

REETH & DISTRICT GAZETTE

ISSUE NO. 356 FEBRUARY 2026



*Your local news magazine
for the two dales*

PRICELESS BUT DONATIONS WELCOME

Keld Resource Centre - 2026

A New Vision . . . and Name!

From January 2026 Keld Resource Centre became known as **Keld Heritage Centre**.

This was to better reflect our charitable and project aims of preserving and promoting the heritage, legacy and traditions of Keld and Upper Swaledale. The decision follows a period of major growth and expansion, most notably the successful launch of the **Old School Museum** and the recent acquisition of the extensive collection from the **Swaledale Museum** in Reeth. These developments have helped to establish the organisation's role as a central hub for local history and culture in the Upper Dale and has encouraged the Board of Directors/Trustees to ensure our name fully supports our future purpose and vision. Our growing local history Archive Library also suggests this name change is appropriate to fully reinforce our core aim of safeguarding and sharing the heritage of the Upper Dale.

We also launched our new website early January 2026 to reflect our new re-brand, so make sure to visit www.keldheritage.co.uk; our new site will enable us to share more of our archive photographs and documents online and make our Local History archives accessible to anyone, regardless of their location. Otherwise, it is business as usual in Keld - **The Visitor Centre** and **Old School Museum** will remain open daily. Admission is free, but donations are

welcomed. **The Manse** continues to be available for bookings for relaxing breaks and retreats. All income supports Keld Heritage Centre's community project work. We have also launched our 2026 Events Programme, with new workshops, talks and walks for all to enjoy.

Helen Guy, Curator/Project Manager and Trustee/Director summed it up: We're thrilled to give our Centre a name that truly reflects the scope of our work. Keld Heritage Centre is not just a group of buildings; it is now the home for Upper Dale's history, ensuring the traditions, family history and stories are safeguarded and shared for future generations.

Finally, a huge thank you to our growing team of Volunteers who support the Project in so many ways - be it leading walks, providing refreshments at our events, cleaning, decorating and maintenance work; and to everyone who supports us by attending our events and donating items to the museum - it is all greatly appreciated. **Ian Wharton**

Cover photo: shows the Keld Heritage Centre, taken by Alison Wharton

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Donations

Can be made through our collecting tins in: CB Inn, Copper Kettle, Dales Bike Centre, Hudson House, Muker Tea Shop and Store, Punch Bowl Inn, Red Lion, Reeth Gift Shop, Reeth Post Office, Swaledale Woollens, and The Old School in Muker or by bank transfer to 77-91-29 40807260. using the reference "Supporter". Thank you.

Gazette Deadlines

The deadlines for the next two months are:

March issue: February 9th

April issue: March 9th

Please Note: We will endeavour to publish all suitable items submitted by the deadline date but this is at the sole discretion of the editor.

Posting The Gazette: Issues can vary in page number and so weight over the year. Postage will require a Large Letter size and will likely cost £2.00 2nd class, or £3.60 1st class but please check with the Post Office.

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Jessica's Essay—a Response

I have read with great interest Jessica Rukin's award winning essay...***A year of my life on a hill farm*** as published in the December edition of the Gazette... I congratulate her.

Her story is written with great knowledge, passion and feeling for one so young, describing in detail the sheep rearing and husbandry cycles, the challenges, successes and the detailed planning to ensure continuation and improvement of blood lines in their flock.

I would encourage Decision Makers at both Regional and National level to read the story to gain an understanding of the dales farmers' lives and challenges to help influence policies.

The story brought back many memories of my life in Swaledale, 'up in Low Row'. I visited the Keld area with my Mum, Phyllis who had lived at Skeugh Head when attending Keld School, to visit her cousins at Angram, Thorns, Hoggarths and West Stonesdale. We travelled by Percivals bus and when Billy Burrell was driving, he would take the bus to Park Bridge to turn around and provide us a lift halfway to two of our destinations. My Dad, Kenneth, William Sunter along with other Calvert's workers, spent many weeks in the 1950s repairing, renovating and building property in the Keld area. Jessica's story helped me remember many of my childhood 'days out'.

However having lived away since 1965, heughed in East Yorkshire overlooking the Humber estuary and Bridge for some 55 years, I still retain a close interest via many media channels, and telephone conversations of the

'happenings' in the Dale. In essence 'You can take the man out of the Dale but not the Dale out of the man'.

I welcome receiving the 'Gazette' monthly on line. I understand the amount of work which goes behind the scenes to produce each edition: well done the 'Gazette Team'. In return, I will make a donation to help secure and sustain future publications.

Trevor Barningham.



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The Guns of Navarone – a personal retrospective

By John Hunter

Released when I was but a toddler, 'Navarone' has a special place in my heart for several reasons. It was one of the first films I saw at the cinema (in one of many 'pre-TV' re-releases) - with school mates rather than parents, and being shown at the notorious Scunthorpe Essoldo, the film broke down five minutes from the end, so we only heard the climax in sound! (We asked the manager for a refund but his reply is unprintable here!). As well as featuring some of my favourite stars (from movies seen on TV as a growing boy) such as Gregory Peck and David Niven, the thunderous score was by my favourite 'golden age' composer, the great Dmitri Tiomkin. I was able to catch up on the film's finale in the mid '70s on its first TV showing (*such* an 'event' that the film poster was emblazoned across the whole cover of the TV Times) - but *only* on a small black and white TV! It wasn't until the release of 'Force 10 from Navarone' in 1978 that I would see my 'lost' footage on the giant anamorphic screen of the Birmingham

Gaumont (alas now demolished - it had *once* boasted the largest curved screen outside London) - as 'Force 10' began with the climax of its forerunner, albeit with a new soundtrack - and of course I was now studying music at the local University.

Years later, Jane and I were holidaying in Rhodes - and whilst I knew some of the film was shot there, assumed that little evidence would be left (nearly 40 years later) - but to the contrary, I recognised Rhodes harbour immediately from the acquisition of the small motor launch scene, and a trip down the coast to Lindos revealed not only the

acropolis at which our heroes rendezvous, but the actual cliff face looking out over the Aegean (minus the two huge guns of course!).

The film itself was part of a cycle of big-budget war movies with an all-star cast, like *The Great Escape* and *The Longest Day*, directed by J Lee Thompson, and based on Alistair MacLean's novel, which I'd read

as a boy. The only Oscar awarded to the movie was to the special effects team, and in those pre-CGI times they certainly do a good job of demolishing the entire mountain containing the guns in the climactic scenes - *I just wish I'd been able to see it at the Essoldo back in '71!*

Answer to last article - 'The Great Race' was that vintage car race movie, featuring the song 'The Sweetheart Tree'





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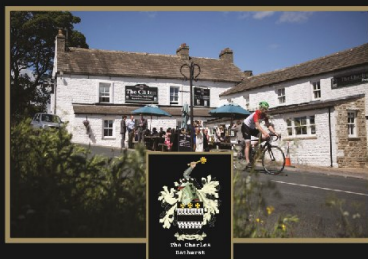
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World Day of Prayer 2026

Friday 6th March 14.30

Low Row URC

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 6th March 2026** when people will gather to celebrate the service prepared by the women of Nigeria. The Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 146 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 WILL GIVE YOU REST, COME.' Our sisters in Nigeria welcome us and lead

us for the Day of Prayer 2026 sharing the story of four Nigerian women. Join us as we pray together and reflect on the theme 'I will give you rest, come'.

We do hope you will join us on Friday 6th March at 2.30pm at Low Row URC. 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 Sue on 01748 886963. More information can be found on the WDP website: wwdp.org.uk.

**Sue Pellatt, on behalf of Christians
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As part of the YDNP Dark Skies Festival, Keld Heritage Centre are hosting

Dark Skies Festival Star Party Keld – with Richard Darn

Sign up for a stunning view of the night sky in the ultra dark village of Keld in Upper Swaledale, Friday 13th February 7.30-9.30pm

We'll take you on a magical tour using powerful telescopes and binoculars to spy distant galaxies and sparkling star clusters.

There will also be colourful talks to set the scene in the Heritage Centre and warm refreshments and biscuits afterwards.

Please note this event is hosted but not organised by Keld Heritage Centre. Please address all enquiries to the organiser, Richard Darn. Tickets available on the YDNP website events section.

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Minutes of the Melbecks Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 2nd October 2025 at Gunnarside Village Hall

Present were Councillors Silver, Calvert, Bowe and Trafford with Cllr R. Alderson chairing. Also present was NYC Councillor Yvonne Peacock and PC Heather Campbell. There was one member of the public present. The Clerk was Miss N. Adams.

1. Apologies for absence: None

2. Declaration of Interests: Councillor Silver declared an interest in item 8(e).

3. Minutes of the last meeting: The minutes of the last meeting, held on 17th July 2025 were approved.

4. Matters arising: A concern was raised about lack of communication between Parish Councillors, and it was agreed to set up a WhatsApp group for parish councillors, and any councillors who are not able to join this group will be informed of any important issues by the Clerk. The Clerk will also send a report for the Reeth Gazette following Parish Council meetings.

Following the decision made at the last meeting to send a letter regarding the tarmac which has been laid near the Institute, it was noted that this letter has not yet been sent but the Clerk will arrange for this to be done.

The notice board in Low Row has been repaired at a cost of £40.00 and the contractor was asked to send an invoice for their work and they will be asked to do the same at Gunnarside. Locality funding of £300 for the notice boards has been received, however if the decision is not to replace these at the moment, it was confirmed that this can be allocated to a new website instead.

5. Finance

a) Bank Account: Councillors noted that communication from Barclays Bank has been received. The clerk will investigate this.

b) Parish Precept arrangements for the financial year 2026/27. It was noted that this needs to be confirmed by December 2025 and this will be discussed at the next meeting.

c) New Assertion 10 in the Annual Governance and Accountability. Return for the year ended 31 March 2026 - Digital and Data Compliance. This new requirement around email addresses and website etc will be discussed at the next meeting.

PC Heather Campbell joined the meeting at 20:30

6. Highways

a) The clerk was asked to report the following highway concerns, and Councillor Peacock to be copied in:

At Rowleth Bottom, Low Row, the road is falling away on the south side of the road.

At Gunnarside, opposite the electric gate, the wall is damaged with a steep drop behind.

At Robin Gate, Low Row, the bollards are damaged on the south side of the road.

7. North Yorkshire Council

a) Consultation on proposals relating to Reeth and Gunnarside Federation: The Parish Council noted this consultation, and the date of the public meeting, which is taking place around how Reeth and Gunnarside Federation is currently working. The proposal is for Reeth to become an Infant School and Gunnarside a Junior School.

8. YDNPA

a) Protected tree applications: Land next to Brockma Gill, Kearton, Low Row

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fell of 1 x ash tree - there were no comments or objections.

b) Protected tree applications: Thistlebout Farm, Gunnerside fell 1 x pine and crown lift 1 x elm -there were no comments or objections.

c) Householder planning permission for erection of a stone boundary wall with pedestrian gates at Jingle Pot Lodge, Gunnerside, DL11 6JG - R/05/67G - there were no comments or objections.

d) Listed building consent for erection of a stone boundary wall with pedestrian gates at Jingle Pot Lodge, Gunnerside, DL11 6JG -R/05/67H/LB - there were no comments or objections.

e) Section 73 application to vary conditions 2 (approved plans) and 17 (roofing slates) of R/05/252 (Full planning permission for re- occupation of a former dwelling and installation of sewage package treatment plant) in respect of the amended location of the fuel tank, generator and heat pump and for the use of weathered Indian stone slates for any additional slates required at Mount Pleasant, Low Row, Gunnerside, DL11 6PU - R/05/252B - there were no comments or objections.

f) Autumn Parish Forum online Tuesday 4 November 2025 at 7pm - the council noted receipt of this.

g) Yorkshire Dales National Park Local Plan 2025-2040 - the council noted receipt of this.

h) Yorkshire Dales National Park Management Plan Annual Forum - the council noted receipt of this.

9. Any Other Business

a) Housing Needs Survey Report for Affordable Housing - the council noted receipt of this.

b) North Yorkshire Citizens Advice & Law Centre- the council agreed not to

make a donation at this time.

c) Dales Police Report 8th August to 6th September 2025 - the council noted receipt of this.

d) Dales Police Report 7th July to 7th August 2025 - the council noted receipt of this.

Both these reports had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting. PC Heather Campbell advised that there had been an incident of fly-tipping which was reported to the police, but it was noted that this is not a police matter, unless there is an obstruction on the highway.

e) The North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel - the council noted receipt of this request for co-opted members of the panel.

f) Complaints Procedure. The councillors reviewed and adopted the Complaints Procedure.

g) Brown Hill Top 'Parking for residents of Brown Hill Top' It was noted that this sign had originally been put up by a previous owner of the house. The Parish Council suggest that this sign is taken down as no permission had been obtained to put this up, although cars can still park at this location. The owner of the property has agreed to take this sign down.

h) Scott Trial permission slip: This was signed and will be returned.

10. Dates of next meeting

The meeting dates for the year ahead were agreed:

Thursday 27th November 2025 at Low Row

Thursday 29th January 2026 at Gunnerside

Thursday 19th March 2026 at Low Row

Thursday 14th May 2026 at Gunnerside

Thursday 16th July 2026 at Low Row

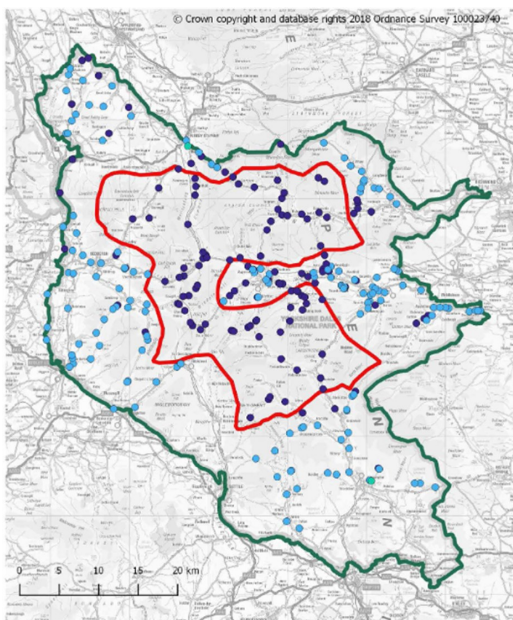
Astronomy in Swaledale

If you live in the Dales or visit regularly, you probably know that the Yorkshire Dales are a Dark Skies Reserve. This means that our skies are dark enough to qualify for dark skies reserve status, and that the National Park is committed to protect the night sky and encourage visitors to come and enjoy the experience.

The map below shows the light readings used to support the application. The dark blue dots are where the readings were very low indeed - some of the darkest skies in the UK. The area inside the red line, where all the readings are dark blue is known as the "core" area. The light blue dots show where the readings were still good - dark enough to see the milky way on a clear night - but not quite as dark. In and around Reeth and the main road up through Swaledale

the readings were mixed. This is because sky darkness depends a lot on the transparency of the air. On nights when there is a lot of moisture or dust to reflect light, the sky is brighter. But on very clear nights the skies over our villages can be almost as dark as out on the moors.

So how can you get the best out of the dark skies? Well, the most important thing is to get away from artificial light. This is because it doesn't matter how dark the sky is if your eyes can't become dark adapted enough to enjoy them. An outside light shining on you, or a glance at a phone screen sends your eyes into daylight mode. But just 5 to 10 minutes in darkness will allow your eyes to become sensitive enough to see the full glory of a clear night sky. Wrap up warm and, if you can, find a chair or sun-lounger which will help you look up without falling over or craning your neck.



If you are more of an armchair astronomer, or if you would like to find out more about what is up there you might also like to know that there is a small, friendly group of people interested in astronomy who meet locally. It's called the Reeth Informal Astronomy Group. We are open to all, and our meetings are free to attend - you can contact us via our website (reethastro.org.uk).

We also run special observing events, the next of which is on **Friday 20th February**, from 7.00pm at the Reeth Evangelical Congregational Church, which has a nice dark garden and a warm meeting room. If it's clear we will have several telescopes set up for

you to look though and, of course, we'd be happy to answer any questions you might have. We will also have some of the pictures we have taken on display and if it is cloudy, an introduction to the affordable robotic telescopes which are revolutionising our hobby. The event is free - though we will have a bucket for donations which will be shared between Swaledale Mountain Rescue and the Church, who are letting us use their premises.

In the meantime, please do what you can to keep our skies dark - not just for the astronomers, but also for our nocturnal wildlife. Good outside lighting is shielded so it only shines where it is needed, is only on when it is needed, and uses warm yellow-white or red colours rather than high intensity blue-white light which blinds everything it touches.

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The Arts Society Wensleydale presents “Decoding the Saints: Medieval Saints and their Symbols”

Can you ever remember which saint is which? Who carries the wheel? And which John is the one with the lamb and which is the one with chalice and snake?

This lecture, by Anna Bianco, is designed to give members the edge when travelling around the churches, galleries and museums of UK and Europe - helping them to 'decode' the saints.



The lecture explores the visual splendours that were created to glorify saints, martyrs and important Christian figures.

Drawing from paintings, metal work, sculpture and manuscripts the lecture explores ancient saints such as St Stephen (the first Christian martyr) to historic saints such as St Thomas Becket and St Louis IX King of

France.

Fantastical stories such as Saint Urusla and her 11,000 virgin companions, will be explored through well-known masterpieces and little-known treasures.

By the end of the lecture members will be able to decode the symbols found in churches, paintings, manuscripts and much more that were used by Byzantine and medieval artists to tell the stories of their saints, martyrs and revered figures.

The lecture will take place at Tennants Garden Rooms, Leyburn, DL8 5SG on Tuesday 24th February at 2pm.

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February Update

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

By the time the February editions circulate, we will have supported three professional and community pantomimes, submitted entries for the Wensleydale Tournament of Song and hosted our first music workshop of the year. Our fingers will be crossed for Alex Douthwaite (11yrs, pictured right) who will represent Wensleydale



Rotary as the local nominee for the District heat of the Rotary's National Young Musician competition. The District heat takes place at Sharrow Church (near Ripon) on Sunday 8th February, 1pm. All Welcome.

Music themed Quiz Night - Saturday 7th March, Leyburn Arts and Community Centre.

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

Fundraiser for The Friends of Marrick Priory - Friday 27th March,

REETH AND DISTRICT GAZETTE LTD

Reeth Memorial Hall.

Vocalists Gail Barlow and Colin Bailey present a programme entitled "Mediterranean Medley" raising funds for Marrick Priory Outdoor Education and Residential Centre. There will also be a bar and raffle. Doors open 6.00pm for 6.30pm start. Tickets cost £15 including two course meal - available from Reeth Post Office or on the door.

2026 DIARY DATES (so far!)

- Spring Lunch with vocalists Gail Barlow and Colin Bailey - Saturday 2nd May (Thoraby).
- The A684s concert at Leyburn Arts and Community Centre - Saturday 9th May
- Wensleydale Community Arts Festival - Various events throughout June.
- Twice Nightly - A celebration of the glory days of Variety. With Dominic Goodwin as Freddie Francis. Friday 5th June (Askrigg), Saturday 6th (Leyburn) and Sunday 7th (Reeth).
- Colours Fashion Show with entertainment by Bee Darcey and local Makers Stalls - Wednesday 17th June (West Burton).
- Quiz Night with Simon Eastwood - Friday 9th October (West Burton).
- Leyburn Jazz Festival - Thursday 15th to Sunday 18th October.
- Young Musician Of The Year Competition - Sunday 22nd November (Leyburn).

Volunteering - We welcome enquiries from potential volunteers - from stewarding events, mentoring or helping in the office, there is a role to suit everyone. Like all Charities, it's tough going at the moment - We are

seeking people interested in helping to fundraise and secure funding. Please contact us for an informal chat and to find out how you could help.

Raising Creative Aspirations - We finished 2025 with some amazing news. Our mentoring and freelance creative project for 16-26 year olds has been awarded additional funding. Supported by Youth Music and using public funding by the National Lottery



The poster for Blueboxt Creative and Performing Arts features a blue background with silhouettes of people at the top. Below this, the text 'Blueboxt CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS' is displayed. The main headline reads 'Want to work in the music industries?'. The poster is decorated with several circular inset images showing young people engaged in various creative activities: a person at a computer, a person playing a guitar, a person singing into a microphone, and a group of people in a meeting. Below the images, there is a section titled 'We have an exciting opportunity for young people aged 16-25yrs who are interested in developing their creative ideas and career potential.' followed by a list of benefits: '• Freelance contracts', '• Flexible hours', '• Office or home working', '• Mentoring and wellbeing support', and '• Time for personal projects'. To the right of this list, another section titled 'Work with us to create a modular job role that allows you to develop your skills and ideas.' is followed by a list of examples: 'For example: Event and project administration, Finance and business planning, Marketing and digital media, Live sound and music production, Performance and music leading'. At the bottom, a blue box contains the text 'Contact us today to arrange an informal chat to find out more and discuss your creative goals and aspirations.' Below this box, the logos for 'YOUTH MUSIC' and 'ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND' are shown. On the far right, contact information is provided: 'Contact Colin Bailey 07711 211169', 'admin@blueboxt.org', and 'www.blueboxt.org'.

We have an exciting opportunity for young people aged 16-25yrs who are interested in developing their creative ideas and career potential.

- Freelance contracts
- Flexible hours
- Office or home working
- Mentoring and wellbeing support
- Time for personal projects

Work with us to create a modular job role that allows you to develop your skills and ideas.

For example:
Event and project administration,
Finance and business planning,
Marketing and digital media,
Live sound and music production,
Performance and music leading

Contact us today to arrange an informal chat to find out more and discuss your creative goals and aspirations.

YOUTH MUSIC | ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

Contact Colin Bailey 07711 211169
admin@blueboxt.org | www.blueboxt.org

through Arts Council England we will be able to support 20 young people with coaching and business advice and 3 paid placements designed to build careers in the music and creative industries. See website for more details or contact us to find out more.

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



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What was your favourite book in 2025?

Is there a book you read last year that really stands out?

Whether it's fiction or fantasy, fact or philosophy, we'd love to hear about it so we can share it with others.

Either pop into the library in Hudson House* and add your top pick to the sheet next to the borrowing log, or **email me** and let me know. You don't have to reveal your identity to the world at large if you don't wish to, so feel free to stay incognito if you prefer.

We'll include some of your favourites in the Gazette over the coming months. If you're moved to write a short review, or say why you enjoyed your choice so much, just email it to me and we'll try to include that too.

* **The library** is open whenever Hudson House is open (even if the shop and information centre is closed), usually 10.30am to 3.30pm Monday to Friday and 10.30am to 1.30pm on Saturdays and Sundays in the winter months. It's self-service, so just choose your books, date stamp them, so you know when they're due back, and write the details in the borrowing log, so we know who has got what.

We have over 1,000 books and every three months or so we replace a quarter of the stock. The next fresh batch should be coming mid-February. If there is an author you particularly like, let us know either by emailing me, or making a note on the list in the library, and we'll look out for books by them when we go to choose new stock.

elizabeth@bedfords.me.uk

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REETH LITERARY INSTITUTE TRUST

Limited grants are available from the Trust for individuals for educational and beneficial recreational purposes and also for voluntary bodies working for the interest of social welfare and education, with the object of improving life within the township of Reeth. Applications are invited to the Trust at 5 Langhorne Drive, Reeth, DL11 6SS, by the 28th February 2026. A financial statement must accompany any application.

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What's On At Low Row Institute February 2026

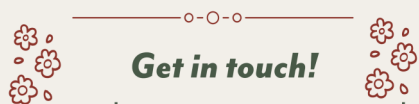


Heart and Craft - Tuesday 10th and 24th - 10am - free, everyone welcome

Taiji - Tuesday 3rd and 17th - 10:30am - £50 for six sessions

Workout Wednesday - Wednesday 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th - 6:30 pm and 7:45pm - £5 per class

Domino Drive - Friday 20th - 7:30 pm £5 entry



Get in touch!

www.lowrowinstitute.co.uk

Fremington Village Hall

Redecorated and now with its 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 **Carol Witham** on **07783 924827** or by email at c.whitham149@btinternet.com

Eyes on the Skies - Protecting Birds of Prey

As an independent charity free from all financial and political ties, Friends of the Dales has spent more than four decades campaigning on the big issues affecting the Yorkshire Dales. Its new campaign is no different, speaking out against the ongoing criminal persecution of birds of prey, a barbaric practice that continues, despite these majestic species having been protected in law for over 70 years.

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

Saving Our Precious Sky Dancers - with Indy Kiemel Greene & Adrian Rowe from Hen Harrier Action

Wednesday 18 February, 5:30pm - 7:00pm

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

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

Talking Raptor Persecution with Dr Ruth Tingay

Wednesday 18 March, 5:30pm - 7:00pm

Hear from wildlife conservationist Dr Ruth Tingay (pictured right), who has worked in the field of raptor research and conservation for more than 30

years.

A former President of the international Raptor Research Foundation, **Ruth now focuses on campaigning against the illegal killing of birds of prey in the**



UK through the blog Raptor Persecution UK. She is also a co-director of the hard-hitting wildlife conservation organisation Wild Justice with Chris Packham.

Book for both of these free talks at:

www.friendsofthedales.org.uk/events

All talks can also be viewed later via:

www.youtube.com/@friendsofthedales


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TEAM**



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Mine Rescue / Flood Rescue**

Charity Commission Registration No: 1201870, providing Mountain and Cave Rescue in the Northern Yorkshire Dales

The team is made up of highly trained volunteers available, 24/7 in any weather, any time of the day or night.

MOUNTAIN & CAVE RESCUE

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

In 2025 we attended 52 incidents (including out of area Dog Searches).

**Incidents 9th Nov 2025 to 11th Jan 2026
9 Incidents this edition**

Incident 06: Called by the Police to rescue a hypothermic runner taking part in the Montane Spine Race. We had a vehicle close by to support our own runner Karen Arwen.

Incident 04 & 05: Another couple of trips for vehicles stranded on ice

Incident 03: Called alongside the Fire Service following reports of a person in or near the river near Middleham. Located safe and well.

Incident 02: Called by the Police to rescue a family whose vehicle was stuck on sheet ice.

Incident 01: 07/01/2026: Called to assist the Police and Ambulance service with an incident near Leyburn

Incident 48: 20/11/2025: Called by the Police to rescue a couple and their dog from another precarious position on ice. Due to the conditions both occupants were evacuated by



stretcher along with the dog. Another vehicle was assisted on the way to the reported vehicle too.

Incident 47: 19/11/2025: Called by the Police to rescue a motorist stuck on ice and snow. The vehicle was in an exposed position, and the driver was unable to get out of the vehicle. The team recovered the driver.

Incident 46: 16/11/2025: Called by the Police to rescue an injured walker high up in Swinner Gill. Helimed also responded but was unable to land close by and the crew couldn't access the casualty on foot. Treated by the team while the helimed crew were taken by vehicle to a different access point. 300ft stretcher haul and then a carry over rocks to the vehicle and then



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transported by land rover to the Ambulance.

Thanks to the following for the recent support

Butt House, Keld £111.94
 Reeth PO & Corner Shop £35.31
 Reeth PO & Corner Shop £24.36
 The Gift Shop, Reeth £59.11
 The Spar Shop, Hawes £40.13
 Gilsan Sports, Leyburn £3.31
 The Posthorn Café, Leyburn £15.14
 The Pet Shop, Leyburn £6.35
 Halls Butchers, Leyburn £6.75
 The Walking Shop, Leyburn £54.23
 Fish and Chip Shop, Leyburn £56.03
 CB Inn, Arkengarthdale £118.94
 Dales Bike Centre, Fremington £115.31
 Reeth PO & Corner Shop £48.12
 Copper Kettle, Reeth £62.60
 East Witton Village Quiz £280
 Cotswold Outdoors, Catterick £608.64
 Leyburn Street collection £1,770.64
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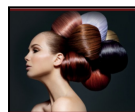
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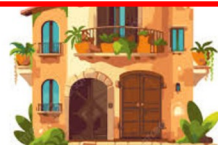
Cruelty free hair colour

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Marrick Priory

Outdoor Education and Residential Centre



A Mediterranean Medley

27th March Reeth Memorial Hall 7pm

Mediterranean food with music and songs from Gail Barlow

& Colin Bailey Band   

Licensed Bar and Raffle or bring a bottle

Tickets £15 available from Reeth Post Office or at the door on the night Doors open from 6pm



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This project is funded by the EA. Due to data protection regulations, this service is aimed at adults

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Natural solutions continue on local farms

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



projects
or think
your land
could
benefit
from fully
funded
NFM
measures,
visit

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

Some sites near Arkengarthdale have needed extra checks, and a small trial using Wensleydale wool behind leaky features is now underway to see how it performs over winter.

Work with estates and local farmer groups continues to shape the next phase of design. Walkovers remain the starting point for every site.

All of this also give Ousewem clearer evidence about how NFM behaves in different conditions across North Yorkshire.

If you're interested in flood resilience

www.ousewem.co.uk or email us at ousewem@york.gov.uk.

Read more: <https://www.ousewem.co.uk/news/article/54/six-months-on-practical-natural-flood-management-across-north-yorkshire>

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Reeth Memorial Hall

Contact Debbie for details

07707683317

yogadebbie@hotmail.com

REETH AND DISTRICT GAZETTE LTD

Church Opening Times and Services in February

1st Feb.	9.15 am	St. Mary's Muker	<i>Eucharist</i>
	10.30 am	Low Row URC	<i>Holy Communion</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	
	2.30 pm	Gunnerside Methodist	<i>Holy Communion & Church Council Meeting</i>
	4.00 pm	Reeth Evangelical Congregational	<i>Refreshments from 3.45 pm</i>
8th- Feb.	9.30 am	St. Andrew's Grinton in Fremington V H	<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	St. Edmund's, Marske	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
	11.00 am	Reeth Evangelical Congregational	
	11.15 am	St. Mary's Arkengarthdale	<i>Holy Communion BCP</i>
	4.00 pm	Reeth Evangelical Congregational	<i>Refreshments from 3.45 pm</i>

United Reformed Church

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Tees and Swale Pastorate
07876 707863
teesandswaleurc@gmail.com

Methodist

Rev Jo Brown
01969 623818
jo.brown@methodist.org.uk

Reeth Evangelical Congregational Church

The Revd David Levell
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Roman Catholic

Fr John Bane
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www.stjosephsfxf.co.uk

REETH AND DISTRICT GAZETTE LTD

Church Opening Times and Services in February

15th Feb.	9.15 pm	St. Mary's Muker	<i>Eucharist</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	Gunnerside Methodist	
	4.00 pm	Reeth Evangelical Congregational	<i>Refreshments from 3.45 pm</i>
18th Feb (Ash Wed.)	10.00 am	St. Andrew's Grinton (in church)	<i>Holy Communion</i>
22nd Feb.	9.30 am	St. Andrew's Grinton in Fremington V H	<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>
	4.00 pm	Reeth Evangelical Congregational	<i>Refreshments from 3.45 pm</i>

Church of England

Reverend Canon Caroline Hewlett

Vicar of the Parish of Swaledale with Arkengarthdale

Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Quaker House, 7 Grove Square, Leyburn every Sunday at 10.30 am
The Scout Hut, Quakers Lane, Richmond 2nd and 4th Sundays at 10.30am
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Leyburn & District u3a

ROTTERS by JEFF COATES
Friday 20 February 2026 AT 10.30
Leyburn Arts and Community Centre

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

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

Visitors and new members are always welcome. Doors open at 10.00 for 10.30 at Leyburn Arts and Community Centre, Richmond Road, Leyburn DL8 5DL. For details contact Membership secretary www.leyburn.u3asite.uk

Anyone for whist?
Mondays 1.30 pm



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Bellerby Study Group

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

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

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

All our meetings are on Wednesday evenings and start at 7.30 in Bellerby Memorial Hall, Church Street DL8 5QL. The talks are followed by free refreshments and a chance to chat. Membership is £15 for 8 talks, visitors are welcome at £3 per meeting. For more information contact Judy Asher 07968 596676.

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1.30pm - 4.00pm Mon, Thurs, Sat

10.30am - 4.00pm Fri

Closed Mon 16th Feb to Thurs

19th Feb inclusive

Reopen Fri 20th Feb at 1.30

Leyburn Arts & Community Centre

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

By the time you are reading this we should have some new windows installed, thanks to North Yorkshire's Business Sustainability Programme funding support. This has been a big boost for us volunteers as we know our old but very loved building can be draughty and shows its age at this time of year. The windows will make a huge difference to everyone's comfort and hopefully to our gas bills too. We still have some fundraising to do as the grant does not cover the whole cost, so we are reminding everyone that it is time to renew or join our 100 Club. For the bargain price of £12 a year you are entered into a draw each month for the chance to win £25; £15 or £10. If you are interested, please contact us on 01969 624510.

The Little Shop still has a good range of books and jigsaws, jams & marmalades for sale. As part of the fundraising, we are holding a Beetle Drive this month... and hope it will be a fun social occasion! If you are a fan of R.E.M or Buster Keaton we have a Silents Synced classic silent 'Sherlock Jr' paired with epic rock music to bring to audiences a unique big screen experience; Tragic Lovers' Tales with storyteller David Brown; a repeat of the National Theatre Live 'the Audience'

with Helen Mirren, last screened a decade ago, and to finish February off in style, 'A Night with the Hooliemen' A variety of events for all tastes! Come and join us! Book via www.leyburnartscentre.com.

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New Children's Club— Extra Time

A new club for children aged 7 to 11 has started in Reeth.

There will be Games, Board Games and Crafts out for children to play. Refreshments will be provided. There will be competitions to take part in.

We hope to create a friendly space for children to come with their friends for some 'Extra Time'.

The club will run 6-7.30pm on Wednesdays, term time at Reeth EC Church - the Church on the Green. 50p per session. Registration forms available at the session. All staff are DBS compliant. Contact Karen for more details: khainsworth1@googlemail.com Tel :07527066900



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Richmond Pool Update

In October 2025, NYC committed to a £1.2 million repair programme to protect the future of the pools in Richmond and ensure the safety of users.

Both public pools at Active North Yorkshire Richmond have been closed since April last year following a partial collapse of the building's ceiling.

The commitment to carry out the repairs followed a public survey where more than 2,200 members of the local community expressed how important the pool was to the town and the surrounding area, and how it plays a crucial role for local swimming clubs.

However, the repairs are now having to take longer after asbestos was detected in the roof of the building during the delivery of the agreed programme of works.

These works have already started - but the repair programme needs to be extended to allow its safe removal. The asbestos was encapsulated so has not posed any health risk to pool users or anybody else who has previously accessed the building.

Executive member for leisure, Cllr

Simon Myers, said: "We all want the swimming pools in Richmond to reopen as soon as possible, so they can continue to benefit communities and support our county-wide vision to promote health and wellbeing.

"What became abundantly clear from the public survey was that Richmond Swimming Pool is an incredibly valued and vital part of the town's fabric. I am delighted that this will remain the case as a result of our commitment.

"I would like to thank everyone for their ongoing patience and cooperation, and I look forward to seeing the facilities used and enjoyed again by the public as soon as possible."

A consultation into the future of the pool held last year saw residents express widespread support for reopening the facility after essential repairs.

More than half of those surveyed said they used the facility at least once a week, with 91 per cent feeling it was either "very important" or "moderately important" that the site was saved.

The work in Richmond forms part of the authority's plans for a wider leisure investment strategy, which has been drawn up after NYC launched the new

Active North Yorkshire service in 2024.

The service is aimed at improving the opportunities for people to become and stay active at every stage of their life - with the next phase looking at how investment in the council's facilities can help to deliver this aim and to create financially sustainable services.





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SWAAG

The archaeology and local history group's next talk is on Tuesday 10th February, 7.30pm, when Alex Walsh, of the Towton Battlefield Society will talk about the Battle of Towton, North Yorkshire, one of the bloodiest and most significant battles in the Wars of the Roses. This will be the last in our winter series of member only talks on Zoom; you may join us using the form on the website at <https://new-swaag.org/join-us/>. The fee is now half-price, £10, for the half-year to July. Membership will include four talks and the opportunity to participate in a local archaeological dig in the summer. Most of our talks are recorded and available to members a week or so after the talk.

Continuing our look at historic features in the local landscape, there are many what are known as 'burnt mounds' in Swaledale. These are frequently ignored, just one of the many lumps and bumps in fields and on the moors. As the name suggests they are piles of fire-cracked stone, now overgrown. They are always located near a stream or spring. In the middle there is a depression, the size of a bath, lined with clay to enable it to hold water. There is a good example near Swale Hall farm just to the south of the Swale Trail. What were they used for? Download our Local History Walk at <https://new-swaag.org/reeth-local-history-walk/> to find out! There is also much more at <https://new-swaag.org/?s=burnt+mounds>.

Alan Mills

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Dales Police Crime Bulletin



Police Report 8th Nov—6th Jan

We do not report crimes whereby victims could be identified, for example Domestic Violence or Harassment although they are included in the totals below. Leyburn Police Station covers the areas of Arkengarthdale, Swaledale, from Hudswell up to the

county border. Wensleydale from the Hambleton to Cumbria borders, Coverdale and Bishopdale.

Incidents of note Nov - Dec: overnight 14th Nov, 2 x Quad bikes stolen from Mossdale area Hawes. Reported 20th Nov, 18 x Swaledale sheep stolen from land in Thornton Rust. Between 13th - 20th Nov, 162 x lambs stolen from area of Harmby Moors off A684 between Harmby Bridge and Leyburn. Reported 26th Nov, 5 x chainsaws and cordless grinder stolen from garage in Keld. Overnight 5th Dec Theft of red Honda quad from area.

	8 th Nov - 8 th Dec	8 th Dec - 6 th Jan
12 - Suspicious Circumstances (Door to door sellers/ Vehicles parked etc).	12	10
Anti-social Behaviour (Nuisance).	1	2
ASB (Personal).	7	2
ASB (Environmental).	1	0
Road Traffic Collisions (Minor).	8	12
RTC (Serious).	2	0
Wildlife/Animals.	8	0
Road related (Manner of driving/vehicles without tax /possible OPL).	9	5
Concern for Safety.	6	6
Violence.	11	1
Civil Disputes.	4	3
Stalking/Harassment.	3	1
Burglary.	3	2
Fraud Forgery (online/phone).	1	0
Theft.	3	7
Criminal damage.	1	1

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Incidents of note Dec - Jan: We have had four Quad bikes stolen - two have been recovered and persons arrested and bailed with conditions. Two are outstanding with enquiries ongoing. We have seen an increase in fuel thefts over the past month across Richmondshire.

This is my first monthly Police report due to Don retiring. We are looking forward to PCSO3521 Di Smith joining us from Catterick Garrison in January. Di is likely to provide future monthly reports.

North Yorkshire Community Messaging is a free email messaging service from North Yorkshire Police and the office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, providing news and updates on policing matters relevant to you and your community. You can sign up to the messaging service by visiting the NYP site.

The Neighbourhood Team will continue to attend Town/Parish meetings and Community drop ins/events duties permitting.

PC355 Heather Campbell.
PCSO 5550 Tracie Taylor-Page.
PCSO3521 Di Smith

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Muker Parish Council
Minutes of Parish
Meeting
Held September 2025

Present: Cllr Metcalfe, Cllr Reynoldson, Cllr Rukin, Cllr Peacock and Cllr Calvert
- Chair presiding.

Clerk: Mr Michael Cleminson.

Apologies for Absence: Cllr Porter and Cllr Peacock.

Matters Arising:

a. gov.uk website and emails for Cllrs to ensure compliance with assertion 10 of the Annual Governance and Audit review (AGAR): the clerk said that from 2026 a gov.uk website and Cllr emails will have to be in place to ensure compliance with AGAR. The Council has a gov.uk website. If gov.uk emails are not in place the Council would fail the review and would have to explain why and how it is going to rectify the failure. It is unclear what penalty or fine may be placed on the Council in the event of non-compliance. To comply all Cllrs and the Clerk must have gov.uk email addresses. This will cost around £60.00 each year. The Cllrs agreed that the Parish Council have no option other than agree to this. Clerk to progress.

b. NYC School Proposals. Cllr Rukin reported that no appeals in the Upper Dales had been successful and that North Yorkshire Council seem to be determined to follow this ridiculous policy whatever. On a positive note, NYC have accepted the proposal to retain Gunnerside and Reeth Schools in their present form. Cllrs noted that the potential use of the 'Little White Bus' was still unresolved. Clerk to correspond with board/management to establish if this is possible.

c. Pennine Way path, Thwaite. It had been noted that the width of the stile was reducing, making it more difficult to use. The Clerk had reported this matter to YDNP, Cllr Reynoldson said that the owner of the property adjacent to the stile had agreed to widen it and install a gate to be provided by YDNPA. The stones have been removed making it a wider opening; we await installation of the gate.

d. Housing Needs Survey. The report has been provided to the Council which shows that there is a need for affordable housing in the dale. There is no requirement for any affordable housing within the Parish.

e. Election Costs. North Yorkshire Council have decided that Election Costs should be borne by each Parish Council, which they say is a fairer system, rather than the whole County paying for election costs. This will incur a cost of £50.00 per Councillor. The next Election is in 2027, which will cost the Council £250.00. This cost is something that the Council should consider when setting the Precept for 2026/27. The Councillors noted this is yet another way of moving costs from NYC to Parish Councils. The Parish Council believes that more and more costs will fall onto the Parish Council, leading to further increases in the Precept.

Finance. An Order was raised to pay £120.00 for the gov.uk website annual renewal. To be paid by the Treasurer before 24th November 2025.

Highways. The Clerk has again contacted Highways seeking information regarding the damage to Scarr House and Usha Gap Bridges and the cattlegrid on The Buttertubs. The

REETH AND DISTRICT GAZETTE LTD

only positive reply received concerned the cattle grid on the Buttertubs, which will be replaced in October 2025. Cllr Rukin said that the cattlegrid at West Stonesdale has still not been replaced and continues to deteriorate. A discussion with Highways established that the grid would be replaced as soon as possible. Further, that the potholes in West Stonesdale are deteriorating and have not been repaired. The Clerk stated that this had been reported twice now, and photos submitted. The Cllrs agreed that a further enquiry should be made to Highways and if a suitable response is not received, a letter should be forwarded to Rishi Sunak MP to progress these matters.

NYC - nothing to report.

National Association of Local Councils - nothing to report.

YDNPA: Full planning permission for erection of lean-to extension to existing agricultural building to provide machinery store at Hoggarths Farm, Keld, Richmond, DL11 6LT - R/06/231B. Supported by the Parish Council.

Full planning permission for change of use from shop with flat above to a single dwelling at Swaledale Woollens, Strawbeck, Muker, Richmond, DL11 6QG - R/06/36 The parish Council does not wish to see the loss of any business in the Parish. However, it does recognise the current difficult financial climate for businesses and sees no prospect of this business being sold at present. Originally the property was a dwelling house before conversion to a business. In order for the building to become sustainable in the long term the Council supports this application.

The Council has recently been updated on the below applications for a barn at

Angram R/06/272 - change of use of barn to camping barn for family use and retrospective permission for timber lean-to - refused 5/7/23.

R/06/272A/LDC - application to determine a lawful use as a dwellinghouse - determined as "Unlawful" on 19/9/24

R/06/272B - erection of replacement extension to building - refused 27/1/25

YLCA - Nothing to report

Other Correspondence/AOB: Cllr Metcalfe said that it had been brought to his attention that the public footpath near to Henry's Barn and Swale Farm was being obstructed by a local resident. The Cllrs. agreed that it was not acceptable to obstruct a public footpath and requested that the Clerk visit the location to access the situation and bring it to the next meeting to discuss. Cllr. Metcalfe also reported that some vehicles had been given fixed penalty notices for parking on the left-hand side as you approach the bridge into Muker. Cllrs consider this to be unreasonable as the vehicles are causing no obstruction of the road. Cllr Metcalfe said that an agreement had been reached with Highways, that no notices would be issued to motorists parking on the land at the side of the road from the Farmers Arms to the de-restriction sign heading towards Thwaite and understood this agreement include the area before the car park entrance. Clerk to contact Highways to see if this area was part of the original agreement and an area where penalties will not be issued. If this is not the case, appropriate signage should be put in place to ensure it is absolutely clear that there is no parking on this land.

Next meeting 27 November 2025.

Notice

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The above Trust was established, in memory of Charles Alderson, for the purpose of relieving, in cases of need, persons resident in the former Rural District Of Reeth (the parishes of Arkengarthdale, Ellerton Abbey, Fremington, Grinton, Marrick, Melbecks, Muker and Reeth) who are sick, convalescent, disabled, handicapped or infirm, by providing or paying for items, services or facilities which are calculated to alleviate the suffering or assist recovery of such persons, in such cases where help is not readily available to them from other sources.

**Applications for assistance should be made in writing to
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Middleham and the Dales Local History Group

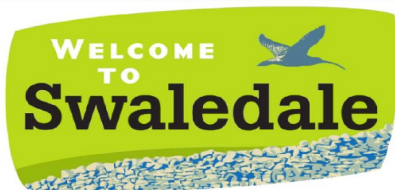
**History of Copper mining in
Richmondshire
by Jane Harrison**

**Wednesday 18 February 2026, 2.00 pm
Harmby Village Hall**

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

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

Members, new members and visitors are always welcome, annual membership is £12 for 9 meetings and visitors can attend for £3 per meeting. For more information contact Tony Keates 01969 640436, dotandtonyk@btinternet.com



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Arkengarthdale Jubilee Club

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about Rowena's interest in roses
knows that this will be a fascinating
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Entry £5 at the door to include
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All are welcome.

Contact:

Margaret Sparke 01748 884047

Gunnerside Chapel

On the longest night of (last), year
Gunnerside Chapel held its annual
Shortest Day / Nine Lessons and Carols
service, followed by the usual tea and
food for all.

Thanks go to all those who had any part in
arranging the service, including, (but not
limited to), those who decorated the
chapel - (including erecting the tallest
Christmas tree yet), choosing the carols,
organising the rehearsals, singing in the
choir, providing the necessary musical
accompaniment, doing the readings, giving
and serving the food, and helping to clean
up the Chapel afterwards. (And anything
else that I might have missed).

Two days later this was followed by the
School's Carol Service, an exhibition of
enthusiasm if ever there was one -
enjoyed by everybody there.
Congratulations to both the staff and the
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St Andrew's, Grinton

Thank you!

On Saturday 25th November we had a productive morning planting the new trees and shrubs having had the elderly Cyprus trees along the path removed late last year. The weather was dry and the planting took place throughout the churchyard under the guidance of members from Sustainable Swaledale. We would like to publicly thank Sustainable Swaledale for their help in designing and in helping to plant this re-planting scheme for St Andrew's.



And thank you again!

On Saturday 29th November we held our annual charitable St Andrew's lunch event to celebrate St Andrew's Day. This is the event where members of St Andrew's cook and serve a 2-course lunch at the Memorial Hall for anyone to attend. A retiring collection is then available. The chosen charity this year was 'Mary's Meals' which distributes 3 million school lunches a day for hungry children throughout the world. Fran, the representative from the charity who attended also spoke at the parish service at St Andrew's at the following morning's service. Over the Saturday and Sunday, a total of **£1052.50** was raised for the charity. This fantastic amount was also able to be doubled by

Mary's Meals 'Double the Love' supporters. Fran said "I'm absolutely blown away by the amount collected from your parish community over St Andrew's weekend! That's an incredible gift! Please do pass on our thanks to everyone for this amazing generosity! It was such a lovely weekend, and it was my absolute pleasure to visit. I felt really blessed to be able to share in the delicious lunch on Saturday and then to join you in worship on Sunday morning. Thank you all for the warm welcome and hospitality."

If you would like to donate to Mary's Meals the link is <https://www.marysmeals.org.uk>

And again!

Thank you to all those who supported the Come and Sing Carols at St Andrew's on Sunday 7th December. This annual fun carol service raised a total of **£211.60** for Christian Aid

And again!

Our grateful thanks go to Richard Springett for refurbishing the St Andrew's noticeboard outside the Gift Shop. A grand job Richard!

And again!

Thank you to the Grinton Lights committee for a wonderful first 'lighting up' Grinton ceremony on 12th December. The lights on the church railings looked spectacular and we enjoyed hosting the village to mince pies and mulled wine to follow. Thanks also to those who helped decorate the church the following morning to make the inside look as special and sparkly as the outside.

St Andrew's winter church services

These will be held at Fremington Village

REETH AND DISTRICT GAZETTE LTD

Hall in January, February and March on the 2nd and 4th Sundays at 9.30am followed by coffee at approx. 10.30am. Do come and join us at these services or for coffee or for both service and coffee! All are very welcome to come and share this time with us.

Conservation Group meetings at St. Andrew's will start again on **Saturday 7th March**. All are welcome so please come and support our conservation efforts in the churchyard (or cleaning efforts indoors) by joining us for free coffee and oven fresh scones for a bit of 'outdoor gym' activity from 10am - 12 noon.

Bat Counts restart on **Wednesday 1st April 7.43pm** and these also continue through to October on the first Wednesdays of the month at sunset. Do come along for this free to attend hour's counting - children love it!

We are running a **Make Do and Mend** session on **Saturday 21st March between 10am and 3pm** at **Fremington Village Hall** to raise funds for the church's upkeep. You can bring items of clothing for repair [think zips, hems, buttons etc] and either stay and have refreshments with us or drop off you jobs and collect them later. Jobs will be assessed as to whether we are able to help or not. Payment is on a donation per item basis. We look forward to your support for this event. Please contact Susan on 07969 424547 if you would like further information. We look forward to your future support at all our events. Please see the parish website or church noticeboards for further details.
www.swaledalearkengarthdaleparish.org.uk

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Sustainable Swaledale

Calling all photographers...

Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust (YDMT) and The Garden Rooms at Tennants are inviting photographers of all levels to explore the Yorkshire Dales and share images that showcase its breathtaking scenery, wildlife, and character. 35 finalists will have their pictures displayed in Tennants, Leyburn with 12 pictures chosen for the YDMT calendar. The winner also gets a £100 photographic voucher and a hamper. Competition runs until April 2026.

More details at: <https://tinyurl.com/43ys5tcc>

Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust (YDRT) is also looking for photographs showcasing Dales rivers and wildlife, taken over the winter season. Selected photographs will be displayed at the Rivers4Life summer exhibition taking place at the Dales Countryside Museum in Hawes from 6th June to 6th September 2026, and in a future YDRT calendar. Competition runs until 5th March. More details at:

<https://tinyurl.com/zspe4esv>

Flick a hazel catkin

The Woodland Trust is looking for help with its citizen science phenology project: Nature's Calendar. Phenology is the study of seasonal changes in plants and animals from year to year, such as flowering of plants, emergence of insects or migration of birds; and

this year they're concentrating on Hazel. With 2.9 million records going back decades, it is possible to see how events such as the flowering of hazel catkins has taken place earlier each year with a significant advancement of this event between 1999 and 2024. You are asked to keep an eye on a hazel tree or hedge and record the date when the catkins are open enough to see the pollen inside. If you flick a catkin and see pollen released into the air, then it's ready for recording!

More details at: <https://tinyurl.com/y6fx4mxt>

North Yorkshire Council rated A- for climate and environmental performance

North Yorkshire Council has received an A- rating from the CDP (formerly the Carbon Disclosure Project). This is an improvement from 2024's score of a B and shows the progress the Council has made in the last year, particularly around work on adaptation. CDP (formerly the Carbon Disclosure Project) is a global non-profit organisation that helps local authorities assess their environmental impact. It collects data across five areas: governance, assessment, targets, planning, and actions.

Source: North Yorkshire Council: Climate Change Newsletter, January 2026

Friends of the Dales Bird of Prey campaign: Free online talks
See page 21

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust launches ambitious 30 by 30 plan
The Yorkshire Wildlife Trust (YWT)

REETH AND DISTRICT GAZETTE LTD

has launched an ambitious plan to encourage landowners, communities and organisations to meet the UK's 30 by 30 target in Yorkshire (securing 30% of land for nature by 2030). The science shows that if 30% of our land, water and seas were positively managed for nature, it would help halt or even reverse biodiversity decline.

Read details of the full YWT plan at: <https://tinyurl.com/2d3xv4ss>

Sustainable Swaledale Group

Find out more and join in...

Email: info@sustainableswaledale.org

Phone: 01748 886 381 (Secretary)

Facebook Group:

Sustainable Swaledale

Website:

www.sustainableswaledale.org

Sign up to our free newsletters, and choose to support us as a member for £10 (£5 concessions) per year.

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Suitable for meetings, lectures, talks, training or social events.

The Meeting Room - maximum of 30 people.

The Meeting Place (evenings only) - maximum of 10 people.

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The Orchard Gallery for hire

Suitable for exhibitions of paintings, photographs and other artwork.

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For prices (special rates for community use), bookings or more information please contact Jill May on 01748 884 485 or admin@hudsonhouse.info

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Every fortnight

Tuesdays

10am – 12pm Low Row Institute 10th and 24th February

10am – 12pm Muker Public Hall 3rd and 17th February

2pm – 4pm Arkengarthdale Hub 10th and 24th February

Thursdays

2pm – 4pm Reeth Memorial Hall 5th and 19th February

Free - Everyone Welcome!

Our workshops are relaxed, sociable, led sessions with regular guest artists. No experience or talent needed — all materials are provided. Come for the creativity, stay for the chat, and enjoy a cuppa (and usually a biscuit or two!) in good company.

Free transport available through Reeth & District Community Transport

For more information:

Call 07513 635175 or lowrowinstitute.co.uk

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www.2dales.org.uk

Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust Photography Competition

Want your photograph feature in a
exhibition at the Dales Countryside
Museum or in a regional calendar?

The Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust
Rivers4Life WINTER photography
competition is now open.



Photo credit: YDRT

The charity is looking for the **best photographs of Yorkshire Dales rivers and wildlife this winter**, to be included in its Rivers4Life exhibition which will be mounted at the **Dales Countryside Museum in 2026** and will also feature in its **2027 calendar** - all funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund. For an entry form visit: www.ydrt.org.uk/photography-competition/

The **winter** stage of the competition **closes 5 March**.

Remember to include the location of your photographs, taken in the

catchments of the Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust which includes the **rivers Swale, Ure, Nidd, Wharfe and Ouse and their tributaries**.

The Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust was established in 2004 as a Registered Charity, working to enhance and protect the rivers of the Yorkshire Dales for the benefit of everyone. By working in partnership with landowners, businesses, land managers and the public, it aims to care for the rivers, streams and catchments of the Swale, Ure, Nidd, Wharfe and Ouse as sources of pure water, as habitats for aquatic and other wildlife, and as havens of quiet recreation for everyone to enjoy. It also works with schools and communities to inform children and the wider public, to ensure a better understanding, care and appreciation of rivers and their associated habitats.

Find out more at: www.ydrt.org.uk



Muker Show

Domino & Whist Drive

Friday 27th February 2026

7.30 pm

Muker Public Hall

£5 Entry

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admin@hudsonhouse.info

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For further information or to apply, please contact us on **07766 884466** or send a private message.

REETH AND DISTRICT GAZETTE LTD



Reeth Memorial Hall

Reeth Memorial Hall

We start again with concerts at the hall in March.

Details and dates for 2026 concerts on our website.

The AGM for the Management Committee is on 09th March at 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall.

It would be great if you want to get involved. Either speak to me beforehand or come along to the meeting.

Saturday 14th March - Gaz Brookfield

Tickets direct from Gaz - £15.00
gazbrookfield.com

Friday 20th March - Blackbeard's Tea Party

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

Saturday 18th April - The Haar

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

Saturday 25th April - Rosie Hood Band

Reworked traditional English songs and original material, touching on nature, human struggle, women's voices and

unheard stories. Powerful and clear vocals, with melodeon, fiddle & percussion. Tickets **£17** (£19 door).

Glen Steward

Tickets for concerts are available from Reeth PO or phone Glen Steward (01748 884989) or visit www.reethmemorialhall.weebly.com - tickets $\frac{1}{2}$ price u16s. All concerts 8pm unless otherwise stated - doors 7.30pm

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Diary Dates

February

Tues 3rd Feb - Heart and Craft at 10am in Muker Public Hall

Tues 3rd Feb - Taiji, Low Row Institute 10.30am

Wed 4th Feb Fri 6th Feb - Reeth Show AGM, Reeth memorial Hall 7.30pm

Thurs 5th Feb - Heart and Craft at 2pm in Reeth Memorial Hall

Tues 10th Feb - Heart and Craft at 10am in Low Row Institute and at 2pm in Arkengarthdale Hub

Wed 11th Feb - Workout Wednesday, Low Row Institute, 6.30pm and 7.45 pm

Fri 13th Feb - Dark Skies Festival Star Party, Keld Heritage Centre, 7.30pm

Fri 13th Feb - Domino Drive and New Year Raffle, CB Function Room, 7.30

Tues 17th Feb - Beetle Drive, Leyburn Arts and Community Centre, 4 -5.30

Tues 17th Feb - Heart and Craft at 10am in Muker Public Hall

Tues 17th Feb - Taiji, Low Row Institute 10.30am

Wed 18th Feb - Workout Wednesday, Low Row Institute, 6.30pm and 7.45 pm

Thurs 19th Feb Heart and Craft at 2pm in Reeth Memorial Hall

Fri 20th Feb - Astronomy Observation evening, Reeth Evangelical Congregational Church, 7pm

Fri 20th Feb - Domino Drive, Low Row Institute 7.30pm

Sat 21st Feb - 10am to noon, Coffee Morning, Reeth Evangelical Congregational Church

Tues 24th Feb - Heart and Craft at 10am in Low Row Institute and at 2pm in Arkengarthdale Hub

Tues 24th Feb - TASW lecture, "Decoding the Saints", Tennants Garden Rooms, 2pm

Wed 25th Feb - Arkengarthdale Jubilee Club, talk by Rowen Hutchinson "The Rose Lady", 2pm at the Hub

Wed 25th Feb - Workout Wednesday, Low Row Institute, 6.30pm and 7.45 pm

Fri 27th Feb - Muker Show Domino and Whist Drive, Muker Public Hall, 7.30pm

March

Fri 6th Mar - Reeth Show Domino and Whist Drive, Reeth Memorial Hall, 7.30pm

Sat 14th Mar - Gaz Brookfield, Reeth Memorial Hall

Fri 20th Mar - Blackbeard's Tea Party, Reeth Memorial Hall

Sat 21st March - Mobile Skip, 9-1, Reeth Green

Fri 27th Mar - Marrick Priory presents A Mediterranean Medley, Reeth Memorial Hall, 7pm

April

Sat 18th Apr - The Haar, Reeth Memorial Hall

Sat 25th Apr - The Rosie Hood Band, Reeth Memorial Hall

Langthwaite - Arkengarthdale

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Phone : 01748 884737**