

**Upper Wensleydale Newsletter
Issue 155—February 2010**

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PLUS ALL THE REGULAR FEATURES

Published by

The Upper Wensleydale Newsletter
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**Wensleydale Decorative and Fine
Arts Society**

**Elaine Wood,
Wensleydale Writers' Group**

Masters of the Japanese Landscape

A fascinating insight into Japanese art is the subject of the Society's lecture on **Tuesday February 9th**.

Katsushika Hokusai was the leading Japanese printmaker of his time in 1833, and the success his young rival, Ando Hiroshige, launched his *Fifty-three Stages of the Tokaido Highway*, a lyrical and atmospheric vision of Japanese scenery. Both artists were revolutionary landscapists who influenced European and American artists including Monet, Manet, Van Gogh, Lautrec and Bonnard.

Marie-Therese Barrett discusses their work in *Hokusai and Hiroshige: Masters of the Japanese Landscape*. Marie-Therese is a guest lecturer for the College Women's Association of Japan, Sotheby's, Christie's, V&A, Asia House and the Japan Society and is course tutor at the School of Oriental and African Studies.

The lecture is at Middleham Key Centre at **2.00pm**. Non-members are welcome at £5 per lecture and membership and further information is available from the Membership Secretary, tel. **624203**.

Dear Valentine

Please fit me like a winter vest
Close and personal is best,
Tighter than a shadow please,
And drawers, long down to my knees,
Snugger than a second skin
I'll slip you on and we'll begin.

Please get inside my awkward heart
Like lumpy blood, then we can start.
Please look through my sorry eyes
See my secrets, hear my sighs,
Then we are one and can go on
Dear Valentine, forever.

**Ponder on these
imponderables for a minute:-**

A little light relief from a reader

If If lawyers are disbarred and clergymen defrocked, doesn't it follow that electricians can be delighted, musicians denoted, cowboys deranged, models deposed, tree surgeons debarked, and dry cleaners depressed?

You never really learn to swear until you learn to drive.

No one ever says, 'It's only a game' when their team is winning.

Ever wonder about those people who spend money on those little bottles of Evian water? Try spelling Evian backwards: NAIVE

Isn't making a smoking section in a restaurant like making a peeing section in a swimming pool?

Why if you send something by road it is called a shipment, but when you send it by sea it is called cargo?

If a convenience store is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, why are there locks on the door?



Editorial

It might be sunny and mild by the time you read this, weather being the highly unpredictable stuff that it is! Nevertheless, a word about grit seems appropriate.

There's not enough of it about, they tell us. Some councils have been running short.

Sadder to report is that the 'grit' that goes with 'determination' seems to have been in short supply from some of us. Oh yes; there have been wonderful examples of many locals furiously shovelling off the deep snow in front of their shops and houses (and those of next door too), and, it seems, enjoying the camaraderie, while others (individuals and groups) have weakly moaned about it, expecting "the authority" to do it. As the snow fell heavily and fast, there were some initial problems but councils can only do so much; and before there's any more moaning, we've been asked by several readers to point out what a better job is done round here. You only need to go as far as Newby Head or the Moorcock and look over to 'the other side' to see the contrast.

But is it only 'grit' that's missing? Think about energy for a moment! We've no doubt used up a good deal keeping our homes warm in the cold weather, but what about that wonderful untapped energy-source... our young people! Were as many as we might have expected out sledging, snowballing and building huge snow structure? Huddled in front of computer screens? Maybe! (And not just the youngsters?) More could have been out clearing the ice and snow, pushing stranded cars, fetching and carrying as needed.

Yes, snow brings out the best and the worst in us. It was great to see parents and kids on the TV clearing the school drives so that students could get to school and to exams. And they would enjoy it... and get

warm! We've seen more than one wheelchair-bound person doing some shovelling.

Don't you think we've gone a bit soft? Some people of all ages seem to have the time and energy for sport, for the gym, for adventure, but maybe not to face up to the challenges that severe weather presents, to prove themselves in 'carrying on', 'getting to work', 'keeping going' and generally 'making the best of a bad job'. We have heard tales of the lengths some local people have gone to, to maintain local services, and we want to thank our gritter-teams for their day and night efforts.

Cheer up, and get stuck in! Dalesfolk don't give up as soon the weather turns bad!

Readers might like to know that the Richmondshire District Council website has daily up-dated press releases with information about local services, for example, area by area details of refuse collection with any changes being made because of weather etc.

Look in the purple box at the right hand side; 'Latest news'

Eunice



Do You Live in Upper Dentdale?

Since Mr Bannister, the Stickman at Hawes Market, moved away from Cowgill we have had no-one to take the Newsletters to the Sportsman's Inn (as part of our sophisticated distribution system!). Is there anyone who comes over to Hawes who could take on this small role?

This Year's Christian Aid Lent Lunches

The first three:

Friday February 19th:

Redmire Village Hall

Friday February 26th:

West Burton Village Hall

Friday March 5th: Aysgarth Institute.

Each one from **12.00noon to 1.30pm**

For further details please contact:

Evelyn Abraham 663243

An International Thriller set in Wensleydale.

Local author Jack Stirling has put his book "Blindfold" up for review on the website "Authonomy", provided by Harper-Collins. As Hawes gets a mention in Chapter 1 residents might like to review it. Reviewers can leave a comment using a screen name, and anyone choosing to back it will help it get a little closer to publication.

Successful Lunch

£1600 was raised for Leukaemia Research at a Sunday Lunch and Raffle held at Stone House Hotel on Sunday December 6th 2009. The organiser, Doreen Whitehead, wishes to thank everyone for making the day such a success.

Drop-off points and contacts

for news, articles, reports, letters, what's on dates, competition entries, suggestions and comments:

Hawes:	Alan S. Watkinson, Burnside Coach House. 667785
Gayle:	Lorna Ward, East House 667405
Bainbridge:	Hammond's Butchers 650631
Askrigg:	Rima Berry, 8 Mill Lane. 650980
Carperby:	Margaret Woodcock, Bella Cottage 663488
West Burton:	Nadine Bell, Margaret's Cottage 663559
Newbiggin:	Lynda Bayne, Meadow Barn 663324
Aysgarth:	Kitty's Tearoom 663423
Redmire:	Ann Holubecki 622967
Thoralby:	Sandra Foley, Shop 663205

Crossword Answers

Across

1. Abrupt
4. Angel
7. Studio
8. Minnow
9. Iran
10. Robotics
12. Assumptions
17. Ethereal
19. Each
20. Splits
21. Hidden
22. Stray
23. Ampere

Down

1. Astoria
2. Ridings
3. Programme
4. Amino
5. Gentian
6. Lowest
11. Bethlehem
13. Scholar
14. Overdue
15. Secrete
16. Census
18. Ratty

Competition

Missing links.

Example: POD — AWAY. Answer: cast

- 1 PLAY— ANNOUNCER
- 2 INTER— BALL
- 3 YORKSHIRE— BASIN
- 4 HOT— ASH
- 5 TOMATO— KITCHEN
- 6 CHURCH— HOLE
- 7 TABLE— STATION
- 8 HAY—LORD
- 9 JACK— BITE
- 10 UPPER— CHEESE
- 11 WEST— AGNES
- 12 KIRKBY— COVE
- 13 SKI— LAW
- 14 DENT— STONE
- 15 SNOW— ROOM

News From the Wensleydale Society

Let's hope that the weather is kinder to us as we continue with our winter programme of talks.

On **Friday February 5th**, at West Burton Village Hall, Ian Hankin, Community Safety Manager will talk about the **North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service – Richmondshire**

You are very welcome to come and sample any of our monthly talks which all start at **7.30 pm**, Entry fee is £1 and annual membership of the Society is only £5. We also make it easier to get to the talks with our return coach between Middleham and West Burton, picking up at Harmby, Leyburn and West Witton.

For the energetic our monthly walks programme for members adds to the enjoyment of Wensleydale and its wider environs, and is a wonderful way to get to know the area.

For more information please contact:

Prof D Milner (Secretary) 624361 or Jane Bastow, (Chairman) 01765 640365

Gayle Mill

7th February: Tours at 11.00am and 2.30pm (last approx. 2 hrs)

DEMONSTRATION DAY: Adm. £10 adult, £5 child (including refreshments)
Booking advised: phone **667320**. Special Guided Tours + demonstrations of water powered Victorian woodworking machinery.

20th February: 9.00am to 5.00pm

HANDS ON EXPERIENCE: DIY Victorian woodworking machinery day. Fee: £150 per person (includes tuition, light lunch, refreshments and all materials)
Booking essential: **667320** Use Gayle Mill's historic water powered woodworking machinery to create your own unique wood products. Expert tuition from Directors of Gayle Mill Trust.:
www.gavlemill.org.uk
www.gavlemill.org.uk

27th February 2.00pm (Refreshments from 1.30pm)

GAYLE MILL AND THE EARLY DAYS OF THE COTTON INDUSTRY

Lecture by John McCallum who is an expert on the working of Arkwright mills and an experienced lecturer and tour guide at Cromford Mill in the Peak District.

1st Hawes Brownies

Brownies helped at the Toy Service at St. Margaret's Church before Christmas and enjoyed a Christmas Party when each Brownie was given a Centenary teddy bear. We all thoroughly enjoyed our trip to the Panto in York, and have three new Brownies starting this term.

Linda Reynolds

Come along for a

A Great Night Of Music

With

'Middi'
toe-tapping, hand-clapping classic and contemporary Irish songs

Saturday 27th February

8:00pm (Doors open 7:30pm)

Askrigg Village Hall

Tickets
£8 in advance or £10 on door
Available from
Eleanor Scarr 650216
Kath Alderson 650599
Suzanne Bell 650262

All proceeds to Askrigg Village Hall Funds. Match funding kindly offered by Barclays Bank.

Importance of Walking

An antidote to 'Best foot forward'

Walking can add minutes to your life. This enables you at 85 to spend an additional five months in a nursing home at £700 per month.

Grandpa started walking five miles a day when he was 60. Now he's 97 and we don't know where he is.

I like long walks, especially when taken by people who annoy me.

I have to walk early in the morning before my brain works out what I'm doing

I joined a health club last year, spent about 200 quid. Haven't lost a pound. Apparently you have to go there.

I do have flabby thighs but fortunately my stomach covers them

I know a got a lot of exercise the last few years... just getting over the hill.

We all get heavier as we get older because there's a lot more information in our heads. That's my story and I'm sticking to it.

Every time I start thinking about how I look, I just find a Happy Hour and by the time I leave I look just fine.

Upper Dales Mobile Skip Service

Saturday February 20th

Gayle Green

9.00am - 1.00pm

Refuse including large bulky items and recycling materials including plastic and cardboard— all welcome.

Enquiries :

County Councillor John Blackie

0796 758 9096

Exhibition

Herriot Gallery, Hawes

Andrea Hunter

"Heart-felt landscape"

Celebrating ten years of felt picture-making and a life-time of inspiration

February 21st to March 8th

Exhibition

at the National offices, Yoredale

Gary Keat

January and February 2010

open 8.30am to 5 pm Monday to Friday

(not bank holidays)

Gary Keat is a fine art and social documentary photographer based just outside Masham. The landscape and the people in the local area, including the Yorkshire Dales, have a great influence on his work, and he rarely feels the need to travel further afield to be inspired.

Gary uses film cameras for all his work - including toy plastic cameras and old cameras that he has acquired over the years - as each gives a different feel to the final print. He carries out the film processing and printing himself as he particularly enjoys the organic nature of pure photography.

For more information about the exhibition please telephone **Lesley Knevitt 652326**

Lunch and Meditation

Churches Together in the Hawes Area

As in previous years, there will be a series of light lunches (soup and cheese etc.) followed by a time of meditation, on five Wednesdays in Lent beginning on **Wednesday February 24th from noon.**

They will be held in the Hawes Methodist rooms and there is open invitation to all

The Raydale Project

The **River Bain Hydro** has now been formed as an Industrial Providential Society and is now a legal entity, independent of the Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust, who first initiated the Raydale Project. The aim of the Society is to manage the community hydro plant and it is working in partnership with Water Power Enterprises, itself an Industrial Providential Society, which promotes the setting up of community hydroelectric schemes.

With its new legal status **River Bain Hydro** can now apply for grants and loans and issue share options. This is the role of Water Power Enterprises and they have successfully set up community plants in New Mills, in the Peak District, and locally at Settle.

Bainbridge last had an independent electricity company in 1947 when the old Bainbridge Electric Light company was nationalised. It had been founded in 1912 by two local people and it is local people who are again the driving force behind this enterprise.

The next stage is to apply for planning permission and last month the drawings of the plant were displayed at Sycamore Hall for local people to see what the development will look like. In spite of appalling weather conditions about 30 people visited, all were supportive and useful comments were received.

An Abstraction Licence will be needed from the Environment Agency and regular readers of these Raydale articles will not be surprised that a little matter of native crayfish will inevitably feature in our dealings with the Agency. The hydro group have been in informal consultation with both the Agency and the Planning Authority so are hoping these next two hurdles will be easily managed, keeping the project on course.

Deborah Millward

Lakes to Dales Landscape Designation Project

A proposal to extend the Lake District and Yorkshire Dales National Parks

Natural England
would like to hear your views

Natural England has now produced proposals for extending the two National Parks. Full information is available on their website which seeks your views about these proposals:

www.lakestodaleslandscapes.org.uk

*The consultation ends on
17th March 2010.*

Wednesday 3rd February
10:00am to 12noon
Fund Raising Coffee Morning
Overdale, Redmire, (Margaret Moore)
In aid of
Bolton-cum-Redmire Church
and The Children's Society'
including..
Raffle, 'Guess the weight of a cake',
Cake stall

Upper Dales Family History Group

Meetings of the Group recommence this month. The next meeting is at **2.00pm on Wednesday, February 24th**, in Middleham Key Centre, when the speaker is Katherine Carr on "Lieutenant Randall Croft - letters from the trenches". The UDFHG is a branch of the Cleveland Family History Society. Admission is free to members of Cleveland FHS; non-members £2.

A drop-in computer club for anyone interested in researching their family history using the internet takes place at Hudson House, Reeth, from 1.00-5.00pm on Saturday, February 6th. This is suitable for anyone from complete beginners onwards. No need to book - stay as long as you like; £1 per hour.

For details contact:

Glenys Marriott 663738, e-mail glenys@bishopdale.demon.co.uk
or see the website at www.upperdalesfhg.org.uk for details of all events and the worldwide email discussion group.

Hawes United Football Club

There was a very good turn out for the Club's Tenth Sponsored Walk, which took place last September with 43 competitors starting the walk. Again the walk was a local circular route starting in Hawes; Gayle; Burtersett; Bainbridge onto Mill Gill Askrigg; Skelgill; Sedbusk and returning to Hawes.

£1,455.36 was raised for the Club by the event and all sponsors and those who made donations are to be thanked and congratulated for their generosity. Thank you also to all who helped on the day. A special mention for James Chapman, Toni McIntyre, Megan Hugill and Tommy Calvert the youngest walkers on the day.

For those Footballers who took part in the walk it is not too late to hand in your Sponsor Money!
Sheila Alderson

Settle to Carlisle News

The railway had a wonderful 'plug' on BBC 2 a couple of weeks ago as part of Michael Portillo's Railway Journeys series.

You might have heard him claim that his persuading the then Prime Minister (Mrs Thatcher) to agree to not close the line 20 years ago was his greatest political achievement. I remember having to represent Hawes B and B businesses in a meeting with Portillo on a grim drizzly day at Ribbleshead Station. I came away feeling he hadn't been too impressed!

The latest news from the line: services have continued very well during the snow with only one really bad day, but icicles in the tunnels are causing a few problems! AND did you know there is now a small shop and light refreshments at Kirkby Stephen Station?
A.S.W

Thoralby Village hall

The village hall at Thoralby is well equipped and well used with many events taking place there. However, there are opportunities for anyone interested to make use of the hall, either on a one-off or a regular basis. In particular, Wednesday nights are free and there are many weekends and daytime weekdays when the hall is available.

The hall has full catering facilities and terms of hire are reasonably priced. To discuss booking arrangements ring:

Neil Piper on 663747:

Letter

To the Editor,

I would like to give my whole hearted thanks to everyone who offered their support to our staff throughout the recent snowy and incredibly difficult weather conditions. The kind offers of assistance from all parts of the community really did make all the difference and enabled North Yorkshire and York Community and Mental Health Services to maintain our service provision for patients and their families. Disruption was kept to a minimum and no services had to be stopped.

We received many generous offers for the use of 4X4 vehicles and one of our district nurses even got a lift to a patient on the back of a local farmer's tractor.

My thanks also go to all our community and mental health staff who worked tirelessly to enable us to carry on providing our patients with the care and support they need.

Yours sincerely,

Janet Probert
Managing Director, North Yorkshire
and York Community and Mental
Health Services

Help for Heroes™: Special Train Services

These will run on the Wensleydale Railway on **Sunday February 21st**, with all profits from ticket sales divided between *Help for Heroes* and *The Royal British Legion*. Full details are on the website www.wensleydalerailway.com or phone the railway office on **08454 50 54 74**. There will be discounted prices for service personnel and their spouses.

Wensleydale Railway looks ahead

Three important reports have been posted on the website for everyone to read. The reports are:

- *Wensleydale Railway's draft strategic plan 2010-2014.
- *Report of Wensleydale Railway's socio-economic study (Northallerton to Aysgarth).
- * Northallerton Link options assessment (summary).

The third of these reports describes the various routes by which the railway might be brought back into Northallerton station; the feasibility and cost of each option; and what is being done now to progress this very important long-term development.

Pre-booked driver Experience Days are on offer throughout the winter, with regular train services starting again at Easter

Day excursion to London from Hawes! If you would be interested in this event, travelling by coach to Northallerton and then on a Grand Central train to London King's Cross, please let me know (650349). It would be a very long day but allow six hours in London (if a weekday,) six or eight hours on a Saturday and has been suggested for either June or October.

Ruth Annison

The Motorcycle Diaries...

It was to be the answer to all my problems, and despite my reputation as being the most accident-prone person in the world, I decided to buy a motorcycle. A big, meaty, fun machine, it was the perfect solution. Inexpensive to run, cheap to insure, giving me mobility and the ability to travel to and from wherever I may need – just so long as it wasn't along anything larger than a dual carriageway.

So, once I had decided this was the way forward, we spent hour after hour researching the correct bike, totting up my budget, and finally choosing the bike just for me: a silver and orange Derbi Senda 125 R. But there was a 200 mile round trip between me and my dream bike. So, the day of purchase came around, and following half an hour of negotiating, gaining directions, and the usual pleasantries, we embarked on our journey to retrieve my solution. We arrived in Warrington to find a well-used, yet still appealing bike, screaming at me to buy her.

So after a brief test drive, the previous owner and his father, teamed with me and my girlfriend's father wrestled my bike into our trailer, something I now know to have been a mistake. We broke it. Three of the cosmetic plastic fairings, including a tank cover and the front mudguard were snapped. We should have eased it in. I've never loved an inanimate object so. But nothing is perfect, not even *my* bike.

So, I asked Simon Taylor of Automoto, Bellerby to look over my darling motor, not knowing that Derbi market their parts at eye-wateringly high prices, resulting in my affordable solution to a lack of transport being not quite so affordable after the necessary repairs to a few minor parts: tyres, brakes, chain...that kind of thing. Along came the 23rd of December and it was time for me to collect my Christmas present to myself. So, wearing a borrowed helmet,

thin leather casual gloves, coat and jeans, I braved the pre-Christmas cold to get the bike home. This effort resulted in my thawing out in a hot bath after fearing the loss of all eight fingers and both thumbs courtesy of frostbite.

So, I had my bike. All fettled and ready to roll. I hadn't bargained at all for the snowiest January since 1947. Even through my youthful enthusiasm I could see that the conditions were too dangerous to embark upon any journey in anything other than a snowplough, never mind a motorbike. So not until last Sunday did I dare to brave the wilderness after the arctic snap we were engulfed by.

My first real ride. Oh how good it felt to race along the tarmac, lean into the corners, feel the pull with every tweak of the throttle – all of this, well within the speed limit I might add... But it is undeniable that there is something that riding a bike gives that driving a car, a person can never experience. Some people call it adrenaline, most people call it danger. But my God it's fun. I had more excitement on that one ride than I have in years.

On the Middleham to Coverdale road there is a bend near Pinker's Pond which I will never forget. It's not very wide, and the red 4x4 filled most of it. There was nowhere for me and my Senda to go except to earth and we did so in spectacular fashion, tearing out a six foot bush, my knee cap and cruciate ligament in the process.

The air ambulance and a television crew, two road ambulances, two police cars and a responder vehicle succeeded in temporarily putting Humpty the Numpty together again, and here I am now writing this, out of action for the foreseeable future.

Anyone want to buy a motorbike?

Tom Stephenson, Bursary Student

New Year Resolution – Computer Cleanup!

If you are anything like me you will have already failed on your New Year resolutions but here is a task that will make life easier for you and hopefully make your computer run a bit faster – TIDY UP YOUR COMPUTER!

A few ideas to get you started:

1) File all those muddled documents into properly named folders (this applies to any computer – Windows, Mac or Linux). Create new folders with clear names and move all your documents into the appropriate places. You could even rename some of your documents so that they are more easily identifiable. These could be word processing documents, spreadsheets or even photos, music and videos.

2) Delete rubbish! I seem to accumulate documents such as letters (and especially useless blurred photos) and never get around to pruning the rubbish. While you are filing why not delete some of the old stuff you no longer need. It will make it easier to find the useful stuff in future. If you can't bear to part with the rubbish, stick it on a labelled CD or DVD and file it away – you will probably never use it but at least you know it is there and it no longer clutters up your computer.

The rest is for Windows users only:

3) Remove accumulated rubbish. Download and install the fantastic free tool CCleaner from www.ccleaner.com. When you start up the program you can click on RUN at the bottom and it will clear away all the useless rubbish that accumulates over time. One warning though; after cleaning you will need to log back into websites that you regularly visit – if you want to avoid that untick “cookies” on the left (it is listed for each browser you may use, Internet Explorer, Firefox, Opera or Google

Chrome). Alternatively, and better, use the options to set the cookies you don't want to delete automatically. (Another warning – unless you know what you are doing avoid using the Registry Cleaner on the left). Tools on the left gives quick access if you want to uninstall any programs you don't use.

4) Defragment your hard disk. File gradually get splattered all over your hard disk and get disorganised. Defragmenting your hard disk can help make the disk more efficient and speed up your computer.

A basic tool is included with Windows (go to start, click on Computer and then right click on your hard disk and select properties – the defrag tool is hidden in the Tools tab). It isn't the best tool but it has the merit of being there and free. If you want to do the best job I thoroughly recommend Perfect Disk (www.perfectdisk.com) either the Home or Professional version which not only defrags your hard disk but also reorganises the contents to make it more efficient and less prone to become fragmented again.

That's it for this month. My new website, www.dalescomputerservices.com, is now up and running – pop along and sign up to receive regular newsletters and chat in the forum. You can tell me how you got on with your cleanup or ask questions. If you have any ideas for future subjects to cover in these articles why not drop me a line.

Carol Haynes

es children went sledging, made snowmen and had snow ball fights. My friends and I went sledging and had a great time!

Sophie Y5 and Sophie Y4

Cold School disrupts children's classes

Askrigg primary school had a visit from Jack Frost!

First the children arrived at 8:30 not knowing that an unexpected holiday was coming shortly... The boiler breathed its last breath. The teachers phoned the children's parents and the bus so all the children could get back safely. All the children were out of school by 10:00. Two hours later the temperature had dropped to 3 degrees!

We interviewed a pupil from Askrigg: "How dare they close the school we need to learn, not play on the computer!"

Ethan and George Y6

A Ch...Ch...Chilly Day at School

Temperatures were low for Askrigg School and the snow was falling and the school was closed. The children were very happy because they could play in the snow!

One of the teachers Mrs. Woods said she couldn't tell which was field and which was road on top of the moors. On the following Wednesday we had snow, ice and a blizzard! In the morning the parents had a call to say the school was closed. All the children were at home playing in the snow! Two days later on the Friday morning everyone got to school as usual. They all went to their classrooms. Then Mrs. Woods said something that got everyone EXCITED.... "It is too cold to stay at school so

Askrigg School News

you are all going home."

On the following Monday the oil came and Dave the care-taker had to bleed the system. The next day the children came back with loads of stories to tell. Lots of

Police Report

Back now in the distant past – or at least that is what it seems now the festivities are well and truly behind us, in mid December 2009 I received a call to go to Marsett. Apparently they have been getting regular interruptions to their telephone service- and no it's not the fault of BT. Engineers have been out and speedily reconnected what can be a lifeline and an essential service to the residents of this remote community. They have spoken to a resident and informed that person that this is the second time they have found that the lines in the area had been shot out.

Whilst I am aware that organised shoots take place on Raydale estate it is not here where the lines are getting damaged. What concerns me is that the locations where the damage has occurred are adjacent to the public road. Shooting should **NOT** be taking place here as it is illegal being within 50 feet of the centre of the highway. Also another offence is being committed in that whoever is shooting near the lines is either being reckless as to damage being caused or more seriously deliberately targeting the line. In either case if I find out who is causing this damage then they will be arrested and put before a court – their firearms/shotguns will be seized and applications will be made to have their licences revoked – as they are clearly using the weapons in an irresponsible and unsafe manner.

ROAD SAFETY. A fact that cannot have escaped attention is that winter has returned with a vengeance this year. Whilst out on my travels I have been to many minor road traffic collisions. Luckily in our area there have been few injuries. One common factor in most of the collisions is people have not been able to stop in time. In simple terms this means they are going **TOO FAST** for the conditions and/or travelling **TOO**

CLOSE. The Highway Code recommends that in snow and ice you should leave at least double the normal stopping distance - however the online driving test recommends 10 (TEN) times the stopping distance. So if you apply the ditty “only a fool breaks the two second rule” for the safe two second gap between vehicles on dry roads then that gap should be **20 Seconds** on icy or snow covered roads.

I have also noted many 4x4 vehicles travelling too fast also. Yes these cars tend to have more traction than two wheel drive vehicles so the wheels do not spin as often from losing grip, but they tend to be much heavier and carry more momentum, and when brakes are applied there is no traction to the wheels- the wheels lock up just the same and due to their increased momentum they travel further in a skid.

Clear your car of snow before setting off on your journey. If you have a foot of snow on our car roof it will inevitably slide down your windscreen when you brake and block your view and probably break your windscreen wipers.

PLEASE ALLOW MORE TIME FOR YOUR JOURNEY in these conditions This way you and everyone else gets to their intended destination in one piece.

On a positive note "PC SNOW" has been performing his duties very well and crime in the area has been almost non-existent. There has in the last couple of days (15-19th JAN) been a livestock theft (sheep) from Dodd Fell above Hawes. If you have any information that may help us track down the culprits please contact me or PC Darren AYRES via the usual channels as below.

Obviously due to recent weather conditions the travelling criminals have been hampered and must have been having a enforced "lean" time. It stands to reason that when the snow goes and travel becomes more easy then the likelihood is the criminals will be back looking to see what they can take. Please report all suspicious activity to us on 0845 60 60 247. Remember if activity does not look right to you then is most likely is not right.

**Andy Foster PC826
Leyburn Safer Neighbourhood Team
Wards of Addlebrough and Hawes &
High Abbotside
0845 60 60 247**

SNTLeyburn@northyorkshire.pnn.police.uk

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS 2009

A big thank you to the Friends of Hawes Christmas Lights and the Businesses Friends who not only support us financially but also allow us to erect lights on their buildings.

This year was again a challenge to erect the lights. We had a long run of bad weather which the lights seem to attract, but thanks to the committee and all those who helped put them up in time (just). I hope you all enjoyed the illuminations over Christmas and the New Year and the Switch-on Day with Father Christmas on his Sleigh and the children's entertainment.

Thanks to all who helped with the dismantling of the Christmas Lights and the Crib on Thursday 14th January, including the committee and Harry Balderson, John

Hestletine, John Nugent, Alec "Crown", Jim Sleightholm, Peter Wood and Stuart Armstrong. It was a true case of many hands make light work.

We have some ongoing work for next year which we will try to complete during the warmer weather, so you might see us without waterproofs and warm clothing working during the "summer" (barbeque or otherwise). We will be erecting the Lights in mid November 2010 and would appreciate help, so if you are available please contact Kevin White 667236 or Steve on 667201 for details.

Steve Reynolds

Looking Back, Looking Forward: Where Now for Upper Wensleydale?

*This is an attempt to present a balanced
and factual statement which might help in
debate and discussion as the year
proceeds*

This Newsletter was set up in 1995 to accompany research being done by the Upper Wensleydale Community Partnership concerning the social and economic well-being of the area. In the following years the 'Community Investment Prospectus' also came into being and much brain-storming followed from these initiatives.

Either directly, or indirectly from these things, have come the Community Office in Hawes, Dalesplay and the Yorebridge Sports and Fitness Centre.

Over these years there have been plenty of other developments: village hall up-grades, the new Bainbridge Ambulance Station, the very highly-regarded Sycamore Hall, the purchase of the Community Field in Hawes, Gayle Mill development, and the railway to Redmire.

Some of these have their 'ups and downs' and others, like Bainside Arts, didn't succeed; and to the great disappointment of many, a swimming pool for Upper Wensleydale is still only a dream. Although our villages compare well with other rural areas, we too are seeing a decline in shops/post offices.

Our area has never been short on ideas but the fact is that our resident population is extremely small. (In national thinking and terminology *small* schools, churches or villages equate our quite large ones!) It is therefore always going to be problem as to how much separate development can be viable in each village and should even be contemplated. We have a large number of meeting rooms and spaces; how many

are economic? As an example a suggestion of a gym/exercise facility in Hawes clearly had to be seen in the wider context of the provision in Askrigg.

As farming continues to employ fewer and fewer people (but is also crucial for the environment),

we therefore depend, and increasingly so, on visitors to support our economy—and our social provision. Some people say "We have enough visitors". You should visit the Peak— or Lake District!

People lower down the dale look in envy at what we have to offer; auction mart, creamery, museum, ropemakers, mill, galleries and studios, (and of course waterfalls—not that we've provided these!). Some smaller businesses are wary of these and worry about undue competition; others point out that the advertising and national profile of them is what draws people here, so all benefit.

It is clear that increasingly local people are using internet and supermarket shopping which again makes a case for attracting more visitors to use local facilities. They do bring more traffic which no-one wants but there are two major ways forward which we need to consider: 1. persuading more day visitors to leave their cars outside the dales and working for more imaginative and integrated public transport (there are some already, mainly at weekends) and 2. all-out publicity to get visitors staying for longer. "A great day out" is not an ideal marketing idea! Visitors staying longer have time to visit several attractions and support more local retailers. The area needs to make sure it caters for all tastes, remembering that, as with our own homes, we constantly update repair, renew and improve our image. ,

We also need to make sure that the much

talked about friendliness of Upper Wensleydale extends to all kinds of people as the 'Mosaic project' works to encourage more ethnic and inner-city groups to become familiar with our National Parks.

One person's, or group's, proposals for development can sometimes be perceived as a threat and the longer we live and work in a place the more we become resistant to change! Most of us, let's be honest, find it easier to attend meetings of objection and protest than support! In most cases after reasonable consideration and compromise, threats disappear and the whole area benefits.

But areas, like businesses, can't stand still. They either grow and up-grade, or decline. One sadness that is expressed fairly often is that while some businesses work together, there is no overall mechanism (but there is the will among some), for closer co-operation between the 'big' players of museum, railway, creamery, mill, ropeworks and mart, with the Upper Wensleydale Business Association, the other retailers, parish councils, voluntary organisations and then others with ideas and ability, so as go forward working in collaboration with, for example, the District Council (with its new idea of Area Partnerships and Forum meetings) and the National Park Authority.

Although we all like to 'plough our own furrow' we mustn't lose sight of our place in the whole scheme of things. There is huge potential in Upper Wensleydale. Some ideas keep floating to the surface:

The setting up of small 'all-in' facilities in some villages— post office/shop/information point/tea room cum village hall or chapel or pub.

Mini road-train link between the three 'nodes' in Hawes, (the Creamery/Mill, the town market place and the Museum/

Ropemakers) which cause anxiety for some, and about which there is a good deal of opinion rather than solid information.

The development of the Aysgarth Garage site...for a small garden centre/nursery?

And another, yes, another, last ditch attempt to provide a swimming pool.

You might have some great ideas. We shouldn't be kept in the dark! The 'pearl of great price' in all this is to keep the essential nature of the area intact, providing excellent facilities for the tourists on which we depend, without losing the fact that we are a living, working resident community. Maybe our area needs one unifying unique selling point and a champion. **A.S.W.**

To Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands

Hawes W.I. members and friends were treated to a first class presentation last Thursday of slides and videos together with an interesting commentary by Martin and Pauline Beckett of Carperby. We presume that Carperby W.I. the previous night were equally impressed! Many thanks. **A.S.W.**

Snaizeholme Snows

Between the small squirrel feeder and the mountain pine there is a path in the snow. It is about one and a half inches wide and three deep and the surface of the snow in it is patterned with tiny long-nailed footprints. It is only used by squirrels. They have been supplied with double their usual rations this winter. This is partly because, for the second year running, nearly all the conifers round us have failed to produce any cones. My theory about this is that at the time of the pollen (which is, I believe, wind-dispersed) there was a huge amount of rain and no wind. At any rate the squirrels are numerous and very hungry.

My bird feeders which in normal times last three or four days are now emptied in one and a half, and the mixed corn which I spread on the ground vanishes in no time. Robins, (and there at least six which come to be fed near the house, with their feathers puffed up so much that their wings instead of lying flat beside their bodies and set quite wide), come really close to my face and hop boldly into the porch. But the big influx is of blackbirds. Like the squirrels they appear desperately hungry and are around in far greater numbers than usual. Where do they all come from? Perhaps further north where the weather is even wilder than here.

Apart from the fact that the snow started well before Christmas, this winter reminds us of our early winters in Snaizeholme, except that in those days the wildlife in the valley was almost non-existent. Now, although the siskins and most of the goldfinches left after the nesting season, our three different resident tits are even now making a few attempts at singing (the weather has risen a few degrees above freezing over the last two or three days), and although it is scarcely noticeable yet the days are getting a little longer.

I find myself worrying about the roedeer, especially last season's fawns. The shrubs are being heavily pruned by them, and between them and the rabbits bark stripping of young delicate trees has been happening through the woods. Nevertheless I have seen small roes walking through the snow with what appeared to be very slow dragging steps. I think I long for a break in the weather for their sakes more than any other animals.

There is one strange and beautiful thing that has happened here over this whole month of deep snow. It's the icicles hanging from the roof, so long and regular that they look like exterior lace curtains. When the sun catches them they are unbelievably beautiful.

Since writing the above, the thaw has begun, and suddenly all the blackbirds have vanished. I think they must be finding worms and insects at ground level.

Jane Kemp

Dales Countryside Museum

Exhibition

February 27th – March 28th

Writer and photographer, David Morgan

Rees presents :

“A Village in View – Marske in Swaledale”

Drawings, watercolours and photographs of
a special Dales community

Events

February 16th

“Sheep to Scarf”

Demonstration in the museum foyer

between 2.00 – 5.00pm.

Fran Coates will explain all the processes

from the raw fleece, through dyeing,

carding, spinning, and knitting techniques

February 17th

“Discover and Do”

An afternoon of craft activities for children.

2.00 – 4.00pm.

£3 charge

Surgery News

Swine flu vaccination programme

Up to press the following groups have been invited for vaccination against the H1N1 swine flu virus

- Patients under 65 with an underlying medical condition
- Pregnant women
- Patients taking medicines that reduce their immunity, & those sharing their households
- Children aged 6months-5 years

From mid-late January we will invite those patients over 65 with an underlying medical condition that puts them at risk if they were to catch swine flu. This includes patients with chronic heart, liver or kidney disease, diabetics, asthmatics, and those taking medicines that suppress the immune system

If you fall into any of the above categories, & have not yet had your swine flu jab, please contact your surgery to make an appointment. Swine flu clinics will be held throughout February.

Baby weighing clinics

Following on from the suspension of baby weighing clinics at Aysgarth surgery late last year, I am informed that the service at Hawes surgery is to be stopped from the end of February. Instead, baby weighing by the health visitor is to be carried out at Wensleydale Children's Centre, Askrigg from the 4th of March, & then the first Thursday of every month. These changes are outside the control of your medical practice. If you require any further information about these changes, please contact the Children's Centre on **0845 034 9688**. The GP checks & baby vaccinations by practice nurses continue at both surgeries as before.

Clive West

Kirkby Stephen Grammar School

SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

**Wednesday 24th February 2010
from 7.00pm**

We have an open and inclusive sixth form.

All interested students and parents are invited to contact the school and have an informal viewing and discussion to help you make the right decision about post-16 education.

You will find out about what KSGS Sixth Form can offer in terms of:

- *A flexible admissions policy
- *Academic success and quality teaching
- *The options and decision-making process
- *Partnership arrangements with Appleby Heritage Centre, Appleby Grammar School and Newton Rigg
- *Guidance and advice on Higher Education and employment
- *A chance to discuss courses.

For further information or to request a prospectus, please contact the school:

017683 71693

or e- mail: admin@ksgs.cumbria.sch.uk

Hawes 16th Annual Charity Concert

Friday 18th December saw the 16th annual charity concert at the Market House in Hawes. The Hawes Silver Prize Band with the East Witton Male Voice Choir and The Young Voices played and sang to a packed house. People turned out on a cold snowy evening to enjoy another great evening's entertainment. The Hawes Silver Prize Band conducted by Stan Roocroft MBE performed a variety of seasonal music as well as a Symphonia of Sea Shanties so that the audience could take part in their very own "Last Night of the Proms" complete with Union Jacks.

"Janet's Gentlemen," The East Witton Male Voice Choir, was again in excellent voice and entertained with a good selection of songs including Christmas carols and a Perry Como medley, conducted by Janet Taylor.

The Young Voices under the direction of Barbara Roocroft were a delight to hear and gave a polished performance which showed the hard work they had put in during the year.

Barclays Bank very generously matched the donations pound for pound and a grand total of £1539.49 was raised for this year's chosen charity, The Hambledon and Richmond District Alzheimer's Society. Their representative Roger Le duc Barnett outlined the work of the Society in our area and thanked everyone for their support.

WHEN I SURVEY.... Christ's Cross and Ours

Once again, you are warmly invited to join us in sharing this year's York Course - a Lent Programme with refreshments open to everyone in the benefice from 7.30 pm to 9.00 pm in Wensley Village Hall.

Introductory speakers (via the CD!) include John Bell of the Iona Community, retired General Sir Richard Dannatt, Christina Baxter who is Lay Chair of the General Synnod and the broadcaster and Methodist minister Colin Morris.

23rd February Darkness at Noon

2nd March Into Great Silence

9th March The Child on the Cross

16th March Outside a City Wall

23rd March Touching the Rock

Further details and course booklets are available from Graham Dear (**623960**) and John Webster (**622491**) or as you attend. Please, come for as many of these Tuesday evenings as you are able.

**Christine Gard
Secretary to the Penhill Benefice
Steve Reynolds**

Help needed

Dales Festival of Food and Drink will take place this year on Harmby Road near Leyburn from Saturday May 1st to Monday May 3rd. Already the committee of volunteers are hard at work planning this year's event.

This year over 80 local food producers will be there, along with free cookery demonstrations, Farming for Food and the Real Ale Festival. Several Guest Speakers including Gervaise Finn will entertain. Local bands will perform live music and it is hoped there will be traditional dancing.

Many local community groups have recently benefited from awards made by the Festival Committee. Following this years show other local groups are expected to benefit.

In order that the show runs smoothly the festival does need volunteers willing to help for a few hours on one or more of the three days of the festival. If you are willing to help in any capacity, please email LeyburnTIC@richmondshire.gov.uk or contact **Sandy Carter on 07909586358**.

Sycamore Hall, Bainbridge

Help Housing 21 to make a difference.

**(Bank Worker) Zero Hour Contract
Cleaner/Domestic**

Would you like to work in a extra care housing scheme helping people to live Independently?

To work as and when required to cover holidays and sickness only?

To find out more please call:

Michelle Mottershead – 0370 192 4055

Bainbridge School News

Welcome to a snowy Spring term!

Happy New Year everyone! And what an interesting start to the Spring term (with not too spring like weather!) Tricky as the snow has been for us all to get about in, the children have had a whale of a time making the most of it in their school breaks. The playground boasted a very impressive snow wall and “igloo” which the children from Reception upwards had designed and built during the recent prolonged snow. I have had daily updates as to the progress of these two sculptural wonders and it has been great to hear of the creative teamwork going on. The children’s approach to “safe play” in the snowy conditions has been very mature - so well done everybody!

Swimming lessons at the new Catterick Pool

The Year 1 - 6 children have enjoyed their first week of lessons at the super, new Catterick Leisure Centre. Every Spring term we head down dale for 10 weeks swimming lessons which the children greatly enjoy as they develop these essential life skills. Once again we are hugely indebted to school’s Parents Friends Association for subsidising costs to parents. Without their very generous support the costs for each family would be much higher.

Green Santa Schools Challenge

A representative of the York and North Yorkshire Waste Partnership has recently visited school to explain the above Challenge to the children. The aim of it is to increase the quantity of goods donated to charities and reuse organisations after Christmas. Every time a pupil, parent or member of staff from school donates to one of these organisations they will receive a token. Local charity shops and reuse organisations will display the “Choose to Reuse” and “Green Santa” posters and stock tokens. The school that collects the

most tokens per child at the school will be awarded the main prize of £1000 worth of book vouchers for school. So we are all busy saving things like toys, clothing, furniture, books, music and many other household items! A great idea in today’s “throw away” society.

Emma Arblaster, Parent Governor

Caring for our Parishes

21 Dales parish councils will soon be able to employ caretakers to look after their communities, thanks to the Yorkshire Dales LEADER programme.

The LEADER programme, which is promoting economic and community well-being throughout the Yorkshire Dales, awarded between £2,000 and £5,000 to parish councils in the area in December. Some of the 21 parishes to benefit include: Eppleby, Askrigg, Low Abbotside, Bentham, Burton cum Walden and Bainbridge.

Under the LEADER scheme, the Parish Caretaker is seen as a mix of traditional 'Parish Lengthsman' with a very strong environmental and heritage focus. The caretakers' duties will be decided by members of their own community, and will include things like managing verges, repairing benches, clearing snow and road sweeping.

There will be another opportunity for parishes to start their own Parish Caretaker scheme later this year. Deadline for applications will close on October 1st 2010 for schemes starting in January 2011.

Application forms, guidance notes and criteria will be available in the summer, please consult the LEADER website for further information www.yorkshiredalesleader.co.uk

LEADER has also approved funding for the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust that has enabled a part-time co-ordinator to be employed by the Trust. The role of the co-ordinator is to support individual Parishes in the delivery of their programme through the provision of information, support and training.

Doctors' Rotas as Supplied by the Surgeries										
AYSGARTH SURGERY ROTA						Wb - week beginning				
Wb	1st Feb		8		15		22			
Day	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
Mon	FA	A	WF	F	WJ	W	A	J		
Tues	WJ	W	A	AJ	A	A	WF	W		
Wed	FA	A	WF	F	J	J	J	J		
Thur	WJ	W	JA	J	A	A	WF	F		
Fri	A	A	F	F	W	W	J	J		
Doctors: A - Arblaster, F - France, J - Jones, W - West, C - Closed Morning Surgery: 9.00 - 10.30 a.m. (no appointments) Afternoon Surgery: 4.00 - 5.30 p.m. (appointment only) <i>For appointments and all enquiries ring 663222</i>										

HAWES SURGERY ROTA											Wb - week beginning				
Wb	1st Feb		8		11		18								
Day	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.					
Mon	W	WJ	JA	JA	A	A	WF	WF							
Tues	FA	FA	WF	W	WJ	WJ	A	JA							
Wed	J	J	A	A	W	W	W	W							
Thur	F	F	W	W	J	J	A	A							
Fri	WJ	WJ	JA	JA	A	A	W	WF							
Doctors: A - Arblaster, F - France, J - Jones, W - West, C - Closed Morning S'y: 8.45-10.15 Tues till 10.45 (no appointments) Afternoon S'y: 5.00-6.00 Tues 1.00-4.00 (appointments only) <i>For appointments and all enquiries ring 667200</i>															

Heavens Above

Frosty February is a great month for stargazing with the bright winter constellations centred around Orion at their very best. The Milky Way is also beautifully displayed, running up from the southern horizon to the east of dazzling Sirius - a grand spectacle on a clear crisp night.

This year the Red Planet, Mars, is also particularly well placed for viewing. Look for it round about 8 o'clock in the evening - a brilliant orange spark high in the south. On February 4th you'll find it close to the beautiful Beehive star cluster in the constellation of Cancer the Crab - a lovely sight in binoculars. Later in the month the ringed planet, Saturn, becomes more prominent, though you'll have to stay up rather later to get a decent view of it.

Around the middle of the month there's a striking **conjunction** between two other planets - Venus and Jupiter - when a 'line-of-sight' effect makes them appear to come together in the evening sky. Closest approach is on the nights of February 16th/17th round about 5.30 in the evening when the pair will be just over a moon's width apart. The bad news is that you'll need to have a *really* unobstructed view to the west-southwest to have any chance of seeing them, as both objects are very low down in the evening twilight.

There's also a rare opportunity this month to glimpse one of the minor planets - asteroid Vesta. A tiny speck of space-rock only 530 km across. Vesta passes close to the star Algeiba in the constellation of Leo in the middle of the month and should be easy to spot from a dark site with binoculars. You'll need a star map to help you pinpoint Vesta exactly, which you should be able to download from the BBC's Sky At Night magazine's website or www.astronomynow.com A bit of a faff but well worth the effort if it gives you the chance this fascinating little world. Have clear skies!

Al Bireo

The Haiti Earthquake

We are hearing of a number of hastily planned fundraising events, and the Newsletter has also decided to donate £500. There are several organisations through which donations can be made, or just call in at one of the Banks.

What's On

January

- 30 Folk/Rock/Acoustic concert. Carperby Village Institute 8.00pm. See P 37
- 31 Deadline for entries for Tournament of Song

February

- 2 Hawes Drama Group reads "Still Life" by Noel Coward at Gayle Institute at 7.30pm
- 3 Coffee Morning at Redmire for Children's Society. See page 10
- 5 Wensleydale Society. West Burton Village Hall at 7.30pm. See page 4
- 9 Coffee Morning (Age Concern) | Hawes Methodist Rooms 10.00am to noon
- 9 Decorative and Fine Arts Society.. Middleham Key Centre 2.00pm. See page 8
- 12 Charity Band Night at the Fountain, Hawes
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 16 Shrove Tuesday
- 16 "Sheep to Scarf" demonstration at the Museum. See page 25
- 17 "Discover and Do" children's activity at the Museum. See page 25
- 17 Ash Wednesday
- 19 Lent Lunch for Christian Aid at Redmire Village Hall noon to 1.30pm
- 19 Museum Friends "Askrigg Pottery - a Journey" with Andrew Hague. 7.30pm
- 20 Upper Wensleydale Walking Group and Friends Barn Dance with the Roosters at Hawes Market House. Strictly ticket only. Details from Jane on **667061**
- 21 Help For Heroes special trains on the Wensleydale Railway. See page 14
- 23 Lent lecture at Wensley Village Hall. See page 27
- 24 First Lent Lunch and Meditation at Hawes Methodist Rooms from noon. See page 7
- 25 Gayle Ladies. Circle Dancing presented by Linda Reynolds at 7.30pm
- 26 Lent Lunch for Christian Aid at West Burton Village Hall noon to 1.30pm

26 Yoredale Natural History Society "Moths and Butterflies". Leyburn Methodist Hall at 7.30pm. For details contact Barbara Bootland, secretary, on **663656**

27 Museum Exhibition opens. See P 25
27 **Infusion** at the Fountain, Hawes. 10 'till late. In aid of Hawes Play Group

27 Irish Music Night at Askrigg Village Hall. See page 5



Dalesplay would like to wish everyone in the community a Happy New Year! We had a positive start to the year by having a big-clean day. All resources and equipment were sorted and cleaned and we managed to paint the interior walls with some paint that was kindly donated by Mrs Green-slade, *Thank you!*

We welcome 7 new funded foundation stage children into the setting this term and we look forward to teaching them lots of new things.

Our after school clubs have resulted in being very popular yet again with an extra Knitting club on a Thursday evening. If anyone would like to join Cookery or Art Club please contact Dalesplay **667936**.

This term we will be celebrating Chinese New Year, Valentines Day and Pancake Day. The children have been making Chinese lanterns and dragons to decorate the walls.

During the half term break we will be having a Crafty afternoon on Tuesday 16th February, a 'Get healthy day' on Thursday 18th and a cinema afternoon on Friday 19th. For more details contact Dalesplay.

We are all looking forward to the year ahead and have lots of great ideas to implement into the setting.

Joanne Middleton

The farmer upon finding a stone-axe head

From the Wensleydale Writers' Group

Green stone shines in the newly-turned earth,
foreign amongst the craggy limestone.
I bend and pick it up,
caress its smooth silkiness,
then notice -
suddenly -
its axe-head shape.

What kind of man left it here?
What possible thought could we have
in common?
Would he marvel at the hawthorn blossom,
drawing in its heady scent?
Would he watch the deer as she leapt
and ran with effortless grace?

Or would he see the hawthorn as fuel for his fire
and the deer as food for his belly?

Was his village here? Where I am standing?
Or more likely on Addlebrough,
on higher ground.

Did he love
with fierce intensity,
the woman who bore his children?
As I do.

Were his children well fed, and warm,
and healthy?
Did the woman stand and watch for his return?

Why did he leave the axe here?
Did something I cannot imagine
cause him to drop it and flee?
For it would be precious,
not willingly abandoned.

I need to believe
that the last hand that touched this stone
lived five thousand years ago.
Though hands in museums and societies
touch it, feel its smoothness –
pass it one to another -
mine is the hand that had the contact,
direct and unbroken,

with that neolithic hand.

The stone axe head was found in a field
in Wensleydale and has been authenticated
as neolithic – the stone possibly coming
from the Langdale Pikes area.

Pat Thistlethwaite.

Prunings

A personal take on Plants, Propagating and other related rural ramblings.

Happy New Year to one and all - even though it's a bit late.

I have heard it said that to be lucky, you should not view a new moon through glass. The first one of the year was due on the 15th January (visible on the 17th) and the next is due on the 14th February (visible on the 16th). For a really clear and simple calendar of the moon phases for the year have a look at the site designed by Woodlands Junior School in Kent.

"Bow 3 bows and wish 3 wishes!" my Grandma would solemnly say. It's about as useful as saying "Rabbits; Rabbits; Rabbits," before you speak to anyone on the first of the month, but I quite like the threads of folklore that have been handed down.

Pulling back the curtains a couple of days ago, I was greeted by the sight of a fat rabbit, up on his hind legs, atop of the mound of snow covering the prostrate juniper, and nibbling away at the Philadelphus. I banged and shouted, - he didn't bat an eyelid. What was even worse, he had left all the less tasty bits scattered around, and a good deal of unpleasant evidence of his visit. I had done what I could to limit damage to the shrubs by knocking off much of the snow, and my ancient box hedge is unscathed, but there is a good deal of collateral damage.

One of the brightest lights at the end of this long wintry wet tunnel is the vigour of the snowdrops already pushing through. Most of mine have been here for many years and are probably *Galanthus Nivalis*, the most common variety. I will need to split some of them after flowering. I could get interested in looking for different varieties, but a little research indicates that this could grow into a very expensive hobby. Galanthophiles have been known to

pay enormous prices for the rarer forms.

The Garden at RHS Wisley holds the National Collection and the 2010 list contains more than 70 named varieties from 6 to 28cm in height. Most commercial sellers simply list them as snowdrops. However, for those interested, the Broadleigh bulbs site in Somerset has some details with photographs of the different forms, and goes some way to explain why such a proliferation of hybrids has developed. The double forms are named "Flore Pleno" and some, such as "S.Arnett" are scented, although I have to say that to get the best from scented plants, especially in the Winter, they need to be somewhere less windy than the conditions most of us contend with here in the dales.

If you haven't ordered your free seeds by the time you read this it may be too late. The RHS deadline is the end of January, but catalogues are still arriving. I have a sand bed to start them early, but Ray Brown from Plantworld in Devon says that he puts them in a cold poly-tunnel and lets Spring prod them into life. Whatever your preference it will be such a joy to see them. Good luck! And whatever you grow, take time to enjoy it.

Rose Rambler

Celebrating Leading Local Projects

A celebration of some of Yorkshire's most inspirational and worthwhile local projects will be held at an open event on Thursday 25th February.

The event will unite Swaledale Mountain Rescue Team with several other well-known local projects to celebrate the success of LEADER, a grant programme which funds local initiatives that improve the quality of life in rural communities.

The open event will be a chance for the public to find out about LEADER, hear extraordinary success stories from some of its beneficiaries and talk to its organisers.

The event will be held on **February 25th, from 1.00 to 4.30pm**, at North Stainley Village Hall, which has itself received LEADER funding as part of community efforts which have raised over £1million for its superb community hub.

Other projects to be showcased will be Settle Hydro scheme, an exceptional community run project which donates its profits back to community initiatives. Chrysalis Arts will also talk about their initiative, to provide support for arts-based creative industries.

LEADER is delivered by Yorkshire

Forward and co-ordinated by the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust. For more information please contact the Dales LEADER Co-ordinator **Rima Berry on 015242 51002** : rima.berry@vdm.org

Before I lose My Marbles, Too

Over the last few years I have been meaning to do this but somehow never managed to get round to it. But at last during the recent bad weather and the usual rubbish on the television this Christmas I have spent some time locked away in my office doing just this and that, and thinking about what has happened in the last year, and how many friends are no longer with us.

Having attended many services hearing about the good things they did in life, their achievements, their humour and what they did in the community, I thought what a pity we do not tell them while they are alive. So before I lose my marbles (remember the articles a bit since?) I would like to say something about a certain man; one whom I have always held in high regard— as should many more men of my age in this dale.

He has done a great deal for a lot of people in this area. Being a business man and employer he gave many of us a chance to make something of ourselves. In the 1960s building methods and trades were changing at quite a pace— new ideas, new materials, new designs. He was forward thinking enough to send us to Darlington College on day-release to learn modern skills as apprentices: plumbers, joiners, painters, bricklayers and stonemasons, and bring these skills back to the dale to be used alongside the skills we had learned from some of the best tradesmen around:

Geo Iveson, foreman joiner; Jack Derrick, site foreman and one of the best all-rounders; Brian Harrington, painter; Keith Weatherald, joiner; Johnny Daykin, plumber.

Many of us who served our apprenticeships with him are now in businesses of our own and most have been successful. So thank you **M.T.W.** (Michael Weatherald)

for giving us all that first step up on the ladder; wishing you health and happiness for 2010 and many years to come.

Apprentice in 1965, T.G. Routh

**RAINFALL FIGURES FROM JULY
TO DECEMBER 2009**

	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total for year
Hawes	197	90	50	80	449	122	1672
Carperby	136	74	25	40	329	96	1054
Bainbridge	150	95	30	73	393	108	1310
Stalling Busk	163	120	43	95	417	140	1551
Askrigg	144	77	27	72	360	96	1306
Thornton Rust	145	105	35	83	373	111	1326

MEASUREMENTS IN MILLIMETRES

Folk/Rock/Acoustic Concert

Ashley Hutchings (Fairport Convention, Steeleye Span and the Albion Band) with **Ken Nicol** (lead guitarist in Steeleye Span) in concert at Carperby Village Institute at **8.00pm on Saturday January 30th**

<p>Ronnie and Diane Allen and Family, would like to thank Judith, Tiny and James and all the staff of the Crown Hotel Hawes for all their help and support that was given to Eric during his illness. Also much deserved thanks to Doctors and Macmillan staff who also helped Eric.</p>	<p>For Sale Conical jackdaw cage Any reasonable offer acceptable 667785</p>
<p>Christmas Messiah - Swale Singers/Aysgarth Singers.</p>	<p>From MARY BURROW Thank you for all your cards and good wishes. May 2010 be a happy and healthy year for everyone</p>
<p>This was to have taken place on the 19th December, but in common with many other events over the last month, it was a victim of the weather. However, a new date has been fixed for Saturday, January 30th, at Aysgarth Church, 7.00pm. There is concessionary parking for £1 only, at The Falls car park just above the Churchyard. Tickets for the previous date will of course be still valid. Tickets still available from Sylvia Crookes 650525, Mary-Rose Kearney 650880, or from me, Michael Mason, 663457.</p>	<p>Sue Airey would like to say a heartfelt thank-you to family and friends for their company, cards, flowers, baking and gifts. It was very much appreciated.</p>

Monies Raised for Charities Over Christmas

I hasn't been an easy time for charities because of the bad weather, as many events had to be cancelled or were not as well-attended. Below are the results we have been able to gather together.

West Burton Chapel: all for 'Action for Children':	
Carol singing	263
Nativity	175
Christmas Eve service	119
Hardraw Church;	
for Children's Society	45
Hawes Methodist	
'Carols by Candlelight'	
for the Bible Lands Society	128
Hawes churches carol singing;	
for 'Save the Children'	86
Hawes Charity Concert;	
for Alzheimer's Society	1539
Bolton cum Redmire: carol singing	
for St George's Crypt	265
for Children's Society	66
Preston with Wensley: carols;	
for Children's Society	120
St Andrew's Aysgarth from	
Christmas services and	
Thoralby carol service	249
Dales Whist Drive:	
for Haiti Earthquake Appeal	100
West Witton Crib service;	
for Children's Society	118
Aysgarth Methodist Church	
Nativity for Children in Need	
and Children in Distress	182
Askrigg St Oswald's: Christingle	
for Children's Society;	267
Coffee morning for Haiti	900