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## EDITORIAL

**I**t's the time for looking both back and forward, and we can't claim to be cock-a-hoop looking either way! In the 'blame culture' we live in it is easy to blame 'the media' for hyping things up or being obsessive about one issue and 'doing it to death' but we have to be careful, for in our own minute way we are also part of 'the media' which is accused of "stoking the fires of discontent".

While hours of TV and pages of newspapers have been, or will be, taken up by Soham inquiries, Dr. Shipman's death, trips to Mars, global warming and the environment, and especially the Hutton inquiry outcome, we will stay a bit nearer home.

Looking back, two recent issues have caused more than a little sadness. For five years the Upper Wensleydale Community Office- a pioneer in its field- has learnt, sometimes from its mistakes, and prospered and extended its services to the community to the point where now it would be very much missed if it had to go (not likely, and plans for development and re-location are on the cards). However, over those years it seems strange that so much of the staff's time and energy has had to be expended on applying for grant-funding from here, there and everywhere to keep it going. Even stranger the fact that over the last very short period of time there has been an almost complete change-over of staff.

We have all been aware that the funding is precarious and that some reduction would be unavoidable, but the recriminations and back-biting and resultant resignations point on the one hand to, as some have said, "high-handed personnel mismanagement more applicable to an infamous multinational company", and on the other to suggestions that "some people working hard for the community

haven't got the right business experience to be of much use". Can we now draw a line under this, build on what has been achieved, learn from one another, use our diverse skills and experience and get on with those projects in the pipeline. There is a statement from John Blackie in this issue.

The second, and sad, event is the final demise of the swimming pool project. Of all schemes that would have appealed to, and applied to a very large part of the community (not to mention the large number of visitors who apparently don't count in the submission for funding), this was surely the best. It is all the more galling that Pateley Bridge, far less remote than Hawes, has been accepted for grant aid. Any other sports facility will have much less appeal and use, and will impact on the Market Hall. Much of the money donated up and down the dale was given specifically for the pool and there must be the very greatest public consultation before any new schemes are initiated and a full account presented of the income and expenditure of the fund over the period of the negotiations. (See **Janet Dinsdale's article for details of the meeting.**) Despite all this it is only right to express the greatest of thanks to those who for as long as some of us can remember have worked and dreamed for the swimming pool.

Of course some projects are going ahead and we await news of interesting developments at the Hawes Auction Mart.

"Heritage" is the flavour of our times, and Gayle Mill is obviously benefiting and schemes for Yore Mill Aysgarth keep coming forward. While wishing to support these endeavours we can't help asking just how many more centres with a 'museum' element can the upper dale and its visitors expect to support unless we can market them corporately as an Upper Wensleydale unified brand.

Do join in the debate; write to us, but about the future and not the past.

## PRESS AND GUEST WALK IN THE PARK

To launch the Yorkshire Dales National  
Park's 50th Anniversary Celebrations  
Friday, January 30th 2004.

The weekend you read this Newsletter sees  
the start of the celebrations..



**H**alf-a-century ago this glorious part of the Dales - some 1200 square miles - was designated as part of a movement to preserve and enhance the most beautiful areas of Britain and provide opportunities for the people of post-war England to enjoy the benefits of fresh air and the great outdoors. Hence, the Yorkshire Dales National Park was born.

Since then millions of visitors - no less than eight million alone in 2003 - have enjoyed the stunning scenery and wealth of activities this region has to offer. And as the park prepares itself for the next 50 years it aims to 'reach out' to an even broader audience and demonstrate just how accessible the place is, even for those who live in towns and cities.

"There are excellent train services to the edges of the Park, as well as the Leeds-Settle-Carlisle line passing through its heart. The main valleys are well served by buses and there are additional services that run direct from the surrounding area during the summer months. Hopping on a bus or a train is something we would like to encourage to reduce congestion on the roads and maintain the special qualities of the Dales," says YDNPA's 50th Anniversary Co-ordinator Cathy Bennett.

"In addition, there has never been as much emphasis on the benefits of taking exercise

and enjoying the outdoor life. What better place to do this than in the YDNP; this is the county's largest green gym and what's more membership is free."

"With this in mind we know the future lies in being able to promote ourselves to all age and social groups and make them aware of the National Park's environmental importance and the opportunities it provides for enjoyment.

And to confirm just how swiftly it is to leave the city behind and venture into the country the launch day proceedings commence in the hub of Yorkshire at Leeds Railway Station, where guests catch a train to Ilkley, before commencing a six miles walk to Bolton Priory.

Our VIP party is made up of various special guests, including Sir Jimmy Saville, Brian Blessed (President of the Council for National Parks) and other representatives from the YDNPA, local community organisations, Walking for Health groups and local schools. Black Sheep Brewery of Masham are the main sponsors of the YDNPA 50th Anniversary Celebrations.

At 4.30pm approx - there will be a few words by Brian Blessed, followed by the focal point of the day **THE LIGHTING OF THE SPECTACULAR FIRE SCULPTURE TO MARK THE LAUNCH OF OUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS.**

### HAWES MARKET HALL NEWS

The Market Hall Trustees have regular committee meetings, to discuss the provision of the best possible service at our hall that finances allow. The recent meeting had primarily to deal with the secretarial arrangements. For the last 3 years the Community Office has provided this service for the same annual rate. The current term is ended and Trustees had to discuss options for the future. Although there have been major changes of personnel at the Community Office, Trustees decided that if,

as promised, the same efficient service can be relied upon, then the package offered still offered good value for money. Hirers are still able to obtain keys, make bookings, report problems, and leave messages and all the other services previously available during opening hours of the Community Office. The only reduction in service is in the Saturday morning opening. Hirers who previously collected keys then will have special arrangements made so as not to inconvenience them. We hope there is a seamless transition, but ask any users to contact us if they encounter any problems or with any suggestions for improvement.

At the time of writing the Market Hall is being redecorated. Trustees have been aware of the need for this for some considerable time, but it would have been foolish to have tackled this before the roof work was complete, as damp could have spoilt it. We hope you agree that the Hall is looking in good condition, with the entrance halls and toilets having been decorated last year, and refreshed this year. With cooperation and regular monitoring we hope and expect this good state to continue. As finances allow the remaining maintenance work will be completed, but as these are in very short supply at the moment it will be necessary to begin fundraising for the Market Hall. If any one would be willing to either join a working party one evening or organise a Fundraiser please get in touch via the Community Office. It is tempting to take the Market Hall for granted as it has been around for longer than any of us can remember but it needs some TLC and gentle treatment to keep providing all we expect from it.

Gwen Clark

## BROADBAND

We have here an almost impossible task: to let readers know what is going on in our area without suggesting what form of broadband connection that might apply for.

The present situation, but rapidly changing, is that 85% of the country can “get it” but that is not at all true for very rural areas like ours. In this area **wireless** broadband is available in libraries and many schools through the County Council link-up.

Other rural areas up and down the country are setting up their own community-owned wireless networks, the nearest to us being in the Eden and Kirkby Stephen area. These are claimed to be both faster and cheaper than BT-exchange connections with the income going back into the community and can be established in about four weeks and for fewer users. (The community also has the financial responsibility of maintaining the system if numbers reduce).

There are fewer security issues than with a typical mobile phone. The website to access which answers many questions and through which application can be made is:

**[www.abcampaign.org.uk](http://www.abcampaign.org.uk)**

On the other hand, BT has now changed its policy on exchanges and is preparing to offer broadband cable connection to **individual exchanges** provided that they receive enough registrations of interest. They also announced in the middle of December that they too are exploring wireless/satellite systems. They claim to be very secure and presumably charges will come down as competition heats up.

There are very specific targets for how many registrations they need and their website lets you know how the numbers are coming in. Hawes (667...) requires 200; Aysgarth (663...) requires 150 as does Bainbridge (650...). Aysgarth is well on the way ! Their website gives full details and you'll find it if you simply search:

**“bt broadband”** and you can register your interest with them. You need your phone number and account number. It has to be said that some people having used both systems claim that BT cable is quicker than wireless! Maybe other security issues are more important than the speed.

A.S.W.

## ARTS AND CRAFTS GUILD LAUNCHES

AiR (Arts in Richmondshire) has helped to create a new organisation to bring together leading arts and craftspeople in the district. **Richmondshire Arts and Crafts Guild** aims to promote work of the highest quality made by its members, many of which are renowned both nationally and internationally. The Guild has just been awarded three year project funding from the Arts Council of England. Part of the funding will allow the Guild to take on a professional administrator.

The new Guild now invites professional or striving to be professional arts and craftspeople based in Richmondshire to apply for membership through a selection process. More information on becoming a member and an application pack are available from **Jennie White, Wensley Mill, Wensley, 623544.**

“We are committed to producing arts and crafts of a world class standard and are absolutely thrilled to receive this very

significant funding award which will allow us to make Richmondshire a thriving centre of arts and crafts” says **Andrew Hague, Chairman.**

The Guild has big plans for the future and will act as a focus on makers of art and craft of the highest quality. The first exhibition of the Guild members is planned for August 2004 at the Dales Countryside Museum.

### **Current Members of the Guild**

Emma Amsden – photographer; Philip Bastow - furniture maker; Piers Browne - artist/illustrator; Andrew Hague - potter; Andrea Hunter - felt artist; Michael Kusz – sculptor; Simon Shaw - potter, Shirley Nichols – sculpture; Jennie White -candle maker. For further information, contact **625142**, Fax 625183 email: [air.office@virgin.net](mailto:air.office@virgin.net); at Middleham Key Centre



**Andrew Hague at work**

## MAJOR ROADWORKS IN THE HAWES AREA

1. ... Already on-going: work on a new footway at Brandymires involves **road closure** (for health and safety) and means diversions via Appersett for light vehicles and via Bainbridge for large and heavy vehicles to cross the dale. This will apply until **February 14th**, weather permitting.
2. Following on from the above, major work is needed on the river retaining wall opposite the cricket pitch. This is expected to take two months and will require **temporary traffic lights**.
3. By far the largest scheme involves the centre of the town (local people closely involved have had details). The construction of a ramped footpath from the Penny Garth car park up to the high level car park will involve some loss of parking space and some closures of the existing footpath for a few hours. This work is due to begin in February and to be completed by **March 26th**.

**Work on Main Street:** 20mph zone, footway widening, more disabled-friendly, relaying granite setts and reconstruction of the road foundation in places. The **road will be closed** and through traffic will use the Holme both east- and west-bound, with temporary lights. The work will proceed in stages, a quarter of the length being done at any one time with access to property taken care of. Over the whole Easter period (April 3rd to 18th inclusive and over both May Bank Holiday periods (May 1st, 2nd and 3rd; and May 29th to June 6th) the road will be reopened to through traffic.

**Public Meeting listens and shares concerns.** On Thursday, January 15th, representatives of the County and the consultants (Mouchelparkman) gave further details and heard issues raised by businesses affected, and the fire- and ambulance- services. Some of the main points addressed were parking on the Holme during the work; temporary double yellow lines will be put down. For all those

affected a weekly bulletin of scheduled work is to be produced and staff will be on site every day to minimise disruption outside the shops and to take care of health and safety. The site office for the work is to be on the Brunt Acres site behind the Fire Station. The Contractors are RCS, Richmond with site agent Ken Porter; Andrew Hepple is the resident engineer and Adrian Lawson, Traffic Safety and Liaison Officer will be on site daily. His contact number is **07966 895659**. For other matters, Colin Brown, the team leader can be contacted at **01609 532563 or 07714 203912**.

Some work will be done in the evenings (up to 9.00 pm) when shops are shut, but with limited noise. Arrangements were discussed as to how to facilitate the firemen getting to the fire station to pick up the fire engine. It was not thought to be a problem for the engine or the ambulance "getting through" as they are used to dealing with such hazards. One particular problem concerns Metcalfe's (Appersett) long trucks which have to turn at town foot after coming from Ingleton, as the bend at town head is too tight. The Auction Mart was suggested. It was not quite clear what the bus service via Sedbusk lane end would be doing during the Harddraw road work.

Businesses are rightly worried about loss of custom from visitors. At each end of the closure there will be notices stating that they are "Open as usual (for pedestrians)", and listing the businesses concerned. (This was confirmed as we were preparing this report) Several people (not the businesses themselves it has to be said) have asked us to urge 'locals' to use the affected shops etc. as much as possible.

The scheme will be using a local work force. Certainly communication as to what is to be done has been very clear and detailed, but a very reasonable concern (now too late, sadly) was that the order of doing the whole work was ill-judged. Why could not the town-centre have been done first at the very quietest time of the year, leaving the work on the Harddraw road until the spring. Some explanations were put forward about tenders and supplies of materials but sounded less than convincing to the

## **AN UNSUNG HERO - RED CROSS LIFE MEMBER.**

Joan Buck, of Bainbridge first joined The Red Cross when she was 16 years old, in her native Bradford, and still helps today, 54 years later.

In her teenage days she helped raise funds for the Princess Mary Home, and to buy an ambulance. Her spare time was also spent sitting at cinemas on first aid duty. Her work followed her to the Shipley area, and finally to Bainbridge in 1966, when she arrived to become matron at High Hall.

She was aware that there was a local need for support from such a body in a variety of ways. She was responsible for setting up the Askrigg and Bainbridge branch in 1967, and recruited Rev Malcolm Stonestreet, the young enthusiastic Dr Malcolm Hamer, Dr Coltman and Mrs Coltman, local retired nurse Mary Bryant, and Min Tallentire as group leader.

The group raised funds by organizing strawberry teas at the Grange, the home of Min, and later at Cupplesfield the home of Alice Preston. The group purchased two wheel chairs for use of local people and visitors and Joan stored them in the morgue at High Hall. They held pate and punch parties annually at Askrigg Village Hall to raise money for the Red Cross Centre, Morris Grange House, at Middleton Tyas. Ralph and Pat Daykin held shoots with delicious teas for many years raising large amounts. Mary Bryant donated a cup in memory of her husband to be used for the shoot.

Raising money was only a small part of the group's work and Joan's involvement. In the 1960s and 70s not all households had cars, so volunteers helped with transport of people to the foot clinic held at Leyburn, before it moved to Hawes. Many gave generously of their time to visit weekly the residents at High Hall for a chat. They held Christmas parties for the elderly, and

where these people could not attend they had the food taken to their homes. The over 80s were given Christmas presents. They sold Christmas cards; held stalls for Morris Grange, they raised money for World wide disasters and knitted squares for blankets for a disaster area, or for a local person.

Joan, who worked full time and had three children to look after was also a lecturer, examiner and welfare officer for the Red Cross in topics such as home nursing, infant welfare and first aid. She gave courses to pupils at Wensleydale School and administered first aid at Jervaulx Horse Trials. Local doctors and nurses would tell the Red Cross who could benefit from a visit and Joan was helped here by her husband Tony, who then drove her.

Malcolm Stonestreet and Joan felt there was a need for a group for the elderly and set up the Yore Club based at the old building at Yorebridge House, where local people enjoyed whist drives, games and teas, much which still continues at its current home at Sycamore Close. Yorebridge House was also used by Maurice Hall for a youth club and Joan helped support over-night sponsored discos, in case young people collapsed.

Some of the Red Cross helpers worked as individuals to raise money for establishing Low Mill Centre, when they held an international evening serving food from different countries, and wearing costumes of those countries.

Min. Tallentire continued as leader until 1989 and was followed by Barbara Bowling, then Julie Mahony and finally until last year Margaret Preston. Joan retired officially in 1989, but still continues to do her



little bit.

By February 1st this year Joan will have nursed for 54 years. In the 1970s she was given the Red Cross badge of honour for long and devoted service, and made a life member. How many more unsung heroes do we have around us? *(More next month)*

**Kate Empsall**

## **FAVOURITE PLACES**

### **And people**

A big change happened to me over 51 years ago. My father, Mr.W. Preston, became manager of Hawes Auction Mart. That meant us moving from Dowbiggin Lane, Cautley near Sedbergh to Marridale. Hawes. As a quite shy teenager (my husband doesn't believe that!) I was lonely and the only people who spoke to me were Hawes Chapel people and the Dinsdale brothers who were then builders.

On Coronation Day all the local children were presented with cups and on the pouring wet day I met Mary Thwaite (now Dent) and we talked for ages in our car. She corresponded with me at school and college. I visited her and her mother whom I accepted as a second mum.

Meeting my husband Thomas at a Gayle Chapel social run by George Richardson and after six years having three children I was finally accepted by local people. Luckily now incomers are readily accepted, especially people like Alan Watkinson (the editor) who does a great job producing this Newsletter. *(Thankyou; you are very kind. Ed.)*

I often tell them in Gayle they thought I had come from outer space because I was away at Boarding school; perhaps they thought I was going to be a snob.

Sorry, editor. You invited me to state my favourite spot. The first paragraphs were to show that my roots have been put firmly down in Hawes.

My first walk on viewing Marridale was over Bealah Bank and I have never forgotten it. The way St. Margaret's Church appears as you go through the stile; also the view across to Dodd Fell, and of course the houses and now new bungalows along Old Gayle Back Road. My spirits are still lifted when I sit on the newly erected stone seat (a bit cold on a winter's day) but a welcome perch when the legs feel tired.

A friend, Alf Green, painted us a picture of that view so when the time comes I can't walk over there the picture will bring back happy memories.

Now I will close with two beautiful views seen from the car. First over through Burtersett and dropping down to Semerwater; that always seems magical because of the Ballad of Semerwater.

The last favourite view : going over into Swaledale via the Buttertubs. I always feel as though I am out in the wilds, not a house to be seen. A lady from Colne used to come into our cottage and I always took her over to Muker where we used to call in on Elsie and Jean Blades' mother, Mrs Peacock, for a cup of tea and a home-made scone. She always made us so welcome.

This ride out was the highlight of Ann Green's holiday because from her little terraced house at home all she could see were houses and more houses.

We should be so grateful that we live in such a beautiful area and that the local people around are so kind and helpful.

**Doreen Raw, Woodville, Hawes**

*This is a translation, left in the original, of an article which appeared in the German press – for home consumption – about how they find us.*

### **VISIT TO WENSLEYDALE**

A spontaneous idea can grow into something significant - at least that is what we tend to hear. To experience exactly that is indeed something else - and that is what happened to 25 members of the Protestant parish Auringen and their Thuringian twin church Thamsbrück this summer.

About 10 years ago a couple from the beautiful Wensleydale in the middle of the Yorkshire Dales National Park visited a family in Auringen that had lived in their neighborhood for quite some time. This family took their English friends to meet people from both Auringen and Thamsbrück. During the course of this visit the opinion evoked, that such private meetings do more for tolerance and sympathy in this world than any powerful politician on an international conference. Consequently the idea of a return visit with the people met was born, that then followed up 2 years later and involved several families on both sides of the Channel.

Since then steadily growing groups have visited either Yorkshire or Auringen and Thamsbrück and got to understand and love the life in the befriended communities.

This year the exchange took place between July 22nd to 28th and once again Aysgarth, England was the destination. People from Auringen and Thamsbrück stayed with host families in romantic villages spread over the entire picturesque Wensleydale.

The programme the hosts offered could not have been more lovingly or professionally organized by any tour operator: we visited stately Harewood House near Leeds, that impresses especially because of Capability Brown's landscape gardens, toured Wensleydale cheese factory, looked at the enchanting mediaeval city of York with its mighty

minster, were invited for a glass of wine to Castle Bolton by the owner himself and hiked through the soft rolling hills of a unique landscape with high skies and breathtaking views, that belied our presumption that "it always rains" on the island.

Every evening we met in Carperby's village hall for a collective dinner, which was prepared for us during the day by busy hands and that once and for all ended another persistent myth: each German visitor now knows that the English cuisine is extremely tasty and that the wonderful deserts unfortunately lead to second helpings.

Two visits to the beautiful church of Aysgarth crowned our visit- we were invited to a memorable concert by the Wensleydale Choir, that apart from traditional Händel and Vivaldi sang the brilliant Magnificat by John Rutter and furthermore the joined service on Sunday morning, that was arranged by all members of the different parishes under the care of the English vicar.

But whatever we did- the personal contact between the host families and the visitors was the main purpose of the visit. And that is why this week grew into something really special: if one knew each already or had just met, the good will and the friendship, the mutual effort to reach understanding and comprehension as well as the open joy shared about the "adventure exchange" was by far the best on this trip.

This was a stay in another country, in which just for once we were not just tourists, but a welcome part of a very lively community - and that took us far beyond the "normal" holiday feeling.

That all this was possible despite the language barriers is the most striking souvenir that we took home from this week and that we would love to share again in two years time here in Auringen with our friends from the Wensleydale. **Umlaut**

## H.A.O.S. PANTOMIME CINDERELLA 2003

by Howard St. Quinton

**A**s everyone knows there is, since the advent of the deep-freezer, a crucial difference between 'home-made' and 'home-cooked'. This year's Hawes pantomime - very much to the credit of all concerned - was both. The large-scale commercial show suffers, as it always has, from being a vehicle for next year's (or more often last year's) pop-stars and stand-up comedians. Because of the need to find slots for these wannabees and has-beens to perform their acts, (acts which seldom have any discernible connection at all with the plot), such pantomimes often deserve Henry James's tart dismissal of blockbuster novels as 'loose, baggy monsters'. I remember going to one in Stockport where my mother-in-law fell - enviably - asleep, a little fiend behind us quietly plaited my daughter's hair into the ironwork of her seat, the dancers couldn't keep step, the chorus couldn't sing in tune and poor Madge and Harold, on leave from *Neighbours* as King and Queen Rat (this one was supposedly *Dick Whittington*) despairingly offered glimmers of comedy and acting skills amidst the prevailing chaos, and ice-cream sticks at each other.

*Cinderella 2003* was not a bit like that, as the audiences - all but full houses every night, even Monday, and some came twice - can testify. Right from the opening chorus, full of sparkle and bezazz up to the colourful end, it was, as the Rice Crispies advert used to boast 'full of 'snap, crackle and pop' .. The author, strumming away vigorously in the orchestra pit - and by the way you'd never have believed if you hadn't counted that there were only four musicians - had realised that *pace* is almost everything in pantomime. His is the only *Cinderella* I've seen which *doesn't* begin

with a low-key kitchen sequence with a pathetic Cinders scrubbing the floor bullied by her stepmother and the Ugly Sisters. But because even four-year-olds know the basic story-line already, this kind of thing is pretty superfluous and Howard's script was accordingly pared down to the bare essentials. He also worked on the sound principle that audiences prefer *most* tunes (Alan Harpley gave us a lively opening chorus for Act II) to be familiar and most jokes to be topical and - better still - local. When you can get people not only to hoot with laughter but actually to applaud cracks about the National Park and the Parish Council you have really rung the bell.

The show was, as Howard rightly insisted on Saturday night, not just his creation but the whole team's, so that it may seem a bit invidious to single anyone out. But it would be grossly unfair not to mention first the production team of Colin Bailey, whose first solo production was one he can be proud of, Norma Fowler the angel of the key-board and co-musical director with Alan Harpley whose unflappable wife Sue's stage direction was, as ever, impeccable. This was in fact, for a low-budget, small town production, technically very sophisticated indeed. It is doubtful if many noticed because the art of stage-management lies in *not* being noticed. There was great deal of hard effort and slick movement behind the stage as well as on it and the anonymous army of scene-shifters, switch-board operators, tea-brewers and child-tamers (sorry, *minders*) all deserve praise. It wouldn't happen at all without them, remember.

Which brings me to the actors and actresses, young and not so young. The script was evidently crafted to suit the - numerically - limited human resources available, and the best tribute I can pay to the entire ensemble on and off stage is that

we were never made to feel that the cast - like old-fashioned landladies' butter - were spread parsimoniously thin. In fact, there were only some fifteen adult performers but what with lightning costume-changes, clever use of make-up, and even a bit of drag - (not confined to the Ugly Sisters) we never noticed. When it mattered a kind of magical multiplication spell seemed to take place. In this process a well-schooled and disciplined Junior group played an important part collectively - their Mouse number was delightful - while some took individual roles with real credit. Indeed, a straw poll among the youngest in the audience gave top billing to 'the pussy-cat' and one small boy wept when he realised the show was over and he wouldn't see her any more.

As to the adults, Barbara Pickard as King Orange - complete with unbelievable wig - was a nicely down-to-earth foil to his starry-eyed son, who Shona Dinsdale played in splendidly traditional principal boy style. Her daughter Rosie was far less soft than most Cinderellas tend to be and all the better for it. Daniel Cockett's professionalism showed to advantage in his role as link-man. His brisk performance as Buttons achieved that immediate *rapport* with the children in the audience that is an essential for pantomimic success and he also partnered with Lynn Waites's predatory Lady Beatty in a scene which the adults in the audience relished for her sly innuendo and his - slowly diminishing - bashfulness. Jennifer Fawcett was a suitably stately Fairy Godmother with an engaging eagerness to join in the final partying. Much was expected of the Ugly Sisters Angus McCarthy and Alan Harpley, old hands at this game as they are; but they wore their rouge with a difference too, as Cinderella's 3<sup>rd</sup> Millennium tormentors-in-chief with the soppiest Joy a rather uneasy echo of vindictive Voda. Over-the-top

costumes aren't everything and some of their slap-stick antics - notably the scene ending in the song and dance[?] duet *Sisters* were hilarious. John-Willie Dinsdale as Modem and Joanne Hardwick as the despairing Avon Lady both contributed lively vignettes. And since there were only four in the perpetually running, jumping standing still and singing chorus they all deserve credit too, not least for conning us into thinking they were four times as numerous; so Bill Simms, Andy Souter, Carolyn Ruskin and Joan Hawes, take a bow.

I'll end with a quotation - slightly modified - from Shakespeare, which neatly sums up the feeling I - and I'm sure all the audiences - came away with:

Their true intent was all for our delight.

But perhaps I may be allowed just a word of caution too. To modify the proverb 'All panto and no play *may* make Jack a dull boy.' For HAOS a smooth-running groove is one thing, but a rut quite another. This *Cinderella* was the living proof that the current team *could* handle something rather different - but still popular - very successfully, and I for one would like to see them try it!

**Trevor Johnson**

### 160 YEARS:

**Hawes and High Abbotside Fishing Association continued. More extracts from "The Wensleydale Yore and its tributaries" (supplied by Milton Iveson to Bob Spencer) (1883 spellings & comas!)**

**A**gain taking up my rod and having reached Yores Bridge, we begin to fish up to Hawes, a distance of four miles, which I class as the best fishing in the river. About three miles is nearly all stream fishing but a mile from Hawes we come to a very deep part of the river, Sandy Wheel, in which the largest fish are found. Trout weighing four pounds have been taken at this point, and my father tells of a trout having been caught there by a Dr Balderson, weighing twelve pounds. I have not had the good fortune to kill any trout over a pound in weight but, we remember for our encouragement that these large fish have fallen to the rods of some of our brethren.

The fishing from this point to Hawes is very good, the river winding through pastures and meadows and being wonderfully free from trees so that it is easy work for the angler. Having reached Hawes at last, it will be very convenient for those who intend to fish in the waters of Hawes Angling Association to stay there. This little market town has many pleasing associations for the writer of this paper. It was here that I was born and spent my early days. Many a time and oft during my boyhood, have I rambled with my school fellows up Blackburn syke, Thorns syke and others, taking all the trout with our hands, a style of fishing commonly called "groaping". We were rather fond of this kind of sport; there was no angling association then to interfere with our youthful tastes, yet I believe that the river and tributaries contained more fish than at the present time, notwithstanding the fact that the Hawes Angling Association have watchers, and strictly preserve the river, becks and sykes or burns. From the tower of the handsome new church of St Margaret's, at Hawes, a magnificent view of the country can be had. Looking west are seen Widdale,

Mossdale, Cotterdale and Fossdale; eastward there is the lovely river wending its way down the valley, and most extensive views of all the surrounding district. As we pass through the market place we find more than one inn at which we can take up our quarters - the White Hart, the Crown, the Black Bull, and the King's Arms amongst the rest. Returning to the matter of special interest to the angler, we reach the Yore at the point where Gale Beck enters it. This beck is now an improving trout stream, and, when sufficient water is found coming down, can be fished to advantage.

A walk of a mile and a half along the side of this stream leads to Gale force, a fall of about twenty four feet high and as many in breadth. The water flows over a ledge of hard limestone rock lying on a bed of shale particularly rich in organic fossils. Returning to the Yore and fishing up the river we find a good stream every few yards, with here and there a deep pool affording suitable lodgement for both trout and grayling. I wish to state here that the trout in the Hawes waters are the best; they soon reach a perfection of condition rarely found in the fish we take lower down the river, say below Askrigg or Aysgarth Falls. Continuing our progress upstream we find, coming in to the river on the north bank, another nice beck for trout, Fossdale Beck. If we follow this up we shall pass through the village of Hardraw, a short distance from which is the most remarkable waterfall in the district. The stream, during the lapse of ages has scooped out a large amphitheatre in the rocks (Hardraw Scar) the lower strata of which being softer than the uppermost, the latter projects a considerable distance. Over the brink from a height of ninety nine feet comes an unbroken column of water, at the back of which is a footpath, so that the cascade can be viewed from every side. In the great frosts of 1739 and 1749, and also this year (1879) icicles so arranged themselves round the falling stream as to make a huge tube through which the water was seen to flow, Again pursuing our course up the main river we come to the point at

## SPORTS AND RECREATION REPORT

I feel I have got to write this article because I share the feelings and frustrations of the whole Community at the hugely disappointing news of the refusal of the Sports Lottery to support our bid for funds to build the Upper Dales swimming pool at Hawes.

The fundraising for better sports and recreation facilities started in 1994 and has been extremely well supported over the years by the local community and may I thank you all for that. We must not forget what we have achieved, the purchase of the Community playing fields and the construction of our own football pitch, which was not plain sailing, I can assure you.

And what wonderful use we now make of the community fields, with upwards of 100 youngsters and their parents involved with mini football most weekends. There is a quoits pitch, the future site for the skateboard park, the occasional community events such as It's a knockout, and the barn which has now been converted into a comfortable changing room.

Then on to Phase 3!! The proposed swimming pool. After years of hard work, again by everyone, including John Blackie, who without his expertise and commitment we would have not stood a chance, our Sports Lottery bid was then submitted which showed we could run the swimming pool at a small profit so all we needed was the capital sum to get started. All the other supporting information was included in the bid, the sport consultant's report and business plan, 130 letters of support from the local community, local authorities and other organisations, and we even chose the small pool package recommended by the

Lottery itself!!

After nearly 12 months waiting for an answer, we then got a flat refusal, in these blunt terms; for example there is not enough of you in the Dales to count, and you have got existing swimming pools which will meet your need (a 54 mile round trip away), and we will not get value for money for our Lottery funds, and you do not have all the match funding in place and so on. The Lottery had the good grace to admit we were the community that was furthest from a swimming pool in all the Yorkshire and Humber region, and although they could do something about it, chose to do nothing!! Clearly they do not care about deeply rural communities like the Upper Dales.

We must now move on, as a Community, and put the decision behind us. We have tried our absolute best, given it our all, but for the time being our own community swimming pool must remain a dream that one day will come true. We have around £15,000 of funds available, most of which now can be spent on other sport and recreation facilities. We invite you to the AGM of the Upper Wensleydale Sports and Recreational Association, the charitable company that looks after the community fields and the funds on behalf of the community. Your help is needed to help us choose the next target to aim for – for example a small sports hall, a multi-use games area or maybe further drainage work on the football pitch in association with Hawes United FC. All ideas are welcome.

**The meeting will take place at Gayle Institute on Thursday 26th February starting at 7.15pm**

**Janet Dinsdale  
Trustee  
UWSLtd**

## NORTH YORKSHIRE POLICE

We have had a few crimes in our area over the last month or so, which just goes to show that the thief is still about and we do not live in a crime free zone.

About 7pm on January 18<sup>th</sup> a farm building was entered at Bands, Hawes, where a quantity of farming equipment was stolen. Without doubt responsible for this burglary were the occupants of a red Toyota pickup, part registration believed to be G210. If anyone has seen a similar type of vehicle in our area then please let us know; also be wary of it as no doubt they will be back again.

On the farm front again a quad bike was stolen from a farm near Appersett sometime between the hours of 6 and 7 pm on January 20<sup>th</sup>, we have no suspects at this stage, however you may have noticed that on both occasions the thief was making use of the darkness and coming to our area in the early evening. Do not think that they all wander around at 3 o'clock in the morning; they will strike at any time they see fit.

I know this is some time ago but on December 11<sup>th</sup> a reversible England football shirt was stolen from Askrigg School. The shirt was being used as a prop in the Christmas play and had been left hanging over an open window. Someone decided to help themselves, we believe from the outside of the building. The shirt has a small paint mark on it which cannot be removed (so mum tells me). If you know of the shirt's whereabouts or who the culprit is, then let me know. Remember if you wish to remain anonymous then you can always use **Crimestoppers 0800 555 111**.

Having been in my Community Beat Officer's role for a couple of months now I am starting to look at the problems which affect our community. One of the things that I see rearing its ugly head again and again is vehicles being driven erratically and at speed in and around our area. I have a word of warning for those persons who decide to drive in such a manner. Under the Police Reform Act 2002, the police have a power to seize vehicles which are being driven in a way which causes or is likely to cause alarm, distress or annoyance. This is a very broad definition and it is part of the government's thrust to get rid of antisocial behaviour. I personally think it is a great bit of legislation and I intend to use it – so if you want to keep your nice shiny car, then drive it sensibly or we will take it – you have been warned!

As you can see this is quite a short newsletter this month, however what does concern me is that farm thefts are on the increase. We have been very fortunate over the last few years, but it would appear that maybe our time is running out. I would ask all of you to be vigilant and report anything suspicious to us straight away.

Anyway that's all for now. If you need any help or information please contact me or any member of staff at the community office and we will help you all we can.

**Dave Cousins**  
**PC141 Community Beat Officer**  
**for Upper Wensleydale**  
Dave.Cousins@northyorkshire.pnn.police.uk

**RAINFALL FOR JULY TO DECEMBER 2003  
MEASUREMENTS IN MILLIMETRES**

	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total for year
<b>Thornton Rust</b>	46.3	26.4	72.9	43.0	109.8	123.6	906.7
<b>Askrigg</b>	44.0	23.0	71.0	37.0	90.0	120.0	800.0
<b>S t a l l i n g Busk</b>	55.9	31.7	76.4	41.7	167.0	146.6	1061.6
<b>West Burton</b>	31.8	31.2	54.6	31.5	76.8	117.8	800.1
<b>Bainbridge</b>	51.6	24.2	72.2	36.4	116.4	129.3	873.8
<b>Hawes</b>	42.5	36.0	104.0	55.0	151.5	137.5	911.5



Dear Editor,

This is to say a very big thank you to you and your team for putting in the article about my forthcoming (it was December 19th ) trip to The Gambia to deliver a minibus for the use of the school for blind children. Another massive thank you is due to all those people who have helped me to raise the money needed to finance the trip and the running of the minibus in The Gambia. This has been a magnificent effort and has involved whist and domino drives, coffee mornings and donations. It is difficult to find the correct words to express the feelings of gratitude for the overwhelming response and support which has touched me deeply. With all the support and goodwill, my part in getting there will be made easier and the money will enable me to give them the transport they so need at minimal (if any) cost to them. This means that many more children will get an improved education facility.

The money will help to ensure that more blind children will have better and increased educational opportunities.

When I return I promise to relate the tales of the adventure to anyone who wants to hear, and more to the point carry the thanks from the Gambian Organisation for the Visually Impaired (GOVI). If anyone wants me to visit their organisation or group to speak can they please contact me at the end of January?

With my most sincere thanks and best wishes, and a Happy New Year

**David G. Pointon.**

## **COMMUNITY OFFICE ENTERS 3<sup>RD</sup> PHASE**

January 1<sup>st</sup> ushered in the third phase in the life of The Upper Wensleydale Community Office in Hawes. Following its modest beginning in April 1998 it quickly became a runaway success and over the next 3 years established a wide range of services which could be accessed by local residents at the Office.

Then in January 2001 it moved into its second phase by adding a project team which was based in a back office at Scott's Solicitors overlooking the Market Place. By now there were 6 members of staff working full or part time. This expansion could only be afforded on the back of a time limited £100,000 grant from Europe matched by a similarly sized grant from Yorkshire Forward. The project team was able to move forward several local projects, for example the Upper Dales Child-care Partnership which soon will be offering first rate childcare from the Horsa Hut at Hawes School if all its grants applications prove successful. All staff working at the Community Office or in the project team were engaged on fixed term contracts ending on December 31<sup>st</sup> 2003 when the grants expired.

Finance for the third phase only allows us to employ 3 members of staff, one person full time and 2 part time. The new Community Partnership Manager is Hilary Ayling, who lives near Muker and has long experience in public service. The Community Partnership Assistant is Abbie Hogg who has been appointed on a temporary basis although this appointment could be extended. The Community Partnership Accountant is Nigel Chorley from Thornton Rust whose work on the figures is so invaluable. He has occupied this position for nearly 2 years.

The new team are all based at the Community Office and are quickly getting up to speed but I ask on their behalf for your patience as there is much to learn. The Office is open from 9.30am to 4.30pm from Monday to Friday and you will receive a warm welcome if you call by. All the usual services are available and project work can still be undertaken so if you are planning a community project and need assistance please do not hesitate to ask. Can I take this opportunity to thank Angela LeGrice, Val, Amanda, Rima and Ade for their work during Phase 2.

**John Blackie, Chairman  
The Upper Wensleydale  
Community Office**

## WHAT'S ONS LISTING

### February

- 3 R.D.C. Planning committee**  
**4 Launch of "Home Equity" scheme**  
Dales Countryside Museum. See article  
**7 "The Company" band** Fountain in  
Hawes from **10.30 pm**  
**10 YDNPA Planning committee**Dales  
Countryside Museum **10.30 am**  
**13 Tea dance.** See article.  
**13 Ladies darts K.O.** Crown, Hawes  
**14 St. Valentine's Day**  
**14-15 Yorkshire Food & Drink 2004**  
Great Yorkshire Showground.  
Tel; **666041** for more information  
**18 Domino drive** Stalling Busk.  
See box  
**19 Hawes W.I.** Games night.  
Methodist Church rooms **7.00 pm**  
**21 "Sounds familiar" disco** Fountain;  
for local charity. Usual times  
**23 Soup & sweet lunch** Askrigg;  
**12 noon** see box  
**24-26 'Space for drawing'** with Judith  
Bromley. Bainside Arts. See box  
**24 Shrove Tuesday**  
**25 Ash Wednesday.**  
**Mid-dale lunches begin:** see article

### March

- 9-10 Painting in oils.** Lesley Coates  
Jones. Bainside Arts. See box  
**13-14 Mosaic making.** Colette Brannigan  
As above  
**17-18 Felting with wool.** Gill Dearman  
As above  
**23-25 Discovering colour.** Judith  
Bromley

#### BUTLINS SWIMATHON

#### IN SUPPORT OF

#### MACMILLAN CANCER CARE

Amanda Scarr (Nee Metcalfe) will be attempting to swim 100 lengths at Richmond Swimming Pool on Saturday 13th March 2004.

Anyone who would like to sponsor Amanda in aid of the above charity will find sponsor forms at the Health Centre, The Fountain Hotel or can contact Amanda on Tel: **650539**

## YORE MILL

The carriage collection is now nearly all moved and proposals for a Yorkshire Dales Visitor Centre and an attraction housing a multiplicity of products and services are under way together with plans to re-instate the mill wheel and turbines to generate local electricity in this Grade 2 (1752) listed building.

In essence, the idea is to show-case the work of many small local handcraft workers (not the already well-established ones), who would have a base instead of "racing about all over the countryside doing craft fairs and wondering if they are going to sell anything next weekend..." to quote Annie Kiely, of Yore Mill, which will be able to offer space at competitive rates.

Additional proposals include exhibition and gallery space, interpretation of the historic mill and its surroundings, and promotion of group visits with extended evening opening times.

For people wishing to make inquiries, there is a **Questionnaire** available from **663399**

A fundraising shop, "Annie's", is currently trading selling antiques, collectables, 'household and garden' and 'rumble in the jumble'.

## CATHERINE METCALFE

As we are printing this, the funeral service for Catherine is taking place in Bainbridge Chapel. We always wanted to feature her, but she graciously refused! She spent her whole life in Bainbridge; loved the children at school and at chapel; cared for all, welcomed and befriended newcomers; readily ferried her friends up and down the dale and was a kind, sound and greatly respected local preacher of the Methodist Church for nearly sixty years. She is much missed.