

# REETH & DISTRICT GAZETTE

ISSUE NO. 320

FEBRUARY 2023



*Your local news magazine  
for the two dales*

**PRICELESS**

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# REETH AND DISTRICT GAZETTE LTD

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The editor reserves the right not to publish any advert or article considered to be inaccurate or misleading.

All articles or items for inclusion should be sent to the editor  
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or left at Reeth Post Office.

## **The Editor welcomes feedback**

At the editor's discretion, your feedback will be published with Editor responses as appropriate.

Please send feedback to  
[editor@reethGazette.co.uk](mailto:editor@reethGazette.co.uk)

## **Gazette Deadlines**

The deadlines for the next two months are:

March issue: February 7th

April issue: March 13th

## **Posting The Gazette**

To post a copy of this Gazette to a friend or relative, will require a Large Letter size and will cost £1.65 second class, or £2.05 first class.

**PLEASE NOTE:** We will endeavour to publish all suitable items submitted by the deadline date but this cannot be guaranteed and is at the sole discretion of the editor.

# REETH AND DISTRICT GAZETTE LTD



The Swaledale Scout Group would like to give a big thank you to all of you who supported the Big Breakfast at the Memorial Hall. The event raised £400 for the group and we hope has raised one more volunteer as a leader. We still need at least two volunteers for the beaver Colony to be able to progress..

We would also like to thank all the stalwart supporters who spent a happy five hours cooking, washing, cleaning and who set up and dismantled the tables and chairs.

The scouts provided an excellent waiting service and helped with most of the other duties too!

If you can offer two or three sessions a term, that helps the planning and delivery of activities for our group and these are all tailored to the relevant age groups. Please contact Paul on 07866 532137

Thanks again for the great support you gave our Big Breakfast!

**Paul Roger**

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Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 14.30

St Mary's Church, Arkengarthdale

World Day of Prayer is an international ecumenical organisation which enables people all over the world to share the ideas and concerns of the writing country. All this work will come to fruition on **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2023** when people will gather to celebrate the service prepared by the women of Taiwan. The Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 120 countries. It begins in Samoa and prayer in native languages travels throughout the world --- through Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas before finishing in American Samoa some 38 hours later.

**"I HAVE HEARD ABOUT YOUR FAITH"**  
Our sisters in Taiwan are sending us blessings with the service they have prepared. Taiwan is an island rich in natural resources and culturally diverse. The women of Taiwan share the issues faced geographically, politically and socially and also their hopes for the future. Let us join with them as we give thanks for the beautiful island and people of Taiwan and encourage one another in our faith just as Apostle Paul did in his letters.

We do hope you will join us on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 2.30pm at St Mary's Church Arkengarthdale. Everyone is welcome. If you would like a copy of the service booklet in advance or if you would like to help with the preparation for our service please contact Pauline on 01748 886790. More information can be found on the WDP website: [wwdp.org.uk](http://wwdp.org.uk).

**Pauline Oldershaw, Secretary,  
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**BILL MARTIN decd.**



William Oliver Martin (to give Bill his full name) died peacefully in a nursing home on 29 December aged ninety. Bill was born in Gateshead; he had an aunt with a cottage at Booze in Arkengarthdale. During the second world war Bill and his younger brother Alan were evacuated to Booze. He attended Arkengarthdale School and had many tales to tell of his time there. Bill worked as an accountant. On his retirement he and his wife Eileen came to live in Hill Close Reeth. Bill had a long association with Arkengarthdale Methodist Chapel and was its treasurer for a time.

Bill was a keen sportsman in his younger days, playing football in Gateshead and during his National Service. He was a keen runner taking part in the Swaledale marathon and other events. He enjoyed the game of golf and was a member of the Richmond club for many years. He was in his mid eighties before he stopped

playing.

Bill loved Arkengarthdale. He spent many hours walking there and a "few" hours in the CB Inn and the Red Lion. He was a very good friend to many in the two dales, always helpful and supportive to local people.

His funeral was at St. Mary's Church Arkengarthdale followed by burial in the Methodist graveyard, on 16 January.

He will be sadly missed by his widow Eileen, his brother Alan and his many friends in the Dales.

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

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

We don't like to boast but we are proud of the accolades that the Festival has won. We've picked up six major national and international awards over the last few years, including the prestigious Queen's Award for Voluntary Service 2018, in recognition of our strong volunteer ethos. We couldn't achieve any of what we do without our loyal bunch of volunteers who contribute so much, so willingly, to help make the Festival successful year after year.

We are now looking for additional Board members and we would love to hear from you, particularly if you have knowledge, experience and expertise in IT, fund-raising or HR. What would you get out of it? The sense of satisfaction that comes from contributing to a professional and well-run organisation, working with a stimulating bunch of people and having a lot of fun.

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## Carol Singing in Low Row

Unfortunately, due to the weather our church Carol Service had to be cancelled this year. However about 80 people turned up to the carol singing in front of the Punch Bowl on Christmas Eve with music once again provided by the Lundberg family - Emma, Rebecca, Victoria and Freddie.

An impromptu collection raised £160 which has been sent to the Yorkshire Air Ambulance, an organisation we really appreciate in the dales. Many thanks to all who supported the event.

**Sue Alderson**

The **AGM of The Reeth and District Gazette Ltd** will be held in the Institute at Low Row at 7pm on Monday 27th March 2023.



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## Owd Roy

It was lovely to see so many people at the Owd Roy Domino Drive in Muker on 6th January. This event traditionally raises funds for Muker Literary Institute, and with the great turnout of 68 players and the excellent and tempting raffle prizes, £670 was raised. Huge thanks to those who helped organise it and provide the supper.



For some years the Owd Roy dominoes has been on the Friday closest to 6<sup>th</sup> January. Before that, it was always held on the Wednesday before 6<sup>th</sup> January, the move to a Friday being more convenient and also allowing more children to come and play as it is not a "school night". The tradition of raising funds for the Institute goes back before this though, a predecessor of the Domino Drive being a concert, supper and dance organised by members of the Institute up until about 30 years ago. The supper was put together as a result of the children going round all the houses "begging" for contributions, and tickets for the concert and the dance were 1/6d each.

But before even that, is the Owd Roy itself, or T'Awd Roy, and I am grateful to **Chris Lloyd**, who writes about local history every week in The Darlington and Stockton Times and The Northern Echo, for permission to publish his article which appeared on December 23<sup>rd</sup> 2022 and tells of the annual 3 day celebrations in Muker in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

IN the olden days, the highlight of Christmas in the Dales was T'Awd Roy festival that was centred on the three inns of Muker and drew all dalesfolk - leadminers and farmers alike - from miles around. T'Awd Roy was a rollicking time of eating spiced cakes, singing dialect songs, drinking good ale, dancing strange Yorkshire "whishing" dances, and, let's not beat about the mistletoe, snogging pretty lasses.

The joys of T'Awd Roy were described vividly in the D&S Times of 100 years ago this week by TP Cooper, who lamented that, after the First World War, the festival had died out. The word "roy", he said, was an old leadminers' word for a "spree", or party, but it also acted as a market and as a way for tradesmen to get their year's accounts settled. It began three or four days before January 6, which was known as "old Christmas Day" - until 1752, when Britain adopted the Gregorian calendar and lost 11 days, January 6 was the day on which Christmas was celebrated.

The festival began with "eight or ten canny lads going about the village wearing large aprons held out by the corners, and the housefolk each in turn threw in cheesecakes, Christmas



## REETH AND DISTRICT GAZETTE LTD

loaves, secret cakes, tarts and all sorts of spiced confections and even flesh meat", wrote TP Cooper. A large drum appeared from nowhere and they chanted as they went: "Now T'Awd Roy is come Let us beat up the drum And call all our neighbours together And when they appear Let us make them such cheer As will keep out the wind and the weather."

The food was taken to three inns: the Queen's Head, kept by Will Peacock and known as "t'awd house"; the Farmers' Arms, where Jim Kearton was the landlord, and the King's Head, where Frank Kendall was the "boniface".

The pubs kept an open house throughout T'Awd Roy. The first day of the festival was a market, with traders from all over the dale congregating to sell their wares. On the second day, said Mr Cooper, "there were outdoors sports: lowping, two hitches, three hitches, hipsy-gipsy, and cat gallows, hurdle jumping and pole jumping, trotting matches, shooting at Loaning - that is in the lane, where an improvised target was placed on a convenient tree". We have no idea what any of those sports actually were. If you can tell us how to lowp, or to play hipsy-gipsy or cat gallows, or what the difference might be between two hitches and three hitches, we'd love to hear from you.

"Work was suspended in the leadmines," continued Mr Cooper, who was a Yorkshire antiquary who wrote more than 100 books about the county's history and customs in the

early decades of the 20th Century, "and the feast was a general gathering of Dales folk.

"The badgers - flower and meal dealers - were there collecting their accounts as the miners were flush having just received their monthly pay."

Badgers were a variety of travelling salesmen who specialised in foodstuffs, but presumably other travellers who needed paying were also present, like pedlars, chapmen and packmen.

Mr Cooper continued: "The blacksmith, an eccentric person nicknamed "Jordy at Brigend wrong side out" attended for the payment of his charges and Dr Rudd, with others, presented their bills.

"The inns were frequented day and night and their ample boards were the haunt of good fellowship and mirth. The jollifications, of course, were greatly enhanced by the usual fiddlers or wandering minstrels who habitually visited the feast.

"T'Awd Inn was my favourite resort. It was in the spacious kitchen, with its gleaming utensils, well scoured floor, and its cosy inglenook, that the buxom hostess promoted the mirth of the company with her roguish smiles and humorous rejoinders.

"At intervals, amid bursts of honest and unceremonious laughter, good old fashioned native ballads were lustily rendered and the refrain of a quaint Muker song still rings in my ears: "I love Jock Willy Betty, Jock Willy Betty loves me".

"The old fiddlers strummed many a melody and dancing proper generally commenced about six o'clock and a large room upstairs, garlanded with glistening holly and mistletoe and partially illumed with candles, was utilised for the purpose."

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The grand finale of T'Awd Roy was the Princum Prankum, or "whishing dance", held in the upstairs of the Queen's Head. It was, said Mr Cooper, "a merry proceeding, perhaps only known to those acquainted with the district and its dialect". He remembered it being begun by Tish Tom, "the bravest of lads", who danced about the room with only a cushion for company. The cushion was known as the "whishing" and, when directed by the musicians, he placed in front of the bonniest lass - Rose Herd, of Reeth. She knelt on the cushion while he kissed her, and then "they both rose up and took up the whishing, tripped round and round, up and down, and with lilting voices sang: 'Princum Prankum is a very fine dance, shall we dance it once again, arm in arm, round and round, me that loves a bonny lass, will kiss her on the ground'."

Then it was Rose's turn to place the whishing in front of her favourite lad who, after a snog, joined the dance, and so it went on, with everyone joining until they were all dancing and singing and kissing. "It was a pleasant, lively and natural scene," said Mr Cooper. "With unconstrained careless gait, they danced in the freedom and gaiety of their hearts. How they did dance! The streaming hair and fluttering skirts of the lasses greatly enhanced the happy frolic."

Of course, all good things come to an end, all merry-making runs its course. "The hours of happiness and festival pass," concluded Mr Cooper. "They end in soft and pensive regrets, and throughout the year we think of Christmastide 'as the King of the seasons all!'"

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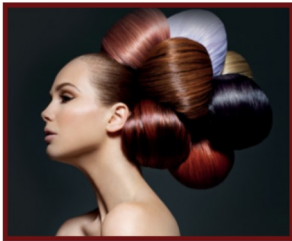
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## **Forthcoming Free Events**

### **Digital Talk: Plastic Free Woodlands**

Wednesday 1 February 2023, 4.30pm

50 million trees must be planted each year to counteract Britain's contribution to climate change. Trees often need protecting from grazing animals or harsh weather conditions to become established, however without radical changes to the way we plant trees, 1.5 billion plastic tubes may end up littering the environment and damaging ecosystems by 2050. Mike Appleton, Plastic Free Woodlands Project Officer for Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust and Vice President of Friends of the Dales, Mark Corner will talk about the YDMT project to break our reliance on plastic and find sustainable alternatives in woodland creation.

### **Digital Talk: Raptor Persecution**

Wednesday 22 February 2023, 4.30pm  
Investigations Officer for the RSPB, Howard Jones will bring to life the cases and day to day work of fighting wildlife crime, with a focus on North Yorkshire - the worst place in the UK for bird of prey persecution.

Both these talks are free and by Zoom, to book your place email [victoria.benn@friendsofthedales.org.uk](mailto:victoria.benn@friendsofthedales.org.uk)

### **Social Stroll**

Wednesday 22 March 2023, 9.30am - 1pm

The first of our Social Strolls, created for people who want to walk over less arduous terrain with time to chat and socialise. This walk promotes the benefit of using buses to get out into

the Yorkshire landscape, this one incorporating a linear route back. After meeting at Skipton Bus Station, walkers will take the bus to Gargrave, returning to Skipton by the Leeds Liverpool canal tow path.

This walk is free, but booking is essential as numbers are limited. To secure your place email: [victoria.benn@friendsofthedales.org.uk](mailto:victoria.benn@friendsofthedales.org.uk)

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## February Update

### Musical Cultures - FREE workshops and concerts

Our team of young people have planned three more amazing world music workshops taking place in February and March 2023. Sessions are FREE to attend for ages 11-19yrs - We are happy to consider other ages too, please get in touch. Instruments are provided and everyone is welcome to come and take part and find out about different musical cultures and styles and have fun making-music together. PLEASE register your place as we only have a limited number of spaces available.

**Reggae Grooves with Michael Yare.** Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February, 10.00am - 5.00pm at Thoraby Village Hall, DL8 3SU.

**Caribbean Steel Drums with Nicole Coker.** Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February, 10.00am - 5.00pm at Thoraby Village Hall, DL8 3SU.

**Bhangra Dance and Drums with Hardeep Sahota.** Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March, 10.00am - 5.00pm at Thoraby Village Hall, DL8 3SU.

Each workshop will finish with an informal **sharing performance** at 4.30pm when our guest music leaders and participants will present what they have created during the day. All welcome, pay as you feel donations

appreciated. Refreshments will also be available. These sessions are supported by NYMAZ and Youth Music, using public funding from the National Lottery through Arts Council England.

**Thinking of a career in music? Interested in how to produce and release your own music or artwork? Wondering what other 'offstage' opportunities exist in the Creative Industries?** We are delighted to have teamed up with David Owen from Flash Company Arts. There are six FREE sessions taking place on Zoom and in-person which will cover industry insights, song writing, productions skills, distribution and promotion, health and wellbeing, touring and performing, as well as exploring the many supporting roles which help artists create amazing events and releases. Register your interest today!

**Want to play in a band?** Our regular Play/ Record/Perform sessions take place on Fridays 6.30pm - 9.30pm and Sundays 2.00pm - 5.00pm. Contact us to find out more.

**To book your FREE place or find out more information contact Colin Bailey on 07711 211169, email [info@blueboxt.co.uk](mailto:info@blueboxt.co.uk) or book online at [www.blueboxt.co.uk](http://www.blueboxt.co.uk)**

### Cleaner wanted

to clean a 3 bedroom house in Arkengarthdale, 4 hours every fortnight.

Please contact Katie Field for more details:

07974956644 / [kandgfield@icloud.com](mailto:kandgfield@icloud.com).

## Swaledale Roots

I received an email last month from **William Pedley**, currently living and working in Papua New Guinea, who describes himself as "an avid reader based on the other side of the world" keeping in touch with Swaledale through the Reeth Gazette online. I asked him to elaborate on his roots and he sent me this. Ed.

My family is from Grinton, where my Aunt (Elsie Pedley) was the Postmistress following her parents' deaths in 1970 (Martha Jane Pedley, nee Hird) and Edward Pedley (died 1954). Elsie was also the St Andrews church organist for 60 years.

My branch of the Pedley tribe we can trace back to the 1600's, and was primarily involved in lead mining. A great uncle was killed by a falling slab of stone in a quarry near Marske and I recall a tale of another ancestor dying on Christmas Eve after suffering a partially collapsed mine shaft, dragging himself to the mouth of the mine but unable to move further, somewhere on Grinton Moor. No-one could find him as there was a thick fog and despite the ringing of the curfew bell throughout that evening, he was unable to move. For at least a couple of hundred years the family base was Blades (above Low Row), ideally positioned for working in Gunnerside Gill and Old Gang. My great grandfather was a William Pedley and there is at least another one in the previous generation, so my only identifier is my middle name!

I have been brought up from infancy steeped in family history and legends of that sort. Suffering the misfortune of being born beyond the hallowed

boundaries of Yorkshire (Leicestershire), I was nevertheless brought back "home" to Grinton every year of my life and have spent many, many happy hours roaming the Dale, meeting local characters, and absorbing the traditions of the dale. I have also journeyed to Dubuque, Iowa and Galena in Illinois tracing the Pedleys and found the Calverts, Metcalfs and Aldersons strongly present there still after emigrating in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century, along with a Sherriff Pedley. I hope he is still going strong as he and his family gave me a great welcome. They still speak there of the "old language" meaning the Swaledale dialect, which has now died out.

I recall helping deliver the post years ago, though I was so young I doubt I was any help at all. I can remember the narrow roads brimming with milk churns, seeing a man sowing by hand a field high up Fremington Edge, helping scythe Grinton Churchyard to keep it neat and tidy and the sheep maintaining a beautiful sward of grass throughout. I understand the passion for rewilding, but I regret that that results in a decaying churchyard which is obliterating all those wonderfully interesting old gravestones. The Post Office was a quaint affair, accessed directly from the living room where there was such a gorgeous, roaring fire going every single day of the year that many customers ended up chatting to us over a cup of tea by the fire. This PO is replicated at the Richmondshire Museum which even has an attempt at recreating a model of my Aunt Elsie. Other memories include participating in Reeth Fair running 100 yard, 220 yard

## REETH AND DISTRICT GAZETTE LTD

and 440 yard races, swimming in the Swale, talking to John Raw (of "Neddy House"), learning the story of the rise of the Sunter brothers and other prominent dales people, listening to "The Major" (talking about his experiences on the North West Frontier in India), many, many farmers complaining about...pretty much everything! Learning about the importance of non-conformism in the Dale and my family's respect and enthusiasm for those Methodist and Quaker communities, despite their very close involvement with St Andrews (my grandfather was the Sexton and all the family attended often two or even three times every Sunday for the various services). They taught me that the hymns in the Boosey and Hawkes edition of hymns are the very best and their largely mournful, wistful hymns are powerful reminders of the harsh times the miners endured as the lead industry declined.

My father was a passionate defender of the environment - there is a stand of trees up Grinton near Swale Hall that he managed to protect from developers at some point (was it in the 40's or 50's?) by lying down in front of the bulldozers, a passionate (manic?) goalkeeper who was part of the Reeth Athletic team which won the Ripon Cup and which included my uncle Will (William Hird Pedley) - probably the brightest highlight in the history of Reeth FC. He related with great fondness how he used to be kicked so savagely that he would often pass blood when urinating after some matches. Goalkeepers today have it easy! When playing football or cricket

for Grinton (possibly also Reeth FC but I am not sure) their "changing room" was a cow byre now part of the Dales Bike Centre. My father's brothers all up and left the dale in pursuit of work - Dad in education as the main advocate of Comprehensive Schools, my uncle Will becoming agriculture Controller of East Anglia, my uncle Teddy becoming Chief Constable of Hartlepool police, my uncle Frank becoming Chief Education Officer for Bradford, but they all missed the dale, my dad often musing whether all that career-chasing was worth the uprooting from his home community. Pedleys populated the Reeth Brass Band - there used to be a picture of the band hanging in the Grinton house taken in 1920 something where there

were some 10 Pedleys of one kind or another out of about 15 members! So I have carried on the



tradition of instilling the love of the Dale into my children (Robin - named after my father and Sofie), bringing them every year to walk, absorb the history and appreciate that magical quality of clean, fresh air of the "beautiful dale". It has been a life-long ambition of mine to acquire a foothold back in the dale so that I can pass this on to my children, hence my taking jobs far and wide to generate enough money to realise that. I am going to retire initially to Beverley, East Yorks, having just bought a property there, so I am on the way!

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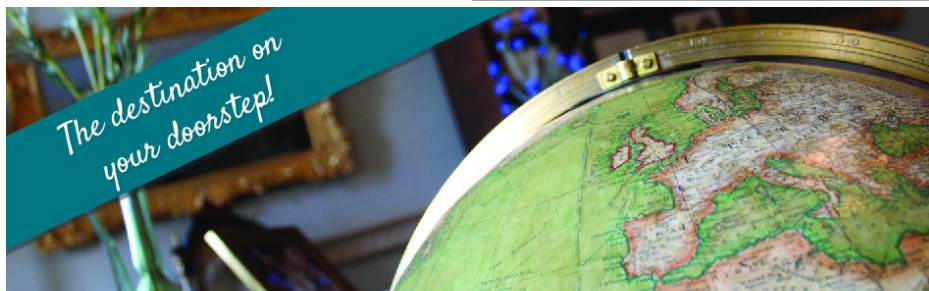
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# REETH AND DISTRICT GAZETTE LTD



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3 Incident this edition

On average we respond to between 40 to 50 calls each year.

Incident 02: Called to reports of lights up Gunnerside Gill, local team members had a quick look and located an experienced walker who had lost a dog. The rest of the party arrived in the village just as the Police were contacting the team. The dog was located safe & well later that night.

Incident 01: 01/01/2023 An early start for the team. Incident 01: Called by the Police to search for a person missing on the Pennine Way having left The Tan Hill Inn . As the first team members arrived the missing person turned up cold and wet but ok

Incident 40: 26/12/2022: Called late at night to rescue a vehicle with occupants trapped on ice high above Hawes

The view of the lights seen in Gunnerside Gill incident 02.



You can now donate while spending at Amazon SMILE. Just log in to Amazon Smile when you next spend, and select Swaledale Mountain Rescue as your charity.

We now have stock of our 2020/23 neck tubes. These are available from the Kings Head Gunnerside or via eBay, just search for SWALEDALE MRT Neck Tube, 2023 New design. Charity Fundraiser for SMRT.

Or drop us a message via our Facebook page or email us at [secretary@swaledalemrt.org.uk](mailto:secretary@swaledalemrt.org.uk), or use our online contact form on the website, [swaledalemrt.org.uk](http://swaledalemrt.org.uk)

Thanks to the following for their recent support

Cotswold Catterick fundraiser £300

Mountain Warehouse, Richmond £71.01

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Darlington CHA& HF Rambling Club £100

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**The Arts Society  
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Babylon: the very name is evocative. Once one of the greatest cities in the ancient world, a vanished metropolis which lay ruined and deserted for over 2000 years, its history has become bound up with myth and legend but it has never been forgotten. The Biblical accounts of the Tower of Babel, Daniel in the Lions' Den, Belshazzar's Feast, the Fall of Babylon, the Whore of Babylon, and classical references to the city's great walls and the Hanging Gardens have struck a chord with artists throughout the centuries. This lecture by Sue Rollin looks at some of the art which these stories inspired and also at the real Babylon, in southern Mesopotamia, beside the River Euphrates, as explored and excavated since the 19th century. The lecture is held at Tennants, Leyburn DL8 5SG on Tuesday February 28th at 2pm. Everyone welcome, guests £10

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## Arkengarthdale Community Hub

Exciting news! The development of the Community Hub at St. Mary's has started with the removal of some pews and the installation of the permanent accessibility ramp. By April, we should have finished the kitchenette and toilet and be open for community activities and events. The first will be a quiz with supper, followed by regular activities such as coffee mornings, cards/dominos, organised talks, gardening/wildflower events and lots more!

If you'd like to use this well-lit, warm and accessible space for your own group activities e.g. Pilates, yoga, well-being or meetings, please get in touch with Janet Bethune (884854) or Tony Oldershaw (886790).

## NYCC HOME LIBRARY DELIVERY SERVICE

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**SWALEDALE**

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## Swaledale Seedlings playgroup

### 'Stay and Play' Sessions

Mondays at Gunnerside Village Hall  
& Thursdays at Reeth Memorial Hall  
9.30am until 11:25am

Open to all children under the age of 5

£2 per child per session

Pop into a session or message us on Facebook  
for further information

## Community Transport

We hope to be getting out and about a bit more soon, once the threat of icy roads is gone, and we would love to welcome more and new people from Swaledale and Arkengarthdale aboard. Come and join the lovely friendly passengers who already travel with us and make new friends on board.

As well as our weekly Wednesday shopping day, which visits Ripon, Darlington, Barnard Castle and Northallerton in turn, we also visit Leyburn market every other Friday.

Our Wednesday itinerary goes like this: pick up from home, then a coffee stop on the way to that week's destination, enough time in town to do a little shopping and have some lunch and then a pick up in time for the final destination of a supermarket and then delivered home. We are happy to help you with the bags. Or why not meet up with any family or friends who live at any of our destinations?

Fridays entail a pick up from the bus shelter in Reeth and then onto Leyburn, where you can enjoy a coffee with the rest of the passengers or just have your own time at the market or meet up with friends.

We are hoping to get a little further afield soon to places like York, Beamish, Harrogate, Newcastle and the Metro, shopping outlets and from Easter the National Trust and English Heritages houses open to visitors.

So, if there is anywhere you or a group of you would like to go, give us a call and we can organise it for you. Call us on 01748 880021

We hope to welcome you on board soon and make you part of the family.

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# REETH AND DISTRICT GAZETTE LTD

## Church Opening Times and Services in February

<b>1<sup>st</sup> Feb.</b>	10.00 am	St. Andrew's Grinton	<i>Holy Communion</i>
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Feb.</b>	9.15 am	St. Mary's Muker	<i>Eucharist</i>
	10.30 am	St. Joseph & Francis Xavier Richmond	<i>Mass</i>
	11.00 am	St. Edmund's, Marske	<i>Holy Communion</i>
	11.00 am	Holy Trinity Low Row	<i>Eucharist</i>
	11.00 am	Reeth Evangelical Congregational	
	<b>2.00 pm</b>	Gunnerside Methodist	<i>Holy Communion Followed by Church Council meeting</i>
	3.30 pm	Reeth Evangelical Congregational	
<b>12<sup>th</sup> Feb.</b>	9.30 am	St. Andrew's Grinton	<i>Eucharist</i>
	9.30 am	St Michael's Downholme	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
	10.30 am	St. Joseph & Francis Xavier Richmond	<i>Mass</i>
	11.00 am	Reeth Evangelical Congregational	
	11.00 am	St. Edmund's, Marske	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
	11.15 am	St. Mary's Arkengarthdale	<i>Holy Communion BCP</i>
	3.30 pm	Reeth Evangelical Congregational	

### **Church of England**

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Vicar of the Parish of Swaledale with Arkengarthdale  
01748 884 706      carolinejhewlett19@gmail.com

### **Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)**

Quaker House, 7 Grove Square, Leyburn every Sunday at 10.30 am  
The Scout Hut, Quakers Lane, Richmond 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays at 10.30am  
[www.dalesquakers.org.uk](http://www.dalesquakers.org.uk)

# REETH AND DISTRICT GAZETTE LTD

## Church Opening Times and Services in February

<b>19<sup>th</sup> Feb.</b>	9.15 pm	St. Mary's Muker	<i>Holy Communion BCP</i>
	10.30 am	Low Row URC	
	10.30 am	St. Joseph & Francis Xavier Richmond	<i>Mass</i>
	11.00 am	Holy Trinity Low Row	<i>Eucharist</i>
	11.00 am	Reeth Evangelical Congregational	
	11.00 am	St. Edmund's, Marske	<i>Holy Communion</i>
	2.30 pm	Gunnerville Methodist	
	3.30 pm	Reeth Evangelical Congregational	
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> Feb.</b>	10.00 am	St. Andrew's Grinton (Ash Wed.)	<i>Holy Communion BCP with Ashing</i>
<b>26<sup>th</sup> Feb.</b>	9.30 am	St. Andrew's Grinton	<i>Eucharist</i>
	9.30 am	St Michael's Downholme	<i>Holy Communion</i>
	10.30 am	St. Joseph & Francis Xavier Richmond	<i>Mass</i>
	11.00 am	Reeth Evangelical Congregational	
	11.00 am	St. Edmund's, Marske	<i>Holy Communion</i>
	11.15 am	St. Mary's Arkengarthdale	<i>Holy Communion BCP</i>
	3.30 pm	Reeth Evangelical Congregational	
<b>28<sup>th</sup> Feb.</b>	7.00 pm	Low Row URC	<i>Lent meeting</i>

**United Reformed Church**

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And Sue Alderson 01748 886292  
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**Methodist**

Reverend Julie Reid  
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Rev.julia.reid@gmail.com

**Reeth Evangelical Congregational  
Church**

The Revd David Levell  
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**Roman Catholic**

Fr John Bane  
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## Sustainable Swaledale

**Fairtrade Fortnight**  
**Fairtrade Fortnight** (28 February - 12 March) will be focusing on supporting farmers to cope with the impact of climate change on crops such as bananas, cocoa and coffee. Buy Fairtrade products and support the Fairtrade Foundation  
Source: [www.fairtrade.org.uk/](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/)

**Recording natural events**  
If you have enjoyed taking part in the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch 27-29 January 2023, check out the **Woodland Trust's Nature calendar** where you can help build up records of a changing world by observing a wide variety of plants and animals. Record your first sighting this year of blackthorn in flower at:  
<https://naturescalendar.woodlandtrust.org.uk/>

**Swaledale wool used in peatland restoration.**  
See article on page 32. Ruth, who lives in Hardraw, came to speak to the Sustainable Swaledale group last year. YDNPA still has funding to support farmers find new income streams or explore diversification options.  
Source: YDNPA website  
<https://tinyurl.com/38fmzd7e>

**Together for Trees project**  
Sustainable Swaledale is seeking **volunteers for tree planting** in both dales as part of a Together for Trees

project along with Tees Swale: naturally connected. We will be planting into February/March so if you would like to help for a few hours, email for more information:  
[info@sustainableswaledale.org](mailto:info@sustainableswaledale.org)

**UK forests trap more CO2 than previously thought**  
Research suggests that the amount of **carbon capture by established woodland** in Europe has been underestimated. Professor Mat Disney of UCL observes that we might be losing double the carbon capture capacity we thought for every square kilometre of woodland we lose. Temporarily trapping carbon in woodland is one way to meet climate emergency targets.  
Sources: Ecological Solutions and Evidence January 2023  
<https://tinyurl.com/5fntdbng>  
BBC article:  
<https://tinyurl.com/2e3k8e3d>

**Warmest year ever for the UK**  
The Met Office has confirmed that **2022 was the warmest year** recorded for the UK. The average monthly temperature topped 10C for the first time but is expected to be more commonly reached in future years. 15 of the UK's top 20 warmest years have been this century with the top 10 within the past 2 decades.  
Source: <https://tinyurl.com/bduaj76z>

**Wind generated a record amount of electricity in 2022**  
Wind was the **second largest source of electricity production in 2022** with renewables and nuclear generation accounting for 48.5% of electricity.

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Source: BBC website  
<https://tinyurl.com/2s4xbae3>

### Sustainable Swaledale Group AGM

We will hold our **AGM** on 2<sup>nd</sup> February at 7pm. If you would like to join us, please email for details.

Clickable links available via the Sustainable Swaledale website

**Margaret**

### Sustainable Swaledale Group:

**Meeting:** first Thursday of the month at 7pm. Please contact us for venue details.

**Email:** [info@sustainableswaledale.org](mailto:info@sustainableswaledale.org)

**Phone:** the Secretary on 01748 886 381

### Facebook Group:

Sustainable Swaledale

### Website:

[www.sustainableswaledale.org](http://www.sustainableswaledale.org)

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**2dales Junior  
Football**



It is some time since we published a Newsletter owing to the Pandemic and my own illness. We are now getting training organised for boys and girls mainly aged about 6-8. We are not, this season, entering a League, but, if parents wish, we can arrange some friendlies later in the year when hopefully the weather is a little more clement. Training is down at Reeth Sports Field on Sunday mornings at about 10.30 but always depending on weather and coaches' availability. Follow us on Facebook "2Dales Junior Football" or please contact me. 01748 884650 [davidwilliams@yuillgroup.com](mailto:davidwilliams@yuillgroup.com) [www.2dalesjfc.co.uk](http://www.2dalesjfc.co.uk)

Thanks to a generous donation from Reeth, Fremington and Healaugh Parish Council, there is no subscription this season as we recover from the pandemic.

Our last Under 14's team joined forces with Catterick Village to make the numbers and, now as Under 16's, are doing well in the Harrogate Junior League and are taking part in a European Tournament in Spain over the Easter Holidays. We wish them well.

It is worth just mentioning the Hambleton and Richmondshire Junior League in which we played and expect to do so again. I chaired this from 2015 until 2021 when I was ill and we brought it back from being in serious difficulty to covering the whole of North Yorkshire largely west of the A19 and going down now to Harrogate and beyond to Wetherby ensuring football availability for children in this area..

**David Williams**

## Fremington Village Hall

Redecorated and now with it's own piano, the Village Hall (known locally as the Sunday School) is available to hire for all kinds of events, from regular classes, talks and community activities, to one-off functions like children's parties, lunches and dinners and special occasions such as wedding receptions and anniversary parties. The Hall has a small kitchen with electric cooker and microwave; toilet facilities including disabled toilet; and a small rear garden.

The Hall is a registered charity run by a small and dedicated volunteer committee. You can book the Hall by phoning or texting the bookings secretary **Alison Tupman** on **07967 839494** or by email at [fremingtonvillagehall@outlook.com](mailto:fremingtonvillagehall@outlook.com)

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## ‘Mountain wool’ tested in peatland restoration

In August 2022 we published an interview with **Ruth Lindsay**, where she spoke about her ideas for using Swaledale wool in peat restoration work. This update from YDNPA tells us the idea is now undergoing funded trials. Ed.

A wool entrepreneur working with four upland farms has been awarded a Farming in Protected Landscapes grant to develop new uses for Swaledale sheep fleeces.

Ruth Lindsey, a Bradfordian settled in Hardraw in Upper Wensleydale, is making woollen logs for use in peatland restoration.

At the moment vast amounts of imported coconut husk, manufactured into coir logs, are being placed across eroding gullies on degraded peatlands in Yorkshire and Cumbria. The logs stop heavy rain washing away the exposed peat, allowing mosses and

other vegetation to grow back. This not only supports biodiversity and helps to reduce downstream flooding but - over time - healthy peatland can pull in and store huge amounts of carbon from the atmosphere.

A small scale trial of 30 woollen logs is taking place this winter at Fleet Moss in the Yorkshire Dales, as well as at two peatland sites in the North York Moors National Park. It's hoped the wool will prove to be an effective alternative to coir.

The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority administers Defra's three-year Farming in Protected Landscapes programme in the Yorkshire Dales National Park. So far it has awarded just over one million pounds in grants to 86 businesses. More than a million pounds remains in the pot and farmers are being invited to apply for it.

Mrs Lindsey, who is trading as Natural Dales Wool Products, said she began to think about new uses for wool when she learned from a farming friend that Swaledale fleeces, which are coarse and short stapled, were fetching only 8 pence a kilogram:

“It costs between £1.20 and £1.50 to pay someone to clip a sheep. If you get two kilos of wool from a Swaledale ewe you're doing well. Then the farmers have to transport it to the



Ruth with two of the woollen logs

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British Wool depots at Marrick or Ingleton. So they are making a massive loss. That's why mountain wool is being burned or buried or left in barns."

She said the idea to turn fleeces into logs came to her after reading an article on peatland restoration in the *Northern Echo* newspaper. Having previously worked in her family's former wool business in Bradford, The Multiple Fabric Company, she had contacts in West Yorkshire who could assist in the manufacturing process.

"For the past two years four farms have given me their wool, although in future I want to be able to pay for it. This year the fleeces were baled at Thwaite Bridge Farm and put into wool sheets and taken to Salts Mill [in Saltaire] to be stored. They will soon be going to Dewsbury for scouring," she said.

Once scoured the wool will be stuffed into one metre-long logs made from felt. Mrs Lindsey is also selling the felt at a local business in Hawes for use as a mulch around trees or in garden beds.

She said: "From start to finish the wool travels 145 miles, whereas with coconut fibre it's travelled thousands of miles. The amount of wool that could be used on bogs is astonishing. But there are a lot of unknowns. We don't whether the wool fibre will last as long as the coconut fibre. We don't know whether it's going to hold the water back. That's why we've got the trials going. The

idea is to support the local community by using local wool for local peat.

"We want to be able to pay 50 pence per kilo of wool. That still wouldn't cover the cost of employing a shearer but it would be getting there."

The Member Champion for the Natural Environment at the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, Mark Corner, said: "Farming in Protected Landscapes is there to support hill farms as they prepare for life without the government's Basic Payment Scheme. It is vital that these businesses identify new income sources and prepare themselves for the transition to the new Environmental Land Management schemes. As a society, we need viable farm businesses that can help to tackle the nature and climate emergencies.

"The grant for Natural Dales Wool Products to test the idea of whether wool can be used in peatland restoration is exciting and eye-catching, and it is one of the more unusual awards. We have previously highlighted how the programme has funded wildlife habitat creation and regenerative farming. There are many other ways the programme could be used to support new income streams and diversification options. Farmers with potential projects are warmly invited to get in touch."



Front Cover: February snowdrops taken in my garden in Muker. Ed



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## Christian Aid

Thank you to all of those who came and joined in the fun at the 'Come and Sing Carols' at Grinton on December 4<sup>th</sup>. Our Christmas dinner is something we all look forward to. In Malawi, it's something that families - like Fyness' - cherish too. But hunger has grown, due to the climate crisis. Sadly, many families will have little or nothing left to eat.

Hotter temperatures, drought, destructive downpours and floods are playing havoc with the growing seasons, causing food shortages. This year, many will struggle even to have their staple food of maize porridge.

As Fyness tends to her bountiful garden she remembers what a Christmas with no food is like. 'In the past, I was lacking food. I struggled to find food,' she says. Now, she's able to share the festive joy of a plate piled high; of plates filled with delicious chicken and rice as the special, once-a-year meal.

Our gifts could enable someone like Fyness to grow food in ways that are more resilient to climate change. We collected £167 at the service which can provide 100 fruit trees which will enable people to have fresh fruit to eat and sell and 12 chickens which will provide eggs and meat.

Fyness' story can be found on <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christmas-appeal>

Thank you so much for your support.

**Pauline Oldershaw Secretary, Upper Swaledale Christian Aid Group**

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**The bookshop will be closed all day  
on Mondays in February**





### Little acorns... and the



### importance of being still

Just over two years ago Emma and I did our first market in Reeth during the Swaledale Festival Weekend 2021. Our event was a modest affair in the garden of our great friend Santa Pete. You may have seen him about the village, he is Father Christmas on vacation. This man's philosophy of JFDT (see a previous gazette) planted the seed which led us to start Reeth Makers Markets which we now hold twice yearly in Reeth Memorial Hall. Preparing for each market is like nurturing a young sapling. From finding the makers, promoting and running the event, to sitting down with a nice glass afterwards, the process is really enjoyable.

It is also important to cherish our down time in between markets. And this is where I would like to talk about another gem from the philosophy of Santa Pete: at our writing group recently\* he said we don't HAVE to do something if we don't feel like it. Don't sweep the yard, it will keep for another day, leave the leaves, it is too windy anyway. You might say, I'll be bored if I don't sweep those leaves, but what if you picked up that book instead, or those knitting needles, and let your mind wander? Something wonderful may be created out of that stillness in your mind.

Whilst researching this idea of not doing something/being bored (an oxymoron in itself?) I read about a management study which took two

groups of business students, group one did a simple, perhaps boring (although I quite like the sound of it or is it just me?) job of sorting beans by colour, meanwhile group two was given a more interesting task. The researchers found that group one generated more ideas and more creative ones, presumably they were working on auto pilot, chatting and riffing off each other whilst sorting those beans. And how about this? Harry Potter was born out of JK Rowling's long train journeys with no social media to distract her...and that turned out pretty well for her. Creativity comes out of boredom.

Remember, creativity needn't be a physical object like a jumper or painting, it could be an imaginary trip, a day dream (something I do regularly), a piece of creative writing, a poem...the list goes on... so from being still and bored you can create. You will be amazed how it makes you feel too..

Makers and creators are people who are never really feel bored, their default setting is their craft. Our Makers Markets showcase local makers and entrepreneurs from a variety of genres. The dales have long been a home for self reliance and new starts: think cheese making, mineral mining, weaving. Our makers are equally innovative and offer a unique range of items that will inspire and encourage support for locally made products. When you come to our markets and purchase from our stall holders you are helping them be more creative by expanding their businesses... from these acorns may grow mighty oaks.

In the spirit of growth we are excited to be holding our next Makers Market

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again during the Swaledale Festival on Saturday 3 June 2023. Look out for our posters and social media posts for further details.

**Anne Barden**

Dates for 2023 Reeth Makers Markets  
June 3 and 18 November

\*email [annebarden@rocketmail.com](mailto:annebarden@rocketmail.com) for details of the writing group



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We are delighted to share the news that the full 2023 programme is now on our website.

The line-up includes jazz from the award-winning vocalist Claire Martin OBE, comedy from the hilarious Andy Hamilton, creative walks with Dales poet Mary-Jane Holmes, the Reeth Lecture by Antiques Roadshow expert Ronnie Archer-Morgan, a fascinating talk on the Northern Dales night skies, 'chamber-folk' from the vibrant Welsh group VRi, the superb Manchester Baroque, star cellist Natalie Clein, chart-topping guitarist Craig Ogden and Fourum's last ever performance.

We are also excited to announce two exceptional family events - magical puppetry from the world-renowned Lempen Puppet Theatre and a special



screening of Wallace & Gromit: The Wrong Trousers with live music from one of the most successful competition brass bands in history - WFEL Fairey Band.



There are lots of other treats in the programme. Have a browse and be poised to book your tickets when public booking opens on **Monday 13 March!**

Remember, you can subscribe to our Festival Friends' scheme and benefit from a two-week priority booking period starting on **Monday 27 February** - along with the gratifying feeling that you are helping to secure the Festival's future. To take out or renew your Friends membership, please visit [www.swalefest.org/Support/Friends](http://www.swalefest.org/Support/Friends), or ring our office on 01748 880018 for help or enquiries.

Brochures will be posted out in early

*"Music plays a huge part in my life. Living in Swaledale, I gladly support the Festival in providing inspiring performances at accessible prices. Being a Friend has the added benefit of priority booking, particularly valuable for the smaller chapels and churches across the Dales." David Sidebottom, Festival Friend*

## REETH AND DISTRICT GAZETTE LTD

February. If you aren't on our mailing list, you can pick one up at Hudson House in Reeth, or email [enquiries@swalefest.org](mailto:enquiries@swalefest.org) and we will post one to you.



Ronnie Archer-Morgan will deliver the Reeth Lecture

### Volunteer Briefing

On **Wednesday 15 February** we will be holding our annual Volunteer Briefing from **14:30 to 16:00 at Reeth Memorial Hall.**

The Festival relies on a dedicated team of volunteers who give their time generously and with great enthusiasm. Roles include stewards, hosts and drivers, and we particularly need 'village reps' to help us distribute and replenish brochures in the lead-up to the Festival, display posters and generally spread the word.

Volunteering is a great way to be part of an exciting cultural event. Come along to the briefing to meet our friendly Volunteers Coordinator and register your interest.

For further information, please email [volunteers@swalefest.org](mailto:volunteers@swalefest.org).

**Swaledale Festival AGM, Thursday 16th February 2023 at 17:00, via Zoom**

Swaledale Festival is holding its Annual General Meeting on Thursday 16 February at 17:00 via Zoom and all are welcome. If you'd like to attend please email the Festival's Chairman Dr Susan Miller for further details at [chairman@swalefest.org](mailto:chairman@swalefest.org).

### Important Dates

Early February - brochures hit doormats

Wednesday 15 February - Volunteer Briefing at Reeth Memorial Hall from 14:30 to 16:00

Thursday 16 February - AGM at 17:00, via Zoom

Monday 27 February - Friends' priority booking opens

Monday 13 March - public booking opens

Saturday 27 May - Swaledale Festival runs for a fabulous fortnight!

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## Dales Police Crime Bulletin



### Monthly Police Report-December 6<sup>th</sup> / January 9<sup>th</sup>

Incidents of note over the last reporting period:

Between 23 - 30<sup>th</sup> Dec vehicle interference, attempted theft of Ford Transit in Leyburn area.

Reported 20<sup>th</sup> Dec Theft of Quad and attempted theft of Land Rover in Horsehouse area.

We do not report crimes whereby victims could be identified for example, Domestic Violence or Harassment, although these are included in the totals below.

- 1 - Theft
- 8 - Abandoned Calls
- 7 - Violence
- 18 - Road Traffic Collisions (minor)
- 2 - Road Traffic Collisions (serious)
- 2 - Poaching
- 17- Suspicious circumstances
- 2- Fraud
- 5-Criminal Damage

In total in the reporting period, for the area covered by Leyburn, 149 calls were received covering a variety of incidents.

The A684 along the route between Wensley and Worton has had Matrix Boards installed to warn drivers of the areas that are closed due to flooding. They are large and extremely visible and were obviously expensive to install, but unfortunately there are some drivers who either ignore the signs or believe that their

vehicle is amphibious resulting in the emergency services being called out to assist. And wasting their time.

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### Leyburn u3a Group February Meeting

The February meeting of Leyburn u3a is on Friday February 17<sup>th</sup>, 10.00am for 10.30am at the Arts & Community Centre, Richmond Road, Leyburn. The speakers are Tony Skully & John Anderson - Poetry is a Tender Power. Visitors are always welcome

John Sutton



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## North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service

Winter's here, but did you know the Antarctic Fire Department based at McMurdo Station is the only full-time fire crew in Antarctica? They maintain two fire stations: Station 1 is at central McMurdo and Station 2 serves the station's airfields.

### Reeth Station

A nice early start to the year for the Reeth crew. Back at the beginning of January we mobilised at 2:38am to a fire in a laundry room. Reeth appliance was first on scene and committed two crew members in breathing apparatus with a hose reel jet and thermal imaging camera. The fire was extinguished and then the contents of the room that had been involved in the fire were moved outside. The cause of the fire was found to be materials stacked up to the ceiling were sat up against a downlighter and the heat of the bulb had started the fire.



Luckily the homeowner had working smoke alarms which woke them up and they did the most important thing which was to keep the door to the room closed when they found it.

We cannot stress how important it is to keep your doors shut on a night. As well as preventing the spread of the fire, in this case it also prevented the devastating smoke damage that leaves nothing untouched during a fire.

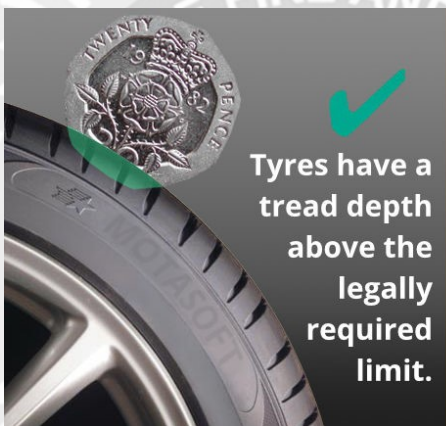
### Is your car wearing appropriate footwear?

You wouldn't go fell walking in a pair of flip flops would you? Or anything flat that has no tread...so why would you let your car tyres end up without tread?

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Tread depth is required to allow water to be dispersed so that you still have grip in wet conditions.

The legal limit for tyre tread depth on a car is 1.6mm. Its really easy to check your tyre tread. Place a 20p coin into the main tread grooves of your tyre. If the outer band of the 20p coin is obscured when it is inserted then your tread is above the legal limit. The picture below shows you how to do this.



### Bellerby Study Group

Meetings are on Wednesday at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall, Church Street, Bellerby DL8 5QL. Talks are followed by refreshments and a chance to chat. The cost for this term will be £10 to join as a member for the 8 talks scheduled for this term, or £3 for a single visit.

**1st February: Alan Turnbull "Van Gogh's Sunflowers"**

Alan is a professional artist, living and working in Bellerby. He is author of the recent book "Who Shot Van Gogh", which will be on sale at the talk.

**8th February: Roger Burnett "The Chelsea Flower Show"**

Roger is a member of the RHS Guild of Horticultural Judges, with experience of judging at Chelsea. He also chaired the judging panel of "Britain in Bloom" in 2012.

**15th February: Andy Beck "Walking the Wainwrights"**

Andy is a professional photographer and artist based in Bowes. You may have visited his tent at the Wensleydale Show. His book "The Wainwrights in Colour" brought a new perspective to the famous field guides of A. Wainwright.

Any queries can be directed to **Steve Akrill** on 07812 983283

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## Talking Pictures

### AVATAR - The way of water"

Review by John Hunter

You may remember young Leo on the bow of the ill-fated ship shouting 'King of the world!' back in the late '90s? Well it seems certain that 'Titanic' director James Cameron can *certainly* claim that cinematic title when it comes to technologically breath-taking, visually jaw-dropping and emotionally heart breaking movie-making. His latest - Avatar 2' sees our heroes from the *first* 'Avatar' thirteen years ago, living an idyllic family life on the fluorescently phantasmagorical planet Pandora. You may remember their habit of 'melding' with their creatures through their ponytails? - Unfortunately, however, all is not well now

another 'human invasion' is afoot. The first time around they were after a very rare mineral, the mining of which would destroy the locals' eco-friendly existence (Cue - Big hardware versus spears and wildlife battle scenes).

In what is globally a plot retread of the first movie, those pesky human military types are *now* after an *even rarer* commodity (which prevents ageing) - the bad news being it has to be extracted from the corpses of monster whale-type creatures worshipped by the locals. An extended

scene depicting this whale hunt is especially harrowing to view - particularly in crystal clear fast frame rate 3D (in which I was lucky to view the film - 3D doesn't always work for me, but Cameron and his team have made great developments in improving picture clarity over the last decade). Our forest dwelling family find themselves in this aquatic Polynesian style land as they 'banish' themselves to protect their people - knowing it is most likely themselves the invaders are



targeting. (If you recall, our hero was initially a military paraplegic, transformed into an 'avatar' - all seven foot, blue skinned version of himself - to 'spy' on the 'natives' prior to 'invasion' - but naturally learnt their ways, fell in love and helped them to victory). This time round, those cunning humans have created avatar soldiers - in fact head 'grunt' is no-less than the cruel General

from film 1 - who is in effect revenging his *own* death - welcome to the world of Avatar!

Director Cameron's oft-used 'three act' structure works well here - after the necessary plot set up, the 'quieter' middle section introduces our heroes (and us) to the delights of this fantastic waterworld, and a hint of teen romance with these new 'green' natives. (Quite why forest dwellers are blue and ocean dwellers are green is a mystery - but hey, this world is ALL fluorescent so who cares!). The



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underwater 'CG' is truly stunning (especially in 3D) and reminds us just how 'beautiful' cinema can be. Of course all this leads to an extended face off in the last hour (yes, it is 3 hours long) with some incredible military designs which are both fantastical *and* functional lending their heft against spears and arrows (and fins). I could have done without a return to sinking ship histrionics once more (get a grip Cameron!) but the finale is certainly both heart wrenching *and* satisfying. (Any movie where hunted 'whales' actually join in the fight works for me!)

I don't know where the three hours went - loved every minute - but try to catch it in 3D - you won't be disappointed.

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**Muker Show  
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## Gunnerside Chapel News

The 2022 Shortest Day / Midwinter service was held in Gunnerside Chapel on 21st December last followed by the usual tea / supper care of the ladies of the village.

How long this event has been going on is unclear, but it is reputed to have been started to get the miners out of the village pubs so that they couldn't spend all of their wages on the demon drink, (they were often paid on quarter days, one of which is 21st December).

A congregation of over 50 people participated in a full programme of 12 carols, (with "While Shepherds Watched" sung to the rare but very Yorkshire tune "Shaw Lane"), and 5 of the carols being sung by the Chapel "special events choir", (which included several people who were specially volunteered for the occasion), all expertly accompanied by Gail Crisp. The 9 lessons, aside from giving a reminder of the actual meaning of Christmas, provided a remarkable spread of accents, covering West Yorkshire, "standard" Yorkshire, Cumbria, received English and Australian - (so we even ticked the diversity box)!

The next of the four major Chapel events is Easter - details to follow.

**Richard Hunt**

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## Wellbeing Workshop

Ness is the owner of BinkyBoo Crafting. "You may have met me at the Memorial Hall in Reeth last year." she says. "This is where I did my very first market and met the lovely people of Reeth and the surrounding areas. It is my most favourite place to be. I also love to come here and walk my two dogs regularly."

Ness is returning to Reeth in February and holding a Wellbeing Macrame Plant Hanger Workshop in the Memorial Hall, Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February 10am-1pm. Macrame is therapeutic, calming the noise and the stresses of life. She is keen to teach others to experience that wonderful feeling.

Binkyboo Crafting is a small business which is all about using recycled & repurposed materials, "Because let's face it, our beautiful planet is only so big and can't hold everything we needlessly throw away," says Ness.

Please contact Ness on [ness@binkyboocrafting.com](mailto:ness@binkyboocrafting.com) or 07825 211238 or have a look at [https://instagram.com/binkyboo\\_crafting](https://instagram.com/binkyboo_crafting)



where you will find the link to her Facebook with a pinned Eventbrite post for tickets, which are £35pp.

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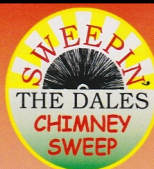
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Swale Singers rehearsals have started again, as we work towards our Swaledale Festival concert in June. We are singing "Mirror of Perfection" by Richard Blackford and "A Sprig of Thyme" which is a collection of folk songs arranged by John Rutter. New singers are always welcome. We meet in Reeth Memorial Hall at 3pm every Sunday.

Contact Jackie on 07885 498676

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### **Dark Skies Festival - half term family fun without costing the earth**

This year's Dark Skies Festival, across both the North York Moors and Yorkshire Dales National Parks, will include plenty of ways to enjoy a star-studded half term that doesn't cost the earth.

The Festival, which takes place within the International Dark Sky Reserves of both National Parks between 10 and 26 February, will feature many free and low cost events for all ages to appreciate the wonders of a star-filled night, learn more about space and discover why the skies are worth protecting from artificial light pollution.

For instance a new collaboration with Scarborough Pride to mark LGBTQ+ history month means that Festival-goers can join a free Lantern Walk through the atmospheric coastal village of Robin Hood's Bay while discovering more about Britain's queer heritage.

Families can go on a stargazing safari evening in the company of local astronomers at Catton near Thirsk; follow the 1.5km Planet Trail to find

scale replicas of the planets while walking through woodland alongside the waterfalls at Aysgarth; or use investigative skills to find nocturnal creatures at both Danby Lodge and Sutton Bank.

For a small cost, there's everything from a mindful night walk on the clifftops above Whitby, ghost walks at Robin Hood's Bay, space-themed crafting sessions at Hawes, Helmsley, Danby and Sutton Bank and star party at the Wensleydale Ice Cream Parlour; through to sessions with Tees Valley Wildlife Trust where people can make habitat-friendly items for nocturnal wildlife such as hedgehogs and bats.

For thrill-seekers there are night bike rides, an afternoon event where youngsters can cycle along a planet and star-adorned trail before making planet pizzas at Stage1 Cycles in Hawes, a 10km fell run near Reeth, canoeing at Scar House Reservoir in Nidderdale or an after-dark trail run followed by a yoga session at Danby.

For those looking for a slower pace to appreciate the National Parks' dark side, there are various guided night walks from spots including Horton in Ribblesdale, Goathland, the Hole of Horcum and Lavington, and mindfulness sessions at Dalby Forest and Rievaulx.

The rest of the programme includes the perennial favourites: astronomy sessions where guests can marvel at star clusters, galaxies and constellations while standing at beauty spots, whether it's a woodland clearing in Dalby Forest, the ridgetop splendour of Sutton Bank or witnessing the twinkly skies framing the distinctive outline of the second highest peak in





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the Yorkshire Dales, Ingleborough. There's even a stargazing session at Stump Cross Caverns where guests venture underground afterwards for a cave tour.



Meanwhile those keen to brush up their camera skills can join nightscape and astro photography sessions at locations such as Reeth, Malham Cove, Ribbleshead Viaduct, Castle Howard or Whitby or learn how to capture the beauty of owls in flight at the National Centre for Birds of Prey.

Those wanting to spend longer can stay in dark skies-friendly accommodation including the Fox and Hounds Inn at Ainthorpe near Danby, which has a special package including stargazing and mindfulness sessions. Alternatively Yoga and Spice near Whitby is running a two-night package that includes night walking, yoga and lifestyle sessions, while Gumboots and Wellingtons at Ellerburn is offering guests the chance to hunker down in either a shepherd's hut or cabin after toasting marshmallows on a firepit outside.

Emily Watson, Visitor Development and Marketing Assistant for the North York Moors National Park comments: "This year's Festival is geared towards helping people connect more strongly with our pristine dark skies, enabling

them to gain a new perspective by visiting popular daytime beauty spots at night instead, learning in a fun environment how the natural world depends on darkness and simply enjoying the awesome sight of a sky filled with thousands of stars."

Helen Dalton, Tourism Officer for the Yorkshire Dales National Park adds: "There are some fantastic ways that people can enjoy a great value outing during the Festival, whether it's a daytime family event or an evening where they can literally have an 'out of this world' experience."



## Diary Dates

### February

**Fri 10th Feb** - Arkengarthdale Sports Association Domino Drive and Supper, CB Inn, 7:30pm. .

**Fri 24th Feb** - Muker Show Domino & Whist Drive, Muker Public Hall, 7.30pm

### March

**Fri 3rd Mar** - annual domino and whist drive in aid of Reeth Show, 7.30pm in Reeth Memorial Hall.

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