of a loved one. We would like to **thank everyone who has helped us so far**, without your support this could not

have been achieved.

Julie Woodyer



BAINBRIDGE SCHOOL EXTENSION OPENING

The extension to the school nursery is being officially opened on **Saturday October 4th at 2.00 pm**. A number of retired ex-members of staff, both teaching and ancillary, have been invited as special guests to help with the opening ceremony. It is also hoped to display not only photos of the extension work in progress but also old school photos from the 60s and earlier on which local residents may be able to spot themselves.

All ex-parents and -pupils are most welcome to attend along with those already formally invited. It would however be helpful to ring the school ASAP (**650336**) if you are coming so we can judge the numbers for refreshments.

David Jackson

WHAT'S ON LISTING

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| <p>October</p> <p>5 Pet service; see box</p> <p>7 Impressions Child Photography
Gayle Institute; see box</p> <p>7 R.D.C. Planning and
Environment Committee</p> <p>9 NSPCC event, Carperby see box</p> <p>11 Bainside Arts see box</p> <p>11 West Burton Harvest Supper see
box</p> <p>11 Muker Band Concert; Askrigg
7.30 pm see box</p> <p>11,12 Askrigg Arts and Crafts see box</p> <p>11 Falls Country Club Live band and
disco; see box</p> <p>14 YDNPA Planning Committee
Ingleborough Community Centre
10.30 am</p> <p>15 Hawes & District Operatic AGM
see article</p> <p>16 Hawes W.I. Open meeting:
Yorkshire Red Kites Project 7 pm</p> <p>17 Museum Friends see article</p> <p>18 Gayle Fellowship Rally with
"Simple Harmony" 7.30 pm</p> <p>18 West Witton "Proms night" with
Reeth Band and Swaledale Choir;
St. Bartholomew's 7.30 pm</p> <p>18 Falls Country Club Disco; see box</p> <p>18 onwards: Painting for pleasure see box</p> <p>23 Bainbridge W.I. Soup and Sweet
Lunch see box</p> <p>25 Book Day, Bainbridge Meeting
House, see box</p> <p>25 Falls Country Club Disco; see box</p> <p>28 Coffee and Stalls Hawes Methodist
Rooms 10.00 am to noon</p> <p>30 Gayle Ladies Fund raising evening</p> <p>31 Falls Country Club Halloween
party and disco; see box</p> <p>November</p> <p>1 Sounds Familiar; Hardraw see
box</p> | <p>1 Falls Country Club disco; see box</p> <p>1 Wensleydale Methodist Circuit
Concert Gunnerside Choir, Leyburn
7.30 pm</p> <p>1,2 Bainside Arts see box</p> <p>4 M & S Sale; Thoraby see box</p> |
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