

# REETH & DISTRICT GAZETTE

ISSUE NO. 321

MARCH 2023



*Your local news magazine  
for the two dales*

**PRICELESS**

## First Thoughts

This issue includes the first two parts in a mini-series of articles on the history of woodland in Swaledale and Arkengarthdale by Rob Macdonald. We shall be publishing the other articles over the next few months. We are again indebted to Helen Bainbridge for confirming their historical accuracy.

Do you have any photographs suitable for the front cover of the Gazette? I'm always on the lookout for something unusual, topical or current. They need to be of good quality so that they enlarge well, so bear that in mind when you take them or indeed when you send them to me. Contact me to discuss ways of sending the image if you have a problem. **Jackie Pope**



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## **ADVERTISING**

For information on advertising and prices, please contact the treasurer. Advertising copy, should be sent to the editor.

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  
E-mail: [editor@reethGazette.co.uk](mailto:editor@reethGazette.co.uk)  
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:

April issue: March 13th

May issue: April 11th

## **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.

## Good Friday Walk 7 April 2023



### A Hike - A Pilgrimage - A Witness -The Stations of the Cross

All are invited to take part, for all or some of the route - children with an accompanying adult and dogs (on leads at all times) are most welcome. please bring a packed lunch, hot drinks will be provided at the lunch stop.

8.00 am Cars leave from Grinton Church. There will not be a bus, but we encourage car sharing and lifts. If you need a lift, please contact Rev Caroline Hewlett, 01748 884706.

8.55am Assemble at Keld URC for safety information

9.00am Short Service at Keld URC; leave 9.10 am

10.30am Service at St. Mary's Muker, leave 11 am

12.30pm Gunnerside Methodist Church - lunch stop

1.10pm Short Service at Gunnerside Methodist Church

1.25pm Assemble and off

3.30pm Low Whita Bridge

5.00pm Arrive at Grinton - refreshments available

5.30pm Service in St. Andrew's Church

Total mileage - 12.5 miles(ish)

After the last service - transport back up the dale, as far as Keld, as required, to collect cars

Strong footwear and waterproof clothing required. Dogs are welcome. To protect stock and also for the safety of the walkers **DOGS MUST BE KEPT ON LEADS AT ALL TIMES.**

The organisers will lead the walk; however, participants are responsible for their own safety. The precise route is subject to change dependent on conditions on the day. If the weather is really bad the services will take place as advertised, but there will be no organised walk.



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# REETH AND DISTRICT GAZETTE LTD

## Dales Police Crime Bulletin



Monthly Police Report  
January 9<sup>th</sup> / February 6<sup>th</sup>

Incidents of note over the last reporting period:

13<sup>th</sup> Jan: Report of theft of 35x acrow props and 1 x Stilsaw from the Wensley area.

Overnight 15<sup>th</sup> Jan: Theft of Quad bike from the Lunds area.

Between 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Jan: Theft of Quad bike from the Hudswell area.

Overnight 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb: Theft of plant trailer from the Satronside area.

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

6 - Theft

12- Abandoned calls

9 - Violence

8 - Road Traffic Collisions ( minor )

21 - Suspicious circumstances.

2 - Fraud.

3 - Criminal Damage.

1 - Vehicle offence.

3 - Burglary.

In total in the reporting period, for the area covered by Leyburn, 141 calls were received covering a variety of incidents.

Numerous calls in the Suspicious circumstances category were to do with the door to door sellers who

arrive in the area, CLAIMNG to be selling households goods as part of their Probation or to gain points towards an Apprenticeship scheme. Please do not feel that you are helping them in anyway, politely refuse, close the door and call North Yorkshire Police, providing a description and if possible any vehicle details.

**PCSO 5232 Don Watson**  
**PC 355 Heather Campbell**  
**PCSO Tracie Taylor - Page**  
**PCSO 5777 Sharon Diamond**

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## Concert for the Wensleydale Tournament

A concert in aid of the Wensleydale Tournament of Music and Speech, featuring entrants and winners from this year's Tournament, will be held at Wensleydale School at 7.30pm, on Friday March 31<sup>st</sup>. If you are not familiar with the Tournament, this will be an entertaining introduction to our long-standing event, and a chance for our talented participants to perform to a wider audience.

Ticket prices are £8 for adults, £5 for children (under 7s free), £20 for a family ticket (2 adults + 2 children).

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The Centre is still open during March as part of the Warm Spaces initiative supported by Richmondshire District Council on Wednesdays 10am - 4pm and Fridays, 10am - 2pm in the Cafe and Little Shop downstairs in the Centre. Free tea or coffee is available, newspapers, magazines, jigsaws and welcoming social company provided by one of our volunteers. The other venues in Leyburn also available are the Library, St Matthews Church and the Methodist Church.

A full programme of events is coming up during March including the Dixon County Band. After their sell out concert they have agreed to return so please buy your ticket early to ensure you are not disappointed! We also have a special screening of a Leyburn Archive film on Tuesday 28th. Proceeds from this will be split between the Centre and Yorkshire Air Ambulance. The other event is Life of Pi, a National Theatre Live cinema screening. Full details are on the website [www.leyburnartscentre.com](http://www.leyburnartscentre.com)

March is also the time when our 100 Club begins again so if you fancy a little flutter each month with an opportunity to win one of three cash prizes, please get in touch, only £12 for the year. All our volunteers are entitled to a 50% reduction on tickets for special events so if you have time on your hands and may be interested in joining us, please get in touch. Tel 01969 624510.

Jeannie Bishop

## The Bungalow, Arkengarthdale

Nine families own a large holiday bungalow in Arkengarthdale for their own use through a Trust set up in 1964.

Time passes and some families wish to leave due to age and/or ill-health. The Trust wishes to replace them by introducing new families.

For further information on joining The Bungalow Trust please contact either [francis.morgan73@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:francis.morgan73@hotmail.co.uk) or [helenspost@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:helenspost@hotmail.co.uk)

### Leyburn u3a Group March Meeting

The March meeting of Leyburn u3a is on Friday March 17th, 10.00am for 10.30am at the Arts & Community Centre, Richmond Road, Leyburn. Helen Guy will be talking about "Lead Mining in the Dales".

Visitors are always welcome. Annual Membership is just £12 or £20 for two people at the same address.

Future Meetings: April 21st: Fiona Andrews from the charity Dementia Forward

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## The Bungalow Trust, Langthwaite

I am a member of a group of nine families who own a large holiday cottage, 'The Bungalow', for their own use in Langthwaite. The families own 'The Bungalow' through a Trust.

'The Trust' is now almost sixty years old and the members of the Trust are looking to replace some members who wish to retire. Please see the advertisement to the left.

The Trust was formed by a group of students from the University of Leeds interested in the geology and mine workings of Arkengarthdale in the 1960s. They, but more possibly their wives and girlfriends, became fed up with camping and bought the 'The Bungalow' around 1965. The initial members of the Trust were Quakers; not all current members are now but a strong ethic of mutual respect and collaboration has always run through their activities.

The Bungalow was originally three miner's cottages brought together, first mentioned historically in 1658. Since 1965 'The Bungalow' has been thoroughly and sympathetically renovated. The Group membership gradually expanded to nine families. Time passes and the Trust now seeks to replace retiring members.

Malcolm Fox

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### **The Low Row Phoenix!**

After far too long in the doldrums, the Low Row & Feetham Literary Institute's future is starting to look a lot brighter! In the last year, a lot of work has gone on behind the scenes into looking at what Parishioners see for the future of this valuable and underused village asset. Following on from the AGM last year, when the new committee was elected to oversee the running of the hall, the decision was taken to finally grab the bull by the horns and to set firm plans in place for the total renovation of the Institute. A flyer was delivered to all the properties in the parish and many emails crossed the ether in order to find out just what people thought about their village hall and what they wanted see the Institute utilised for. The Committee was left in no doubt that there was indeed a future for the Low Row Institute, and that it was close to being now or never to begin the project to update and protect the future of the building. Grant applications were made to several organisations and local government bodies, and thanks to the generosity and valuable time of others, the renovation project will start in the Spring of 2023. Funds are now in place to begin the first phase of renovations with the replacement of the doors and windows with more energy efficient units at the beginning of March. This will be followed, during summer, by the removal and renovation of the roof, which will be fully lined and insulated at this time. Other works, which

include the installation of energy efficient lighting and alterations to the heating system, are also scheduled to take place in advance of Phase 2 works. This will greatly reduce the carbon footprint of the building, bring down heating costs and make for a much warmer and more welcoming building for people and groups to use. Fund raising is currently underway for Phase 2 of the renovation, which will include the insulation, dry lining and decoration of the hall's internal walls. There are several more phases of works to be funded, which will include new washrooms and toilets, purpose-built storage for user equipment, full redecoration of all rooms, equipment purchases etc. etc.

It is a tall order and all this will need to be completed before the building is fit for purpose in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Yet a solid start has already been made. Apart from Grant applications, a 'Friends of Low Row Institute' group has been formed, their purpose being to assist in general fund-raising by helping to organise a program of events throughout the year. Their efforts will not only raise funds for the work but will help to revitalise the building and encourage people to meet, greet, entertain each other, and fully utilise the building as a community asset. An architect and contractors are currently being consulted and the disabled access/egress issues will also finally be addressed. We will issue further updates as work progresses so watch this space and rest assured that in the meantime, much is going on behind the scenes!

**Low Row Institute Committee**

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Eileen Martin and family would like to  
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Front Cover SMRT undertaking steep  
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## Swift, Swallow and House Martin counters needed!

**Wing It!** The project giving a helping hand to the swifts, swallows and house martins of Swaledale & Arkengarthdale.



The days are getting longer and it will only be a few more weeks before the swallows, house martins and swifts of summer return to our dales to claim their nest sites and breed. These special birds need you! Read on to find out how you can help them by recording what you see.

For the last two seasons we have asked you to record sightings of these species to help us make a map of where they nest. We used this information to decide where to put up nest boxes, choosing sites in areas that are already popular hotspots to act as nesting hubs. By the time the birds return this spring we will have completed our second winter of nest box installations, all based on the data collected.

With our project gaining momentum, it's now more important than ever for us to work out where our swifts, swallows and house martins are nesting and how they are using the sites we have created for them to measure the success of our efforts and guide our future installations.

We also want to find out how they are using our landscape by noting where

they are foraging, and what habitats are important to them.

We are therefore appealing for volunteers to get involved with the following:

- Adopt a local patch, village or street and keep an eye on it throughout the summer to find out what is nesting where.
- Visit known nest sites and some sites we have installed over the last 2 years to check if they are being used.
- Count the number of birds using and foraging over a specific patch on a regular basis.

With a network of volunteers spread across both Swaledale and Arkengarthdale, we can learn a little more about how the birds use the two dales as a whole.

You don't need to know lots about birds to help- being keen is what matters! We will be holding some informal sessions (late March) to make sure everyone knows what we want them to count and how to do it.



If you can spare a small amount of time to become one of our data collectors, please do get in touch via: [info@sustainableswaledale.org](mailto:info@sustainableswaledale.org)

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**Stacey Adlard**

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# REETH AND DISTRICT GAZETTE LTD

## If Trees Could Talk...

### 1 - A Woodland History of Swaledale

Trees are silent partners in the long history of Swaledale and Arkengarthdale. They played a major role in creating our soils, fuelled our early smelt mills and provided timber for the lead mines that followed.

The location of most of our villages can be traced back to forest clearings and until cheap coal became available, local woods and hedgerows warmed the homes within them.

It's generally accepted that Swaledale and Arkengarthdale have more trees today than in their recent past. This is borne out by old photos, some a hundred years old or more, which show a landscape that is more open, or more bare (or both), depending on your point of view.

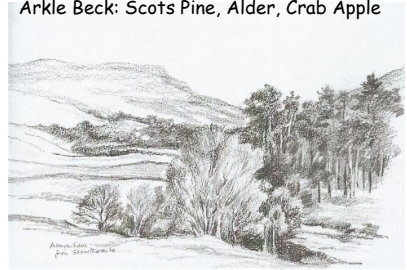


The photo above (late 19<sup>th</sup> C) shows Isles Cottages in the centre-ground with what was then the eastern edge of Rowleth Wood just visible on the far left. The patches shaded green show the current extent of woodland, bearing out the accepted wisdom.

Old photos are very evocative, conjuring up images of lost tradition, although in fact they capture only a

single moment in time. An 1836 Act of Parliament required a very detailed set of tithe maps to be compiled (for land taxes) which have areas of woodland marked on them. The yellow shading on the old photo shows the extent of Rowleth Wood represented on the Melbecks tithe map.

Arkle Beck: Scots Pine, Alder, Crab Apple



Plenty of old photos show rather less variation over time than this one, but there are enough old maps and old photos to convince us that there was never a time when Swaledale's woodlands stood still for long.

Photos and maps take us back so far, but we have sources going far deeper into the past. Documents record the location, size, structure and use of woodland reaching as far back as the Middle Ages, as does evidence from existing ancient trees. Archaeology, pollen analysis and carbon dating reveal pre-historic evidence.

This article is the first of a set of seven that attempt to present a short history of Swaledale and Arkengarthdale's woodland since the last Ice Age, continuing on page 50 with 'the wild wood'.

**Rob Macdonald**

Drawing by Jocelyn Campbell reproduced by kind permission of Alison Piet and Swaag.

### **Quakers through to Durham County FA Semi-Final thanks to Ellen's Winning Penalty Strike and Save!**

Ellen Atkinson, in Year 13, has been a goalkeeper since she was four-years-old and her experience and devotion to football paid off in dividends in her most recent game for Darlington FC Women's team. Neck and neck at 3-3, the game against Consett went to sudden-death penalties. It was a very close call but Ellen not only scored the fifth penalty but then put her gloves back on, returned to the goal to make the match-winning save to put the Quakers through 5:4 on penalties to the semi-finals of the County FA Women's Cup.



Manager Shaun MacKenzie said: "Ellen volunteered to take a penalty -- we know she can put them away as she does that in training. She was going to be in the first five, but we decided to put her sixth just in case -- and that's how it worked out."

Headgirl Ellen started playing football for a mixed team for the Two Dales

Football Club in Reeth when she started school, playing in matches across Richmondshire and Wensleydale. She left the club to join Bedale Bluebirds, the girls' team at Bedale Football Club, when she was 13 and played in a local league in North Yorkshire for their U13 to U16 teams. After playing for Darlington Spraire FC's Under 18 team, Ellen moved to Darlington Quakers A team in September 2021 as their reserve goalkeeper, becoming their first goalkeeper in September 2022. The team plays in the Durham Ladies League and recently competed in the Vitality FA cup, getting through the first three rounds.

Ellen is a keen athlete and demonstrates a huge passion and talent for football. After excelling in GCSE PE, Ellen opted to specialise in Sport and is studying Triple CTEC Sport. She is highly regarded in school and college for her dedication to Sport and how she encourages and motivates her peers and younger students to take part in different physical activities and team sports. She regularly leads at sporting events, including the primary transition visits such as football and athletics.

Ellen said: "I have always enjoyed the thrill of being a goalkeeper and being under pressure - in fact, I perform better under pressure! I have really enjoyed playing for all the teams over the years, and it's been privilege to be selected as Darlington Quakers' A-team's first goalkeeper. I sort of fell in to being a

## REETH AND DISTRICT GAZETTE LTD

goalkeeper, it was my first position when I was four playing at Reeth and I've stayed there ever since! I am intending to go to university to study Paramedic Science so I will be sad to leave the Quakers but I hope to join another squad at university."

Miss Abbey, Lead Teacher for PE, said: "Ellen is an outstanding goalkeeper! She has committed many years of training to develop her skills and work her way to first choice goalkeeper for Darlington. Saving a penalty and then turning around and scoring the winning penalty against another goalkeeper not only reflects her versatility as a player but also her mental strength to succeed under such pressure."

(Photo credits - Darlington F.C Women and Girls Football)



Jill Lundberg

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# REETH AND DISTRICT GAZETTE LTD



## North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service

With spring comes new life. For us, it brings new firefighters! At the time of writing we have two new recruits. One preparing for the practical selection tests and one preparing for the initial 2 weeks training.

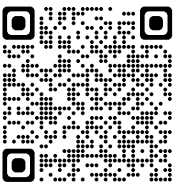
### Reeth Station

Here are just some of the criteria you must meet to become a firefighter. You must have a C grade or equivalent GCSE Maths and English or take a test on both of these. You must have a good standard of eyesight and hearing, and be physically fit.

On a practical selection day, the following must be completed;

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- Ladder climb and leg lock preparing to work from a ladder
- Ladder lift simulation 30kg up to chest height
- Enclosed space crawl with obscured mask
- Equipment assembly, accurate and quick assembly of a piece of mechanical equipment

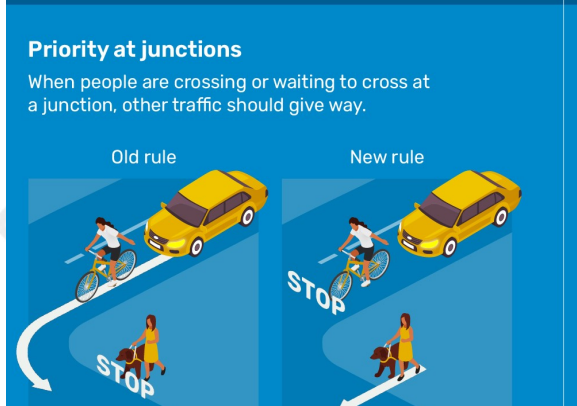
If you think you can do this scan this QR code to learn more about how to become an on-call firefighter in North Yorkshire.



“Hierarchy: A system in which people or things are arranged according to their importance.”

It's been around for a year now. Did you realise the highway code has been updated? 73% of households in the UK own one or more cars, but how many of them are following the rules of the road?

The new hierarchy of road users clearly places those road users most at risk in the event of a collision at the top of the hierarchy. It's nice to be nice, so make sure you are!





## March Update

### **Musical Cultures - FREE workshops and concerts**

Our final world music workshop takes place on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2023, 10.00am - 5.00pm at Thoraby Village Hall (DL8 3SU). Bhangra Dance and Drums with Hardeep Sahota and Sunil Kaylan promises to be another exciting and informative day finding out about different musical cultures and styles while making-music together. Sessions are FREE to attend for ages 11-19yrs. We are happy to consider other ages too, please get in touch. PLEASE register your place as we only have a limited number of spaces available.

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 three more drop-in 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.

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> March, 6.30pm -8.30pm [Zoom] and Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2.00pm-5.00pm at Thoraby Village Hall (DL8 3SU). Register to secure your place 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.

**Make Music Day 2023** - full details will be shared next month. We would like to hear from creative and performing arts groups and organisations who would like to take part in our celebrations at St. Matthews Church and The Methodist Church Hall, Leyburn. The programme of activities and events for all ages will run from Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> to Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June.

**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)**



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## Keld Resource Centre Events in March

### 12<sup>th</sup> March: Felt Workshop

10.00am - 15.30pm: Keld Literary Institute Upper Room A workshop led by local felt artist Louise Curnin on how to create a felted landscape. Charge: £49 pp including all materials

### 19<sup>th</sup> March: Mosses of the Upper Swaledale

13.00pm - 16.00pm: Approx 1 mile Led by Sue & Les Knight, includes introductory session in the visitor centre and local walk to identify and study specimens. Meet outside Keld Resource Centre. Limited to 8 places available. Charge: £7 pp.

Full details and tickets available via Eventbrite, or Email [helenguy47@gmail.com](mailto:helenguy47@gmail.com)



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## REETH AND DISTRICT GAZETTE LTD

### Low Row Institute Craft Fair—18th March

**Just** in time for Mother's Day and with Free entry to the public, a Craft Fair is being held at the Low Row Institute! Doors open to the public at 10.30 and the event closes around 2.30-3.00pmish according to demand!

Items for sale will all be produced by our superb local Crafts Folk and will include; Handmade Cards, Felt Work, Cushions/fabric, books, paintings, Woodwork, Felt pictures, handmade soaps, wool work, Home décor, shawls, crochet, blankets and more!

Tea, Coffee and cake will also be on sale, so please do come along and bring your friends and relatives if you can! The Dales are home to some fantastic arts and crafts people, and this is your chance to come along and take home something unique from the area!

The Institute is hoping to hold 4 Crafting events every year, basically one event per season to showcase our local products and artists. There will also be a consultation with our Crafters to decide upon the dates best for them throughout the year, and they will therefore be able to make future plans accordingly.

Included will also be a slide show, featuring local photos of Swaledale's recent and not so recent past, and shoppers will be able to take home a CD/DVD of the photos of their very own for a small fee. Look forward to seeing you there!

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# REETH AND DISTRICT GAZETTE LTD

## Church Opening Times and Services in March

<b>5<sup>th</sup> March</b>	9.15 am	St. Mary's Muker	<i>Eucharist</i>
	10.30 am	St. Joseph & Francis Zavier Richmond	<i>Mass</i>
	10.30 am	Low Row URC	<i>Songs of Praise</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>	Gunnarside Methodist	<i>Holy Communion followed by Church Council meeting</i>
	3.30 pm	Reeth Evangelical Congregational	
<b>7<sup>th</sup> March</b>	7.00 pm	Holy Trinity Low Row	<i>Lent Meeting</i>
<b>12<sup>th</sup> March</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 Zavier Richmond	<i>Mass</i>
	10.30 am	Richmond Methodist	<i>Circuit Service</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	
<b>14<sup>th</sup> March</b>	7.00 pm	Gunnarside Methodist	<i>Lent Meeting</i>

### **Church of England**

Reverend Caroline Hewlett  
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 March

<b>19<sup>th</sup> March</b>	9.15 pm	St. Mary's Muker	<i>Holy Communion BCP</i>
<b>Mother-ring</b>	10.30 am	Low Row URC	
<b>Sunday</b>	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	Gunnerside Methodist	<i>Holy Communion</i>
	3.30 pm	Reeth Evangelical Congregational	
<b>21<sup>st</sup> March</b>	7.00 pm	Keld Resource Centre	<i>Lent Meeting</i>
<b>26<sup>th</sup> March</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>
	6.30 pm	Reeth Evangelical Congregational	
<b>28<sup>th</sup> March</b>	7.00 pm	St. Mary's Arkengarthdale	<i>Lent meeting</i>

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# REETH AND DISTRICT GAZETTE LTD

## Muker Parish Council Minutes of Parish Council Meeting Held December 2022

Present: Cllr Calvert, Cllr Reynoldson, Cllr Metcalfe and Cllr Whitehead presiding.

Apologies: Cllr Jill McMullon, Cllr Peacock and Cllr Porter

Clerk: Mr Michael Cleminson.

### Matters Arising:

**Keld Signs** are ordered but have yet to be fitted.

### Finance:

**Precept for 2023/24.** A discussion took place for the setting of the precept and it was unanimously agreed that the precept would remain at £2000.00 as per the previous year.

### Highways:

Engineers comments about the **vegetation and wall by the beck from Muker bridge** to the toilets; a full inspection will take place in the Summer of 2023 to assess works required. Cllrs welcomed any assessment and improvement of the wall and clearing of vegetation.

The **Highways site visit** took place with Steve Barker and Cllrs Peacock, Porter and Whitehead - a number of sites requiring attention by Highways were visited within the Parish for future attention.

**Tan Hill Road** at Pit Hill on the sharp bend and the **Buttertubs bend**: not considered because of cost and lack of reported incidents. Cllrs believed that was not acceptable and safety chevron warnings signs are required to alert drivers of the danger. Clerk to contact

Highways.

Damage to 4 **bridges in Swaledale**. The bridges were damaged by an articulated lorry with a large plant vehicle as its load all around 4.40 to 4.45pm on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2022: the bridges at Usha Gap, Scarr House and Thwaite were damaged. The incidents were reported to Highways on Wednesday, a number of Parishioners witnessed the damage and the registration number NK17 LBY of the vehicle was taken. The incidents have also been reported to the Police Reference NYP-15122022-0169, some dash-cam footage is available.

Councillor Calvert requested that Highways be contacted for additions to the **signs for Silver Hill**, where it has become increasingly common for Caravans and Camper Vans to ground their vehicles on the camber in the road and block it to traffic for considerable time. It is particularly prevalent during the summer months. Councillor Whitehead asked that Highways be contacted to request that 30 mph signs be installed alongside the village name signs in **Keld**, as it was considered that 60mph is too high for this type of road

### Richmondshire D.C:

It was noted that the two lighting issues at Muker and Thwaite had been resolved

**NYCC**:- Nothing to report

### YDNPA:

Ref R/06/151B An amended application has been submitted and circulated, after careful consideration the councillors are still of the opinion that this application cannot be supported and stand by their original

## REETH AND DISTRICT GAZETTE LTD

decision. The Clerk to submit a revised response by 16<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

YLCA:- NTR

**Correspondence/AOB: Kearton Hotel**  
Councillor Reynoldson asked if it was possible to register the Kearton Hotel as a Community Asset, Cllr Whitehead said that hotels in general are exempt and could not be a Community Asset.

**Date and Time of Next Meeting:**  
7.30pm Thursday 26th January 2023

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## Bedale Archaeology & History Society



Our next meeting is at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 7 March and will be held by Zoom only. Dr Jon Kenny MCIfA will give a talk entitled "From the Iron Age to the Romans in the Southern Vale of York"

Members will be sent the link. Non-members please e-mail [bahsoc@outlook.com](mailto:bahsoc@outlook.com) for the link and details of how to pay (£3 per screen).

The April meeting is on 4th April at 7.30pm in Bedale Hall, when Dr Emma J. Wells MCIfA FRSA SFHEA, University of York will be talking on "Heaven on Earth: Cathedral Building in the Gothic Age"

The membership fee has once again been held at £12 for the year (those in full-time education free) and is now due. Full details can be obtained from the Treasurer Tom Fairey, 6 Stapleton Close, Bedale, DL8 2UA, or contact us at [bahsoc@outlook.com](mailto:bahsoc@outlook.com)

Patricia Fairey



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### Funds allocated to community led housing scheme

A £570,000 project to create three more affordable homes in the village of Hudswell has received financial backing from district councillors.

Members of Richmondshire's Corporate Board agreed in January to allocate £325,000 of Section 106 money to the community led housing scheme. It will deliver three homes built in collaboration with Teesside University including a timber framed house that will adapt to people's needs as their life situation changes.

The Hudswell Community Charity - established in 2015 - has already delivered six homes for rent for people with a strong local connection. This new scheme adds another three to its portfolio.

"Hudswell is leading the way in developing affordable homes for local people. The charity is a driving force behind the success of its schemes," said Council Leader, Councillor Angie Dale.

"I am pleased that we are able to help them by allocating this money to allow the latest exciting scheme to reach fruition."

The District Council has also helped deliver ten units of affordable housing in West Witton and Bainbridge with grants totalling £422,250. Section 106 money is collected from housing developers to provide for delivery of affordable housing which is often hard to deliver in the more rural parts of the district.

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## **New North Yorkshire Council launches on 1 April 2023**

### **Priorities for the new council**

A host of opportunities ranging from new jobs, combatting climate change, and introducing more affordable housing are among key priorities for a council that will launch in the spring to cover the whole of North Yorkshire.

The **new North Yorkshire Council**, which represents the biggest overhaul of local democracy in nearly 50 years, will provide a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to help tackle some of the biggest challenges facing communities across the county.

Among major issues outlined in a draft Council Plan for the new authority are a need to attract new businesses while developing traditional sectors, such as farming and tourism, and ensuring there are the best career opportunities available for young people so they continue to live in North Yorkshire.

The leader of North Yorkshire County Council, Cllr Carl Les, who will assume the leadership of the new authority from April 1, said: "This plan sets out our vision, ambitions and priorities for North Yorkshire and the approach we are taking to achieve them. We are committed to delivering high-performing and value-for-money services.

"We will encourage more involvement from local people and partners by championing local action and creating opportunities for local communities to come together to identify solutions and develop their own priorities."

### **Serving its customers**

One of the biggest themes for the new council will be how it will serve communities to deliver services ranging from education and highways to waste collection and disposal, planning and economic development.

Residents will be given simpler and easier access to services which will be overseen by a single organisation, instead of the current structure of the county council and seven district and borough authorities. This means:

- a single website and phone number for communities to access support and services
- a main office is due to be retained in each area to provide public access to locally-based staff
- a network of local access points in towns and villages is also set to be established.

### **Scale of the new council's operations**

The new council will be launched following the merger of the county council and the seven district and borough authorities to pave the way for a long-awaited devolution deal, with the Government due to hand decision-making powers and millions of pounds in funding to local political leaders.

However, Cllr Les acknowledged the immense financial pressures which the new council will face, with a shortfall of more than £30 million predicted for its first financial year alone.

The scale of the new council's operations will see it have an overall spend of about £1.4 billion, including £343 million on schools, and work will be undertaken on a major strategy to



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balance the authority's books.

Improving public transport and increasing active travel such as walking and cycling will help to reduce carbon dioxide emissions which lead to climate change, along with increasing recycling rates and reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill. The new council aims to be carbon neutral by 2030.

The affordable homes crisis in North Yorkshire will be alleviated through major house-building projects to help to ensure that families and young people have the opportunity to buy their own homes.

Existing sectors such as farming and tourism will be supported, while skills are due to be developed for emerging industries including cyber, bio-economy and low-carbon jobs.

The draft plan includes details for safeguarding both vulnerable adults and children and ensuring the best possible opportunities for almost 83,000 children who attend schools and nurseries, including more than 11,000 pupils with special educational needs or disabilities.

Further details are available online at <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/new-council-and-devolution-north-yorkshire>



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A photograph of the interior of The Old School Muker Art Gallery & Craft Centre. The room has a green wall and is filled with framed artwork. In the foreground, there are several wooden tables displaying various craft items, including a large sculpture of a reclining animal and other smaller pieces. The lighting is warm and focused on the displays.

**The Old School Muker**  
Art Gallery & Craft Centre

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Tel: 01748 886155  
email: [ask@theoldschoolmuker.co.uk](mailto:ask@theoldschoolmuker.co.uk)

### 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 **fremingtonvil-**



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### Time to get walking again!

With Spring on its way we start to think about getting out to walk in the beautiful English countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks?

Walking in Yorkshire <https://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/yorkshire> has loads of walks to download and print, free. It also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

John Harris (who maintains the website) said 'There is so much walking information on the web but it can be difficult to find. Walking in Yorkshire (part of the Walking in England website) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you'.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So home or away, check out the websites and get walking! **John Harris**

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1 Incident this edition

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2023:

**Incident 03: 04/02/2023:** Our search dogs deployed out of area to assist Teesdale MRT with an ongoing search.

Although quiet on the call out front, behind the scenes we've been maintaining all the equipment, doing our weekly vehicle checks, training, inducting our 4 new starters & we even managed time to give a talk & tour of the base to the Mountain Leader Training Association.  
We now have stock of our 2023 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, 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)

**The front cover picture shows SMRT in action.** The team undertook some steep ground rope rescue training in January. We'd usually be training in the snow, but we settled for gale force winds this time!

**SMRT**

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### Booking for Swaledale Festival 2023 opens on Monday 13 March

This year, 54 music, arts and walking events will be brought to the chapels, churches, halls and outdoor spaces of the sublime northern Yorkshire Dales.

There is a special focus on our place and our community. As well as concerts by local choirs, bands and soloists, there are poetry walks in the landscape, puppet shows for children and families, late night astronomy sessions, workshops, comedy, film screenings and exhibitions by local artists.

There are plenty of top international performers too - from Australia, the Middle East, India, Africa, Canada, the Americas, Japan, China and all over the UK and Europe.

The action begins on Sat 27 May with a talk on the Northern Dales Night Skies by astronomer Paul Clark at Reeth Memorial Hall. Paul's astronomical, geographical and historical narrative will be supported by images and videos of our glorious dark sky, and some sights and sounds of the northern Dales.

On Sun 28 May there will be a screening of the ever-popular film *Wallace & Gromit: The Wrong Trousers* at The Garden Rooms at Tennants, but with a difference; the

animation will be accompanied with live music from one of the most successful competition brass bands in history - WFEL Fairey Band!

WFEL Fairey Band will also do an evening performance at 19:30 in which they will showcase a full programme of established repertoire, as well as some exciting new arrangements.

On Mon 29 May at Reeth Congregational Church there will be a solo performance from the remarkable flute and percussion virtuoso, Eliza Marshall, who has worked with giants such as Stevie Wonder and Paul McCartney. Using multitrack delays and loops to build up layers of sounds, Eliza's solo performances combine African beats with her own haunting melodies and harmonies, creating a glorious fusion of music from around the world.

Later the same day, the award-winning Dutch violinist and 'climate composer' Tim Kliphuis and his talented ensemble will perform *The Five Elements*, a rousing ode to the Earth that embraces classical, gypsy, jazz and folk. This show has toured internationally and united audiences round the world. Don't miss the chance to experience this special concert at St. Mary's in Richmond.



Tim Kliphuis and his talented ensemble

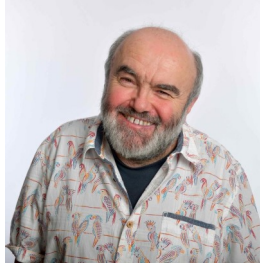
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On Wed 31 May, Lempen Puppet Theatre will perform *Cardboard Carnival* at the beautiful Georgian Theatre Royal. Expect a compelling celebration of the magic of puppetry with lots of cardboard, a little help from Charles Darwin, and accompanied by Camille Saint-Saëns' fabulous *Carnival of the Animals* music. Lempen is one of Britain's great touring puppetry companies and regularly take their original shows to international festivals across Europe. They will be running some puppetry workshops for young people in the lead-up to the Festival; we will share more information soon.

On Thurs 1 June we are thrilled to welcome the popular and hugely respected expert Ronnie Archer-Morgan from the BBC's Antiques Roadshow to give the Reeth Lecture at Reeth Congregational Church. Ronnie will talk about some of his favourite objects, his extraordinary life, and his new book, *Would It Surprise You To Know...?*

Also on 1 June, award-winning vocalist Claire Martin OBE and Scottish guitar legend Jim Mullen will celebrate the Great American Songbook and their shared love of the great jazz singers at St. Andrew's Church in Grinton. Expect stylish re-workings of much loved classics by Arlen, Porter and Gershwin alongside more soulful songs by Stevie Wonder and Donny Hathaway.

On Sat 3 June the immensely popular British comedian Andy Hamilton will share an evening of comic reflection, reminiscence and revelation at The Garden Rooms at Tennants. Andy will look back over his 60-ish



years on the planet and try to answer some questions. A hilarious and illuminating night out with a master of comedy!

The excellent Dales poet Mary-Jane Holmes will lead a walking and writing workshop in beautiful upper Swaledale on Tues 6 June. There will be some moderate walking and fun writing exercises, and it's open to anyone who's interested in any genre of writing.

On the evening of Tues 6 June Connaught Brass, a dynamic young brass quintet who are taking the chamber music world by storm, will perform Handel, Fauré, Rossini in St. Mary's Church, Richmond. These talented musicians form part of this year's Young Artists Platform which showcases tomorrow's major stars. Highly recommended!

On Wed 7 June we welcome back Australian guitarist Craig Ogden, a giant of the classical world, to perform in the beautiful acoustic of Grinton church. Craig's solo recital will include music by Dowland, Bach, Rodrigo, Coste, Sinesi and Villa-Lobos.

These are just a small selection of a whirlwind of diverse events, including film, guided walks, local bands, free art exhibitions and more.

Browse the full programme and book tickets at [www.swalefest.org](http://www.swalefest.org), or call our Box Office on 01748 880019 for assistance.

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### The Arts Society Wensleydale presents "250 years of the Royal Academy of Arts London"

In 2018 The Royal Academy of Arts celebrated its 250th anniversary, so it is an opportune time to explore its history and the role it has played in the development of British art. We will look at the position of artists in London before and after the formation of the Academy in 1768 and some of the characters involved, from the first

President, Sir Joshua Reynolds, and other establishment figures, to artists who have taken a more oppositional stance, whether individually, such as Reynolds' great contemporary and rival Gainsborough, or as a group, such as the (initially) clandestine Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood, a group of young rebel artists who sought to subvert the Academy from within. Like any important institution, the Academy has been embroiled in intrigue and controversy over the course of its history and no scandal or outrage will remain unexposed as we trace the history of one of Britain's most important cultural bodies, from inception to the present day.

The lecture will take place at Tennants Garden Rooms, Leyburn, DL8 5SG on Tuesday 28th March at 2pm. Everyone welcome, Guests £10.

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## 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 March: Hilary Jones

Coast to Coast—The Richmond & Lancaster Turnpike 1751

Hilary is a member of the Milestone Society and has researched the history of what we now call the Tank Road - imagine paying to leave Bellerby!

### 8th March: Beth Taylor

The Pennine Peat Life Project

Beth is the Data and Evidence Manager at Yorkshire Wildlife Trust. She will talk about the importance of recent work in the Dales and future plans.

### 15th March: Bernard Peel

Hills of the North Rejoice!

Bernard is a keen hill walker and amateur geologist. This talk will feature some highlights from his book "Raistricks and other hills over 1000 feet in the Dales"

### 22nd March: Helen Guy

The Kearton Brothers—Made in North Yorkshire

The Keartons were pioneering wildlife photographers from Thwaite, starting in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. They travelled worldwide and were responsible for several "firsts" in still, motion and aerial photography

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Talking Pictures

LIVING

Review by John Hunter

*With Bill Nighy nominated for an Oscar for this in the awards ceremony this month, here is John's review of the film, which we didn't have room to publish when it came out last November. Ed*

Surely heading for an award or two, here is a beautifully crafted film about dying...called 'Living'. Forsaking the widescreen CG and bombastic scores of many current hits, 'Living' begins with some charming 'cine' style colour footage of early 1950's London - shot in 'academy' ratio of course (a squarer frame - like old TVs) and surprisingly the whole movie is shown in this earlier format which itself creates a retro feel throughout. The story dates from a Russian novella of 1886, but it is really developed from the 1952 Japanese film 'Ikiru' directed by the great Kurosawa (Seven Samurai etc) - with a little nod to that classic Alec Guinness film 'Last Holiday' (1950) written by J B Priestley. Both stories depict a character who finds he has merely months to live and facing the quandary of what to do with the little time left. Common to both again is the hum drum, almost meaningless existence they seemed to have lived, but whereas Alec Guinness invents a new

persona and 'lives life to the full' initially, Mr Williams here, played beautifully throughout of course by Bill Nighy tries a night of debauchery at the seaside accompanied by a bohemian author he meets but, unfulfilled, he eventually drifts back to his office and galvanizes his staid team into one last triumph - the development of an East End playground which has been sent back to the 'in' tray for many months.

The story itself is slight, but milking it for every cent it is worth are a cast of recognisable Brits at the top of their game, led by Nighy, who reigns in some of his more regular 'ticks' and gives a subtle, moving and memorable turn as 'Mr Zombie' as his young co-worker has nicknamed him. This character (an office junior) is charmingly played by Aimee Lou Wood with a keen eye for 1950's demeanour. Theirs is a totally platonic relationship of course, but tongues still wag even in Mr Williams' own house.

The strained relationship with his son and the wonderful depiction of the buttoned up workplace of the day really hits a nerve, particularly in a scene later in the film when his principal four colleagues begin to unravel the man whilst travelling to work. One feels in the past they may never have spoken at all!

There is some dazzling cinematography by James Ramsey,



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with period style compositions befitting the smaller format, and some clever sound mixing throughout - note how in some 'long shot' conversational scenes the score almost drowns out the 'idle' chatter so we feel we are interloping by listening in. Credit too to composer Emile Leviannaise-Farouch whose original piano led music ranges from Lisztian to Nyman-esque tonal uncertainty. The use of some 'easy listening' tracks of the time throughout is a masterstroke (I spotted Ted Heath's big band and some Bobby Darin). Accolades to all involved! - Whilst a few more chuckles *may* have been woven into the dialogue, you can't fail to be moved by the marvellous writing and acting throughout. Don't miss it.

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## Blues in the Pews

Blues guitarist, Julian Socha, comes to St Mary's Richmond on Friday 31 March, courtesy of The Friends of St Mary's and Found The Note Music Club. Julian is a very experienced performer and will provide an evening of Acoustic Blues and Roots music. Support comes from local band Drystone Blues Collective.



Found The Note Music Club has been set up to bring different acts to Richmond and

Swaledale. John Meara, founder, said, "I am delighted to have Julian as our first headline. It will be a great night!" Working with The Friends of St Mary's, the inaugural show will be held inside the iconic church and help to fund charity work in the parish.

John Challis, from The Friends of St Mary's said, "It is great to see our lovely church being used by the wider community whilst raising some much needed funds at the same time. I am sure it will be a great success. Come and join us."

Bar

Tickets cost £6 on the door or £5 in advance from

Blues Night Record Store 86  
Frenchgate Richmond or  
Castle Hill Bookshop Richmond or  
[foundthenote@yahoo.com](mailto:foundthenote@yahoo.com)



### Garden waste subscriptions are now available

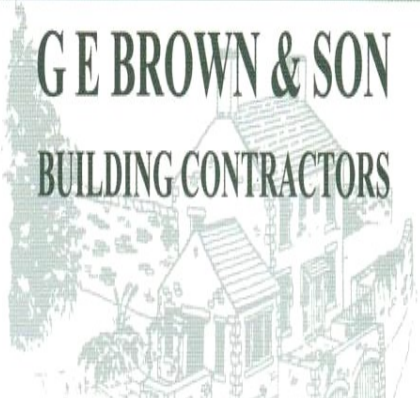
Householders are being urged to renew their subscriptions for the kerbside collection of green waste.

Licences for the service - which runs from 20 February to 24 November 2023 - can now be bought. It is £26.50 for the first bin and £18 for each extra bin. It includes an extra collection in January 2024 for Christmas trees.

Current customers will receive information on the service by post or email. New and existing customers can sign up for the service on RDC [garden waste page](#) or by calling 01748 829100.

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## Sustainable Swaledale

### Land use - more than just food vs nature

Podcast of an interview between **Tony Juniper, Chair of Natural England** and Sara King of Rewilding Britain on the importance of considering multiple factors in land use rather than just concentrating on the polar opposites of food production or rewilding. Listen at <https://tinyurl.com/mtwbuhff>

### Project Partners

Sustainable Swaledale is able to undertake projects only with the **support of partners** who provide funding, practical advice and support. We gratefully acknowledge the support of the following project sponsors:

- The Local Tree Nursery project has received practical support and funding from the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust (YDMT). YDMT also funded the Together for Trees project 2021-2022.
- The Meadow Magic and Together for Trees (2022-2023) projects have received support and funding from the lottery funded Tees Swale: naturally connected project.
- The WingIt project supporting swifts, swallows and martins has received support and funding from the Yorkshire Dales National Park Sustainable Development Fund (SDF). SDF funds also supported the start-up of the Incredible Edible project at the Reeth Surgery.

The group also receives practical advice and support from Yorkshire Dales National Park staff, especially the rangers team and the Heggs Castle cluster team. We will be working with DalesRunner in 2023.

### Reeth School: oil leakage

**The Environment Agency** has been called in to help clear up an oil leakage at Reeth Community Primary School. Remediation work and soil testing is taking place.

Source: Richmondshire Today, <https://tinyurl.com/yeyufp5f>

### Together for Trees - the movie

If you have seen calls for volunteers for tree planting but have not been sure what is involved, the **Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust** has released a video on the broader Together for Trees project which includes Sustainable Swaledale volunteers planting a site just outside Reeth. Check it out at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pLasSZOaojo>

If you would like to find out more about our volunteer activities and events, please contact us by email at [info@sustainable.swaledale](mailto:info@sustainable.swaledale) and come and join in the fun.

### Whashton residents improving biodiversity

Whashton Parish Meeting Committee members along with residents have been planting bulbs, fruit trees and bushes to improve pollinator opportunities and erected bird boxes around the village green. The work increases the attractiveness of the village and improves biodiversity. This



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work is the start of a bigger Holmedale project to connect the villages with pollinator routes along footpaths in the dale

Source: Richmondshire Today  
<https://tinyurl.com/ynmstez4>

Clickable links available via the Sustainable Swaledale website

**Margaret**

**Sustainable Swaledale Group**

**Find out more and join in:**

**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) where you can sign up to our free newsletters, and choose to support us as a member for £10 per year.

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### If Trees Could Talk...

#### 2 - The Wild Wood (20,000 to 7,000 years ago)

Ground zero. Twenty thousand years ago, there were no trees in Swaledale or Arkengarthdale. No grass or moorland. No sheep or cattle or people. If you were unlikely enough to find yourself where any of our villages sit now, you would find it a cold, dark and airless place, as you would be underneath hundreds of metres of ice. The last Ice Age, though waning, was in full control.

Fast forward thirteen thousand years, to a place on the high ground just south of Summer Lodge, between Swaledale and Wensleydale. Permanent ice is long gone, replaced first by tundra, then scrub, then trees. The first to come north were birch, juniper, aspen and pine. They were still here 7,000 years ago, although hazel was then dominant on this high ground. We know this from the remains of trees found beneath the peat at heights well above the current tree-line. And we know it from pollen samples taken from this very spot: dated and analysed.



Kisden Side: Juniper

There's nothing particularly special about this site. Samples from across the northern uplands tells a similar story with local variation.



Kisden Falls: Birch, Hazel

*Looking around from this high spot 7,000 years ago we see a varied landscape. Peat has just started to form in damper spots where mosses have taken hold, and the hazel cover, with its mix of trees and smaller scrub plants, is broken by patches of heath and outcrops of pine and birch.*

*Peering down into Swaledale below we see a mixed deciduous wooded landscape, dominated largely by oak but in some spots elm and (where drainage is poor) alder and willow. There are fewer clearings down in the dale.*

This is the wild wood. Coast to coast, Britain is covered by woodland. But it's not a continuous, densely packed, 'closed canopy'. It's a patchwork of trees and open spaces not unlike our

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classic conception of parkland. Large herbivores are roaming, notably auroch and red deer. They not only need open spaces with heath or grasses to graze, they create and maintain them by nibbling down young trees. Beavers are architects of open water spaces. And traces of charcoal suggest that fire, some natural, some set by people, maintains clearings and triggers the onset of peat formation.

Humans migrated north as the ice retreated and since then the landscape has been shaped by people, though few in number at this early time. Stone age people hunted, and soon learnt that by burning the wildwood, they could create clearings where grazing animals would congregate: more clearings meant more animals to hunt. Many clearings were temporary, and the wood grew back. Hazel regenerates quickly, which may be why it came to dominate on the high ground favoured by hunters.

Modern tourists who come to the Dales for a 'nature fix' are often surprised to learn that the moors, meadows and woods are features of human intervention. They are even more surprised to learn how long ago the interplay between people and the Dales' environment began.

The wild wood was never really wild.

Sources include: 'Studies in the Holocene Vegetation of Wensleydale', Anne Honeyman, 1985

Drawings by Jocelyn Campbell reproduced by kind permission of Alison Piet and Saaag.

**Rob Macdonald**

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.

The Gazette is online:  
[www.2dales.org.uk](http://www.2dales.org.uk)

## Diary Dates

### March

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

**Fri 3rd March** - World Day of Prayer, St Mary's, Arkengarthdale, 2.30pm

**Fri 10th Mar** - Whist and Domino Drive, Keld Public Hall, 7.30pm

**Sat 18th Mar** - Low Row Craft Fair 10.30 onwards Low Row Literary Institute

**Tues 28th Mar** - The Arts Society Wensleydale lecture, Tennants, 2pm

**Fri 31st Mar** - Concert for Wensleydale Tournament, Wensleydale School 7.30pm

### April

**Friday 7th Apr** - Good Friday Walk, assemble at Keld URC at 8.55am

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