

REETH & DISTRICT GAZETTE

ISSUE NO. 331

JANUARY 2024



*Your local news magazine
for the two dales*

PRICELESS

First Thoughts

May I wish you, your family and friends a very happy new year. Lots of groups and activities are restarting after the Christmas lull, and it is good that there is so much available in this community to help us through the dark months and keep us connected. A lot of work goes on behind the scenes to keep these activities going, so do support them with your presence, and if you want to get really involved I am sure there are many activities that would welcome you onto their organising committees to spread the workload.

This issue sees the second in our occasional series "Focus On" and this time the spotlight is on The Swaledale Festival, a cultural highlight of the year for many of us that has grown from small beginnings over fifty years ago.

Last month I made a plea for you to consider becoming a financial Supporter of the Reeth Gazette. This may not be possible for all of you, but maybe you can support us by using those businesses that advertise with us, and mentioning to them that you saw their advert in the Gazette. This is good for the businesses and good for the Gazette. Everyone likes a new year win-win situation!

Jackie, Editor

Cover photo: Michael Kusz's fabulous 'Re:Cycling' sculpture in Reeth's Community Orchard still turns heads every day, after it was commissioned by The Swaledale Festival nearly a decade ago to celebrate the Tour de France whizzing through the Dale. The violinist is Adam Summerhayes.

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Gazette Management Team

Chairman: Susan Miller

Longstone, Low Row, Richmond
DL11 6NA

Tel: 01748 886 358

E-mail: chairman@reethGazette.co.uk

Secretary: Sue Alderson

Holme View, Low Row, Richmond,
DL11 6PE

Tel: 01748 886 292

E-mail: secretary@reethGazette.co.uk

Editor: Jackie Pope

Guildy Hall, Muker, Richmond,
DL11 6QG

Tel: 07885 498676

E-mail: editor@reethGazette.co.uk

Treasurer: Andrew Bedford

Glory Be, Blades, Richmond, DL11 6PS

Tel: 01748 886 974

E-mail: treasurer@reethGazette.co.uk

Subscriptions: Elsie Whitehead

5 Place Hill, Reeth, Richmond,
DL11 6SD

Tel: 01748 884 132

E-mail: subscription@reethGazette.co.uk

Distribution: Trevor Brown

The Cottage, Healaugh, Richmond,
DL11 6UA

Tel: 01748 884 111

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

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

All articles or items for inclusion should be sent to the editor
E-mail: editor@reethGazette.co.uk
or left at Reeth Post Office.

The Editor welcomes feedback

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

Please send feedback to
editor@reethGazette.co.uk

Gazette Deadlines

The deadlines for the next two months are:

February issue: January 9th

March issue: February 6th

Posting The Gazette

To post a copy of this Gazette to a friend or relative will require a Large Letter size and will cost £2.40 second class, or £2.70 first class.

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

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finding out more why not sample one of our walks or talks.

Contact Us. Please visit our website at www.swaag.org to see our programme of activities.

Register to join one of our walks, or come along to a meeting - during the winter these are held on zoom, and you can join us for one by contacting: info@swaag.org

Become a Trustee. If you feel that you have more to offer, would be interested in becoming involved in the management of the group, and actively help in delivering a wider understanding of these beautiful dales, then please do let us know - we would be very happy to talk to you.



If you have an active interest in the history, archaeology, geology and natural environment of the locality of Swaledale, Arkengarthdale and the other northern dales then SWAAG may be for you.

SWAAG is a group of like-minded people who, for the past 15 years, have explored the heritage of this beautiful area.

We usually meet monthly for talks, have a programme of walks to explore the fascinating world of the dales, and have over the years undertaken a series of projects, surveys and excavations under professional supervision.

New Members.

We are always looking for new members. If you are interested in



(Geophysical Survey of Grinton Mounds)
Rod Flint

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Arkengarthdale Hub



News and future events from Arkengarthdale Community Hub, at St. Mary's Church

Arkengarthdale Community Hub is well and truly up and running. Since our July opening (celebrated with a cream tea), we have been busy every month. With a short Yoga course and now weekly Zumba, there's been no excuse not to keep fit! To stretch the mind, we've had a quiz (with supper, of course) plus three lichen workshops which widened our appreciation of what is growing right under our noses. Beginning our series of talks, Rhoda Fraser shared her reminiscences of childhood in Arkengarthdale with photos, anecdotes and contributions from the audience! We've had coffee mornings, Christmas wreath making and felt crafting too. Not forgetting the children, they have made bug hotels, clay creepy crawlies and pictures and recently helped in the creation of patches of meadow in the churchyard.

Now for 2024! Get your diary out to highlight this date:

Saturday, 6th April - Reeth Brass Band AND The Pearls are performing in St. Mary's. This will bring local performers together in a unique collaboration and promises to be truly memorable evening - and only £7.50 a ticket, available from mid - January from the Post Office and The Red Lion, Langthwaite. Further details to follow in February's Gazette.

Getting a bit more cerebral, we have fascinating talks planned including:

14th March - Swaledale Mountain Rescue

20th June - Upper Dales Moorland Group

19th September - Jane Sammels, 'Cutting It Fine'

with additional ones in the pipeline.

Also, coming to the Hub every fortnight is 'Heart and Craft' - a wonderful opportunity for the older of us (plus 70ish) to learn new crafts from working artists. Try your hand at willow weaving, printing, fused glass work and ceramics or suggest a dying art that needs resurrecting.

There will be transport and tea available and all this is FREE! For more details, see Arkengarthdale Community Hub Facebook page, posters and future Gazette articles or email arkengarthdalehub@gmail.com

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The RBL Poppy Appeal 2023

The amount raised during the Poppy Appeal is £1787-02.
(This figure does not include any donation using the QR Codes, details of which we will not receive until early next year)
The total amount received during 2023 currently stands at £2225-89.

My thanks to all who have donated or have helped with fund raising.
Martin Sunderland



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The Muker Parish Community Pub Project

Everyone in Upper Swaledale, and many others, will know the Farmers Arms in Muker. The pub has been at the heart of the community since the mid-19th century. If you've ever joined in with the community singing at the end of Muker Show, you'll understand just how central it is. In 2022, in recognition of its importance, the Farmers Arms was made an Asset of Community Value by Muker Parish Council.



In October, with the backing of the Parish Council, work began to look at the potential for community ownership. As a first step, to assess the level of community support, public meetings took place in Muker (14th November)

and Keld (16th November). Presentations were given outlining the current position with the pub, background to national trends with pubs and community businesses and an outline of the potential funding available through the Government's Community Ownership Fund - an opportunity for local communities to take control of assets, amenities or facilities at risk of closure. Questionnaires were distributed at the meetings to garner people's views and a dedicated Muker Community Pub Facebook page has been set up to keep people informed of progress and to

make the questionnaire available online.

At the time of writing (end of November), the results from the questionnaires are still being assessed, but the overwhelming reaction has been positive, with many people expressing their support and interest in buying a community share. To date over 90% of respondents rated

the importance of the pub, both to the local community and to visitors of Upper Swaledale, at 5, the highest rank. At the same time, the number of people in the community who went to the pub frequently has dropped from 50% to 10%, reflecting its more recent decline

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as community hub. The full results of the survey will be published and presented at a future public meeting.

Given the level of support, the project is now moving to the next stage, with the creation of a more formal organisation and Steering Group, and the submission of an Expression of Interest to the Government fund.

The Steering Group will engage with the Plunkett Foundation, a national charity promoting thriving and inclusive rural communities, that supports the setting up of a wide range of businesses owned by the local community. They currently represent around 750 community businesses in rural areas. Of these businesses supported by Plunketts there is a 99% survival rate in their initial 5 years.

The application process for the Community Ownership Fund is a lot of work, including the strategic and management case for the project, operation plan, financial schedules and risk assessments, but it presents an unprecedented opportunity to get match funding for the project. Although the fund is officially available until March 2025 the working group believe that an application within the next six months will be sensible given the current political and economic climate.

If you are interested in supporting the Muker Community Pub Project and want to be kept informed on progress, please email mukercommunitypub@gmail.com.

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Reeth Memorial Hall

Thank you to everyone who has visited the hall over the last year, and also those who have supported us by attending concerts. This is our main source of funding and helps with the maintenance and upkeep of the hall.

Big thanks go to all committee members and also Tracy, Jacqui, Chris, Eric & Cheryl, Rich & Andrea and also Lawrence & Hilde. Your efforts have benefitted our community.

A full programme of concerts is already booked in for 2024.

We start with the Urban Folk Quartet in March - expect a groove-filled set of acoustic music, presented with infectious energy and humour.

Kiki Dee and John Tams will both be making welcome returns in 2024. There will also be an Everly Brothers and Buddy Holly tribute show in July. Blackbeards Tea Party are coming ashore in October.

Please see website for further details of all concerts already programmed for next year. If you are a Facebook user it would be helpful if you are able to like our page.

Tickets for this year's concerts are available from Reeth PO or phone Glen Steward (01748 884989) or visit www.reethmemorialhall.co.uk - tickets $\frac{1}{2}$ price u16s. All concerts 8pm unless otherwise stated.

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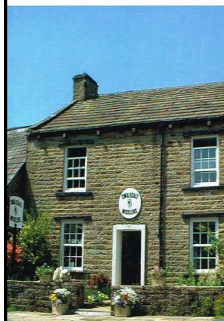
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Bolton Castle

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Typical requirements of the role is to brush and mop floors, sweep stairs, clean the public conveniences, litter pick, cobwebbing and cleaning of furniture.

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Following my plea in the December Gazette, many thanks to those of you who have already become a Supporter of the Reeth Gazette and made a financial contribution that will go towards helping us keep the Gazette free for the majority of people. It is not too late. Donations, of any amount you choose, can be made by bank transfer to Lloyds Bank, sort code 77-91-29 account number 40807260. If you use the reference "Supporter" we can gauge how much is donated. We do not need your details and will not store any data about your gift. For those without the ability to pay by bank transfer, there is a collecting box for cash donations in Reeth Post Office.

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Jackie, Editor

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Sustainable
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Sustainable Swaledale

Come and join us in 2024!

We are an **active and friendly volunteer-led group** based in Arkengarthdale and Swaledale, aiming to promote community sustainability. We are winners of the North Yorkshire Council Community Awards 2023 Caring for the Environment Award.

The group meets on the **first Thursday of each month** at 7.00pm. Do come and join us. Contact us for more details:

info@sustainableswaledale.org

Facebook

We have a **moderated Facebook group** of over 300 members where we keep ourselves up to date with current news and local issues

www.facebook.com/groups/SustainableSwaledale/

Sustainable Swaledale website

Visit our website at

www.sustainableswaledale.org for our monthly newsletter and details of our Swifts and Swallows projects.

Newsletter

If you prefer, you can have the monthly newsletter sent directly to your email account. The sign up form is available on the website.

Activities in 2023

Over the last year the group has:

- won the North Yorkshire Council Community Awards 2023 Caring for the Environment Award for work on our four projects
- been shortlisted for the Campaign for National Parks (CNP) - Changemaker of the Year award for work on various projects
- partnered with Tees-Swale: naturally connected (TSNC) to plant woodland and hedges in 12 sites in the two dales
- partnered with Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust (YDMT) to collect local tree seed for raising local tree seedlings and created a tree nursery
- handed out wildflower seed and supported the creation of wildflower patches and larger wildflower meadows with the support of the YDMT Hay Time Officer
- built connections with organisations such as the TSNC, YDMT, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority; Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust
- debated and informed via our Facebook group, monthly meetings and Reeth Gazette articles
- engaged with the planning process, focussing on issues of importance to the civic and environmental sustainability agenda
- organised a fund raiser public lecture looking at what sustainability means
- produced fresh produce for everyone to consume free of charge at the Reeth Surgery's Incredible Edible beds
- ran a wholefood buying group
- set up the Wing It project supporting swifts and swallows

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Activities planned so far for 2024

- complete our eight winter hedge and tree planting sessions by March as part of the community Together for Trees project
- develop our newly acquired hedge laying skills with more work along the Swale Trail
- removal of redundant tree guards from mature woodland
- continued support for the creation of wild flower patches in gardens and churchyards collectively creating a "one acre meadow" supporting bees and insects.
- Support for larger areas of meadow creation
- raising tree seedlings from locally collected seed and potting into root trainers. Establishing tree nurseries where seedlings can mature to planting size for planting in 2025
- organising bird box building sessions and identification of new sites for boxes
- replanting the Reeth Surgery community vegetable beds for the new season and looking after and watering the beds
- continuing to monitor swifts and swallows via the Wing It project

If any of this has wetted your appetite, **please do get in touch**. Even if you can only spare a couple of hours, please come and join in with some of our projects.

We are a small group and would love to attract more members.

Wishing you all a Happy New Year!

Margaret

Fremington Village Hall

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

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

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THE ARKENGARTHDALE BUNGALOW TRUST

The Bungalow, Arkengarthdale, has been jointly owned by nine families since 1965. It has five rooms (one en-suite), shower room, outside suite and store on three levels overlooking the beck. It can comfortably accommodate up to eight people for holidays and walking.

One family wishes to retire due to ill-health and the Trust welcomes enquiries from people wishing to join.

Full information on the Bungalow facilities, how the Trust works and a visit can be obtained from
francis.morgan73@hotmail.co.uk
and helenspost@hotmail.co.uk.

Two Dales First Responders



The Two Dales Community First Responder team is in urgent need of more volunteers to fulfil this valuable and sometimes life saving role.

You do not need any previous medical experience as full and continual training is provided by the Yorkshire Ambulance Service (YAS).

You simply need a willingness to be on call for at least an average of 5 hours per week, be over 18 years of age, have your own vehicle and hold a full driving licence.

The Community First Responder Scheme is a partnership between locally based volunteers and the Yorkshire Ambulance Service (YAS). Our objective is to reduce the number of pre-hospital deaths in our area, simply...to keep our folks alive!

We are continually trained by YAS in life support, Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), the use of an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED), the administration of oxygen, the use of the latest lifting equipment for collapsed patients and many other skills. Whilst on call we carry all of

the necessary equipment to perform effectively these tasks.

When a 999 call is received by YAS, an ambulance is despatched. At the same time, a Community First Responder, on call in the area, can be alerted and asked to attend to the patient and be on scene well before the ambulance. Those first moments can be critical. It is then that our training enables us to provide comfort and life support until an ambulance arrives.

For an informal no obligation chat contact the Team Coordinator Pete McKay tel. 078701 99513, via text or Whats App. We are also on Facebook, search for YAS CFR Two Dales First Responders.

Also the link below provides generic information.

<http://www.yas.nhs.uk/get.../community-first-responders/>

There are now vacancies and you have the unique opportunity to not only provide a most valuable service to the residents of the two dales but also to enhance your personal skills, abilities and confidence in the life saving arena.

Pete McKay

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The Children's Society

Right now in Britain there are children and young people who feel scared, unloved and unable to cope. The Children's Society works with these young people and fights for hope by deeply understanding the needs of young people and by supporting them through their most serious life challenges. The Society works with young people who have suffered years of abuse, who have run away from home or are struggling with mental health issues. They look out for young carers and those who are at risk of being groomed by gangs. They help refugees who have no one else to turn to in this country.

Very many thanks to the 21 box holders and donors in Swaledale and Arkengarthdale who have contributed **£700** for the Children's Society. Thank you all for your generosity. Last year Box Holders in Britain raised over £1 million, which has helped the project workers be there to give vulnerable children the one-to-one support they so urgently need.

Daniel's Story

Growing up, Daniel did well at school but when he was a teenager, his mental health began to spiral. His dad felt powerless as he watched his son become more and more unhappy. At his lowest point, Daniel took two overdoses in the space of a week and was hospitalised.

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home from hospital, he and his dad met Steve a mental health practitioner for the Society. In their weekly sessions, a programme of support was created tailored to Daniel's interests.

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A financial statement must accompany any application.



It's January and the start of a new singing term. This is when we begin to work on pieces for the Swaledale Festival.

2024 marks 100 years since the death of Puccini, and so we are inspired to sing Puccini's *Messa di Gloria*, a fantastic work many of us love. To the programme we shall be adding shorter works by Faure, Elgar and Brahms. If you would like to come along and see if you would like singing with us, you would be more than welcome. We are a friendly choir and we don't hold auditions

Rehearsals start on Sunday 14th January at 3pm in Reeth Memorial Hall, and take place every Sunday afternoon thereafter. **Jackie 07885 498676**

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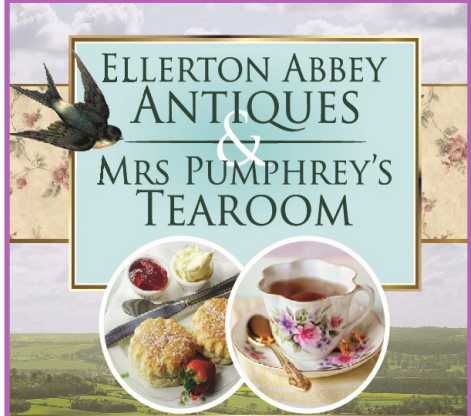
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Talking Pictures

Marvel Comic Universe spin-offs Review by John Hunter

There's been a lack of 'talking pictures' recently, partly due to fewer Cinema visits, and that in turn partly due to the unfortunate closure of the 'Empire'. I've heard mixed reviews of 'Oppenheimer' and little else has particularly attracted me recently - so I thought a couple of items looking at the modern phenomenon of TV spin-offs from recent movies might be topical.

Next time we'll look at 'Star Wars', but this time a brief look at two of the 'MCU' (Marvel Comics Universe) shows. For the uninitiated (who will probably have turned the page by now anyway)

the MCU encompasses all and every character featured in the comics - the 'Avengers' being the foremost 'team' battling extra-terrestrial beasts across would you believe 24 films (some being 'backstory' - or origin movies' - about individual characters). Previous TV reincarnations have included the excellent 'Hawkeye' starring Jeremy Renner - a full blown 'Avenger'.

Two of the most recent 'spin-off' shows have featured more 'minor' characters from the movies (in that they never featured in their 'own' film) - Loki, Thor's mischievous brother, and both Wanda and Vision from the 'Avengers' films.



Loki is just into its second season, featuring the 'God of Mischief' from Asgard. At times almost a 'villain' in the movies (his motives and actions often foil our heroes' good



intentions) in the TV show he is actually an alternate version of himself (he stole the 'tesseract' in the 'Endgame' movie - *best not ask!*) and is tasked by the 'Time Variant Authority' to help fix the time line and prevent even greater threats - in effect throwing the character into his own time travelling crime thriller. Tom Hiddleston creates a charismatic 'anti-hero' as he did in the movies, and expect some epic scenes alongside bone-crunching fights.

WandaVision depicts a strange sci-fi love story - the character of Vision actually dies in the penultimate 'Avengers' movie. Moreover, the first two episodes play out like a 1950's American sit-com - in black and white, square screen ratio, some slapstick humour and audience laughter. For the viewer it is quite unsettling, seeming to have little to do with previous events in the movies. Of course when it becomes obvious that the first three episodes ingeniously move forward a decade each time and there is 'time travel' and MCU shenanigans at work. Episode one has an 'I love Lucy' vibe with animated titles and quirkily retro theme tune, the next is more 'Bewitched' and a little more 'modern' in feel (Great work from composer Christopher Beck and his team in recreating the sounds of yesteryear). Episode three (titled 'now in colour') is very 1970s in flavour and we, the audience, have now figured out that somehow Wanda has 'cocooned' herself and Vision in the 'old TV show' Nirvana she shared with her family before they were torn asunder by war.

It's all a very clever concept and throws a whole different perspective on the MCU - full marks to all concerned!



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One Acre Meadow

Fancy growing a small wildflower patch?

We are experiencing an increasing decline in plant biodiversity and, with animal-pollinated flowering plants making up as much as 70% of plants across many ecosystems, these little critters are only becoming more essential in halting this decline and retaining habitat structure and integrity. Not only does this affect ecosystems across the world but pollinators are vital for the production of 68% of the leading single crops and, consequently, 35% of global food production.

One thing we can do is restore wildflower meadow patches which can support much greater numbers and diversity of bee and butterfly species, for example, than if these areas were just left as grass.

Our idea is a simple one, and one that was inspired by a project in Cheshire which sought to use patches of residents' gardens and areas they asked the council to stop mowing to create a 'One Acre Meadow' and it's been quite successful. These sites are able to: provide the hard-to-find bare ground for ground nesting bees increasing numbers up to 30%, increase butterfly numbers fivefold doubling species, and provide connectivity shelter for other insects, small mammals, such as hedgehogs, and birds.

Popular campaigns such as 'No Mow May' have raised awareness, although

locally, delaying mowing until early August allows flowers to set seed as peak floral abundance is in late July.



Utilising gardens and smaller patches of land makes this more manageable, so, supported by Catherine Mercer of Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust and Christa Nelson of Tees-Swale: naturally connected we launched our own One Acre Meadow Project for Arkengarthdale and Swaledale. We were able to hand out free seed and advice and will have the availability of Catherine's knowledge and advice going forward.



People have been busy this autumn weeding, scarifying and sowing seed and we all hope to see the results of

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this hard work in spring when the flowers will start to emerge. We have 26 sites along the Dale ranging from 2 metres square to half an acre in size. We have been blown away by the enthusiasm and energy of people taking part and have already recorded nearly 2 acres of wildflowers being sown.



We hope to share more photos with you next year. But DON'T DESPAIR if you missed this opportunity. Wildflowers can also be sown in spring and as the project progresses we hope to enable more people to take part with continued help and advice. We have several people trained in scything to assist with meadow management and others trained in flower identification to track biodiversity of species and we aim to encourage our team of participants to share plants and seed and knowledge as we all take part in this wonderful journey.

If you would like to be involved and maybe plant your own wildflower patch contact Cheryl Sedge at cherylsedge@yahoo.com or you can email info@sustainableswaledale.org. Who knows, maybe we can rename the project 10 acre Meadow!

Olivia Henderson and Cheryl Sedge



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	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	Gunnarside Methodist	<i>Covenant Service</i>
	3.30 pm	Reeth Evangelical Congregational	
14th Jan.	9.30 am	St. Andrew's Grinton	<i>Eucharist</i>
	9.30 am	St Michael's Downholme	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
	10.30 am	St. Joseph & Francis Xavier Richmond	<i>Mass</i>
	11.00 am	Reeth Evangelical Congregational	
	11.00 am	St. Edmund's, Marske	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
	11.15 am	St. Mary's Arkengarthdale	<i>Holy Communion BCP</i>
	3.30 pm	Reeth Evangelical Congregational	

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	10.30 am	Low Row URC	
	11.00 am	Holy Trinity Low Row	<i>Eucharist</i>
	11.00 am	Reeth Evangelical Congregational	
	11.00 am	St. Edmund's, Marske	<i>Holy Communion</i>
	2.30 pm	Gunnerville Methodist	<i>Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service with afternoon tea</i>
	3.30 pm	Reeth Evangelical Congregational	
28th Jan.	9.30 am	St. Andrew's Grinton	<i>Eucharist</i>
	9.30 am	St Michael's Downholme	<i>Holy Communion</i>
	10.30 am	St. Joseph & Francis Xavier Richmond	<i>Mass</i>
	11.00 am	Reeth Evangelical Congregational	
	11.00 am	St. Edmund's, Marske	<i>Holy Communion</i>
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Focus On... The Swaledale Festival

“Anyone who has been to events in this Festival before will know its simple magic: at the end of a long walk through the natural beauty of the Dales, you can enter a peaceful church and experience the power of live music”

So begins the 2007 brochure for the Swaledale Festival, a year in the middle part of the Festival's history,



but something of the essence is captured by these words. The Festival is loved by local people, who appreciate world class music being brought to our

doorsteps, and by visitors, many of whom make the Festival weeks their holidays and spend time appreciating the simple magic mentioned above.

The Swaledale Festival evolved rather than was born fully formed, and it continues to evolve to this day. The timeline looks like this:

1965 - The biennial Richmondshire Festival was founded in 1965 by Dr A.

J. Bull, the retired music organiser for the North Riding of Yorkshire. A week of music and drama in and around Richmond, it was initially scheduled for September in order to attract motorists on their way south from the Edinburgh Festival.

1967 - Richmondshire Festival programme lists Arthur Bull as the 'Hon. Organiser', and the Marquess of Zetland as Patron. There are no known records for the next decade, but we know that by 1969 the Festival moved to a May date, and by 1978 Dr Bull had started to look for a successor.

1972 - The first event under the Swaledale Festival banner appears to have been on Monday 4 September when the Delme Quartet performed. A photo of the group in the Darlington and Stockton Times of 2 September 1972 is captioned: 'The quartet...recently settled in Muker...rehearsing for their performance in the Swaledale Festival'.

1973 - The following year the D&S ran this article: 'Swaledale becomes a centre for chamber music this week. Six string quartets will be busy in Thwaite, playing in cottages, homes and school halls during this week's second Swaledale Festival and summer school'.

1979 - The violinist Trevor Woolston moved to Swaledale. In 1981 Woolston ran ten events, mostly in St Andrew's Church, Grinton, 'as part of the Richmondshire Festival'. This included concerts by the Lindsay String Quartet and the Yorkshire Baroque Soloists, who would become regular visitors. There is no primary evidence that the concerts of 1980 and 1981 took place under the Swaledale Festival banner. However, there being

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no Richmondshire Festival in 1982, as Trevor Woolston wrote, 'a Swaledale Festival was arranged'. It now seems that over the span of three years Woolston merged his own programming into the already established Swaledale Festival.

1983 - The Richmondshire and Swaledale Festivals ran in partnership over three full weeks.

1984 - Drama and crafts were added to the Swaledale Festival.

1985 - The two Festivals again ran in parallel.

1986 - 'Swaledale Festival Friends' organisation was formed.

1987 - The Richmondshire Festival folded and the Swaledale Festival expanded down-dale into Richmond.

1988 - Swaledale Festival expanded its geographical coverage again with concerts in Wensleydale.

1989 - The Festival was active from Keld in Upper Swaledale to Bedale in Lower Wensleydale, and Trevor Woolston joked about changing the Festival's name to 'The Festival of the Upper Dales, Richmondshire and the Teesside Hinterland'

1991 - Part-time staff and volunteers had been recruited to look after administration and publicity, and the Woolstons were preparing to retire.



The Kanneh-Masons in 2017

John Sparke was a Festival Board member from 2004 until 2012, and remembers the Swaledale Festival Fanfare, commissioned by the Festival.

"My cousin Philip Sparke composes brass band music, and my wife Margaret squeezed his arm to produce this. The piece can be played by four or eight trumpets of varying ability. It was first played at the opening of the 2004 Festival, when Philip Parr was Festival Director and the combined Muker and Reeth Bands had enough instruments for the 8-trumpet version. The concert was in Grinton Church and Philip Parr arranged four musicians near the font and four at the chancel entrance giving a great sound. The Fanfare was used for a few successive Festivals, but was gradually dropped. However, one of the major visiting brass bands some years later had researched music lists when compiling their programme and were delighted to find the title and included it."

1993 - Elizabeth Carter was appointed Artistic Director, a post she would hold until 2000. Trevor Woolston stepped down. Also in 1993, the Festival became a registered charity with a formalised constitution and a Board.

2001 - Philip Parr was appointed Director of the Festival and he remained in the post until 2006. Justin Doyle was Artistic Director for the 2007 Festival.

2007 - The baton was passed to the present Artistic Director, Malcolm Creese.

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To understand how the Festival has evolved we spoke to Malcolm Creese, the current Artistic Director.

How did you first come across the Festival?

In the mid-1990s I performed a concert in the Georgian Theatre Royal with guitarist John Etheridge's quartet, as part of Swaledale Festival, and I remember thinking what a wonderful part of the world it was. In 2006 I played in the Festival with my trio Acoustic Triangle. I was approached by the Festival about the Artistic Director's job which was about to become vacant, but I decided not to apply. The following year, the job came up again and I was persuaded to apply, along with 17 others. I was fortunate to get the nod.

It was quite a small affair in those days, and I could see that it had much potential. I set about growing the Festival and introducing a wider variety of art-forms.

How has the Festival evolved during your time as Artistic Director?

Ticket sales have gradually increased and the Festival is now around four times the size it was when I joined. As it grew, the Festival needed to professionalise, so we brought in more staff and volunteers. We now have a fab team of four, and we bring in four technical and artist liaison people during the Festival period each year. We also have nine hard working Trustees and dozens of committed volunteers.

We bought some really good staging, lighting and sound equipment, improved

our printed material, developed our feedback and data analysis procedures, built a modern website and introduced an online box office system. I am now able to invite some of the top musicians and artists in the world to perform for us, and our profile and our reputation have grown markedly.

We have also expanded our outreach programme to include projects with local schools and concerts in local care homes. Next year we are taking nine musicians into a prison for a performance and workshop, and we have arranged for a group of 45 Richmond School students to perform in a school in Germany with which we have built a close relationship.

We have been fortunate to win some local, national and international awards in the last fifteen years, several of which have been for our community and education work.



We commission music from the likes of Sir Richard Rodney Bennett, Sally Beamish, Alexander Goehr, Rachel Stott and Roxanna Panufnik. And art too—see front cover picture.

The Festival was started as a 'classical music festival' but not everybody likes classical music, so our offering now includes folk and world music - mostly un-amplified because that suits the venues, many of which are churches.

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For lovers of art-forms other than music, we now have film, theatre, comedy,



puppets, astronomy, poetry, children's events, talks and a range of workshops. We're not able to include much pop, rock and blues music in the programme as unfortunately those genres don't work so well in our venues. Sometimes we need to stick to what we do best and leave certain things for others!

The Young Artists Platform was established in 2008. Since then, we have helped and been inspired by hundreds of young performers and artists early in their professional lives, many of whom have gone on to forge stellar careers, such as Isata, Sheku, Braimah and Jeneba Kanneh-Mason, Rosalind Ventris, Richard Uttley, Rowan Pierce, Benjamin Grosvenor, Will Pound and Lauren Zhang.

The most memorable Young Artist Platform story has to have been that of Mathilde Milwidsky. The young violinist came to Swaledale Festival with her piano accompanist Annie Yim in June 2023. Mathilde's afternoon performance, in a fiendishly difficult programme, was technically brilliant and musically sublime. Meanwhile, the first violinist in the Doric String Quartet was taken ill and their Festival Finale concert that evening looked as if it would have to be cancelled. The brave Mathilde generously agreed to step in, and with one brief run-through she performed (and led) two huge works - by Beethoven and Brahms - neither of

which she had ever seen before, with four players she had never met. She completely nailed it - every note! It was the highlight of the Festival and was greeted with the longest and loudest standing ovation I have ever witnessed. Her calmness, musicianship and sheer brilliance will live long in the memory. Of course, I quickly booked Mathilde to play for us next year, and she will receive a tremendous welcome.

The concept of the Reeth Lecture occurred to me in a mad moment in 2009. This annual event has become one of our most popular, with guest speakers including Michael Fish, Marcus du Sautoy, Loyd Grossman, Lucinda Lambton, Andrew Graham Dixon and Ronnie Archer-Morgan.

Like most organisations, we're necessarily thinking much more about sustainability and environmental responsibilities. This affects programming, transport planning, and our use of paper, ink, plastic and wood.

We have just appointed two Patrons for the first time, in the form of Kadiatu Kanneh-Mason and Ronnie Archer-Morgan (below) both of whom have appeared as Reeth lecturers recently. We are confident that they will bring new ideas and an increase in profile for the Festival, and we are delighted to welcome them to our team.



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What are the challenges of running Swaledale Festival?

Bringing artists from far-flung places, while trying to stay green, is tricky, as is putting on events in historic venues that are beautiful and atmospheric, but often hopelessly impractical. Involving younger people in the arts generally is hard work, but particularly in an area where the demographic leans towards older people. Moving round such a vast, hilly area can be difficult. And convincing people in Swaledale that it's okay to have events in Wensleydale can be challenging at times, though we've been going there since the Festival started in 1972! (It's worth mentioning too that there isn't a single venue in Swaledale in which you can put a grand piano!)

Can you describe some stand-out moments during your tenure?

Our 50th anniversary in 2022, and the gala concert in Ripon Cathedral;



the Tour de France in Swaledale; the day I borrowed the enormous steam locomotive Bittern (sister of the Mallard) and we ran it up and down the Wensleydale railway; the time The Hallé came to Tennants and gave the

first ever full symphony orchestra concert in our region.

Three events brought tears to my eyes: Slot Machine's moving children's show *Boy, Piano, Beach*, Niamh Ní Charra's music and a film about the last inhabitants leaving the Blasket Islands, and Ingo Schlichtermann's orchestra of 50 kids who came all the way from southern Germany and played their hearts out.

Poets Simon Armitage, David Scott, Jenny Joseph and Don Patterson were memorable, as were Alan Plater's two monologues, avant-garde theatre company The People Show, comedians Barry Cryer and Andy Hamilton, and all the Reeth Lectures.

Local musicians play a big part in the Festival, and we're very lucky to have on our doorstep outstanding performers such as Susanna Pell, Jacob Heringman, Moray Welsh, the Jervaulx Singers, Fourum (now sadly retired), and the historic brass bands from Muker, Reeth and Leyburn. Super-gifted local artists play a big part too: Michael Bilton, Rachel Antill, Jill Eagle and Garry Brannigan, to name but a few.

On a personal note, I'll never forget the day I spent in the Bowes Museum with art historian Brian Sewell, and exploring Swaledale's archaeology with Time

Team's
Carenza
Lewis
(right)
and the
time I



unexpectedly found myself playing on

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stage in Grinton Church with Led Zeppelin's John Paul Jones.

Last but not least, I feel incredibly fortunate to have witnessed some extraordinary and unforgettable performances from some of the finest musicians on the planet: John Williams, Angela Hewitt, Stephen Hough, Seckou Keita, LAU, Clare Salaman, Antonio Forcione, Adel Salameh, Paco Peña and Alexander Markov.

What can we look forward to in Swaledale Festival 2024?

Ah yes. The 2024 programme has a focus on participation! There will be a drawing workshop involving 'found' materials with talented local artist Katharine Holmes, a foraging walk with expert Jim Parums, a dry stone wall workshop and ten themed walks led by local groups and experts. We also have two contrasting singing workshops, the first being led by two traditional Ugandan singers, and the second by the popular North-East folk trio The Young'uns, both of whom will perform evening concerts.

You will be able to enjoy The Brodsky Quartet, Martin Taylor, Emma Johnson, Julian and Jiaxin Lloyd Webber, 'Whispering' Bob Harris, James Gilchrist, Rich Hall, Raphael Wallfisch, The WHOOP Group, Antonio Forcione, Seckou Keita and Adriano Adewale, Mathilde Milwidsky, The Jeremiahs, Will Pound and Delia Stephens, Villiers Quartet, The Carrivick Sisters, Echo Vocal Ensemble, The Ganda Boys, Graffiti Classics, Swale Singers, Reeth, Muker and Leyburn Bands, and lots more!

Swaledale Festival will return in 2024 from **Saturday 27 May to Saturday 10 June**, with a broad selection of the finest musicians and artists from Yorkshire, elsewhere in the country and around the world! There will also be a large number of hands-on events such as workshops, walks and craft demonstrations, with a focus on participation, landscape and climate change.

Dates for your diary:

Friends two-week priority booking period opens 09:00 **Monday 26 February**

February

General booking opens 09:00 **Monday 11 March**

Interested in volunteering as an event steward, accommodation host or leaflet distributor? A **Volunteers briefing** will be on **Wednesday 14 February 14:30 to 16:00 at Reeth Memorial Hall**. Come along to find out more.

The full Festival programme will be available at www.swalefest.org by the end of January.



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'JAZZ and COCKTAILS' at the Station

Local jazz musicians John and Jane Hunter and Adam Bradley are presenting the first 'Jazz' night of 2024 at The Station, Richmond on Saturday 27th January, and will be joined by special guest vocalist Natasha Harper from Brighouse. The 'Good Vibes' trio are well known in the region after several performances at Richmond Station in addition to further appearances including Hurworth and Grinton.

The band was formed from the 'pit' ensemble at the Georgian Theatre when John was acting as Musical Director for a number of productions, and were first heard as a trio accompanying John and Jane's Richmond 950 production 'The Station Master' in collaboration with the Charlotte Jaqueline Dancing school.

"It's lovely to be back at the Station" John said "...it's a great venue, and this time our special guest is a vocalist I've worked with for a couple of decades. Natasha recently appeared on ITV's 'Starstruck' singing as Judy Garland, and we are currently developing a production featuring all of her popular songs. We hope that this show may 'tour' North Yorkshire next year - but there will be a sneak preview of a few of the songs at the Station in original arrangements I have written for



Natasha, who is known both nationally and abroad as a professional '1940's' performer. More recently she has performed tribute acts as Lulu and Amy Winehouse - but she has an amazing voice for the 'standards'".

Tickets for the January Jazz & Cocktails night are £25 per person, which in addition to the live jazz, include a delicious two-course meal (drinks purchased separately). Call 01748 825967 or reservations@thestation.co.uk.

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Incidents Nov 6th to 26th Nov

1 Incident this edition

Incident 44: 12/11/2023: Called to search for a missing vulnerable person believed to be in the Richmond area. Team and Police search assets searched for most of the day. Team stood down when the missing person



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- The Fountain, Hawes £154.28
- Elijahs, Hawes £114.41

Happy New Year from us all at Swaledale Mountain Rescue Team.



Feel Good Friday

After the rush and excitement of Christmas, why not join me for an evening of relaxing self-care?

Get ready for some gentle, feel good, stretching and a chance to deeply rest.

This special evening will be 7-8.30pm, Friday, February 9th at Reeth Memorial Hall.

Contact me, Debbie, for details: yogadebbie@hotmail.com or 07707 683317.



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To find out more, contact Christa Nelson on christa.nelson@yorkshiredales.org.uk or 07825 934365



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Join Gillian Hovell, 'The Muddy Archaeologist', as she explores The World of Tutankhamun through an archaeologist's eyes, and reveals that there is so much more than a tomb and a mask. We learn about Tutankhamun's place in Egyptian history and culture, the distinctive and yet cosmopolitan world he lived in and ruled, and just what do all those wonderful treasures in his tomb really tell us about life in Egypt, 3000 years ago?

The lecture will take place at Tennants Garden Rooms, Leyburn, DL8 5SG on Tuesday 23rd January at 2pm. Guests welcome, £10.

Alyson Jones



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Gazette Subscriptions

Following rises in the cost of postage, the annual subscription rates rose from December to £30 UK, £60 Europe, £90 outside Europe. The rates will be reviewed every time the Post Office puts up its postal charges. The subscription rate is covering only the cost of posting a Gazette. The Gazette remains priceless.

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Dales Police Crime Bulletin



Monthly Police Report - October 30th - November 27th

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

Crimes of note; Between 02/11/2023 and 04/11/2023 a large quantity of Tools and Garden equipment was stolen from a shipping container in Leyburn. Overnight on the 15th of November there was an attempted burglary in the Reeth/Fremington area; this was linked to another burglary in the Richmondshire area.

- 4 - Concern for safety
 - 2 - Fraud (online /phone)
 - 7 - Road Traffic Collision (minor)
 - 4 - Theft
 - 1 - Burglary
 - 3 - Violence (including animals)
 - 1 - Hoax Emergency calls
 - 6 - Abandoned Calls
 - 1 - Anti Social Behaviour (personal)
 - 0 - ASB (nuisance)
 - 0 - Lost/Found Property (Dogs and Bikes)
 - 1 - Wildlife (Raptors)
 - 1 - Stalking/Harassment
 - 2 - Road related offences (manner of driving/vehicles without tax or insurance and possible OPL)
 - 0 - Drug related offence
 - 6 - Suspicious Circumstances
 - 5 - Highway Disruptions (Floods/ Trees/Animals)
- In total 93 calls were received reporting either the above or making

General enquiries.

The Team continues attending Parish/ Council meetings and local Community groups, duties permitting.

You can sign up to North Yorkshire Community messaging by visiting the NYP site or if you wish contact me, Donald.watson@northyorkshire.police.uk providing your First Name, Last Name, House Number/Name, Postcode, Mobile number and email address and I will sign you up.

Stop Scams UK. Call 159 if you think someone is trying to trick you into handing over money or personal details - stop, hang up and ring 159 to speak directly to your Bank. It works in the same way as 101 for the Police or 111 for the NHS.

PCSO 5232 Don Watson.
PC355 Heather Campbell.
PCSO Sharon Diamond.
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Nick Caldwell, Group Scout Leader on 01748 884340.

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BLUEBOXT—JANUARY UPDATE

By the time you are reading the January edition I am hoping we made it through an extremely busy festive period. November saw the team get involved in Leyburn Lights Switch-on with a number of memorable live performances throughout the day. Final preparations were being made for the first Wensleydale Young Musician of the Year competition and various concert presentations across the area in December. Highlights to follow in the next update.

January would normally be a month of rest and reflection but there is a lot going on!

Raising Creative Aspirations

In October, we launched our Raising Creative Aspirations project backed by Youth Music, a national charity, thanks to the players of the People's Postcode Lottery. The interest expressed by young people aged 18 to 25 years looking to establish a career in the music industries has surpassed our expectations. Four Freelance Creatives embark on their placements with us this month and we are excited to share their achievements with you over the coming months.

Get Musical Workshops and Jam Band

January sees the start of another new project. We will be delivering three

music taster workshops across Wensleydale and Swaledale followed by five jam band sessions. The project is aimed at Children aged 6 to 11 years old. Full details will be available on our website and social media pages. We are delighted to be working with NYMAZ, a development charity promoting opportunities in music for young people across the region, supported by Youth Music and Arts Council England.

Our sessions for all ages also commence again this month. Play>Record>Perform (11yrs - 19yrs), Leyburn Jazz Collective (16yrs and over), Wensleydale Gospel Choir (16yrs and over). Contact us to find out more.

Diary dates for 2024 - so far...

The list of events and fund-raising dates for the year ahead is shaping up with some additional activities in the planning too. Here are some key dates so far:

Coffee mornings - Leyburn Methodist Church Hall - Fridays 12th April, 28th June, 13th September and Richmond Town Hall - Thursdays 16th May and 10th October.

Wed 31st Jan to 2nd Feb - Mother Goose at Hawes Market House;

Sun 21st April - Spring Lunch with entertainment at Thornborough Hall;

Fri 21st to Sun 30th June - Community Arts Festival;

Sun 4th August - Strawberry Teas with entertainment at Thornborough Hall;

Fri 4th Oct - Annual Quiz Night with Simon Eastwood at The Falls, Aysgarth;

Thu 17th - Sun 20th Oct - Jazz

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Festival:

Sat 9th Nov - 'Visions in Blue' a talk by Lucy Adlington, History Wardrobe.

To find out more or register your interest please contact Colin Bailey on 07711 21169 or admin@blueboxt.org or visit www.blueboxt.org



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Swale Singers - Save the Date!

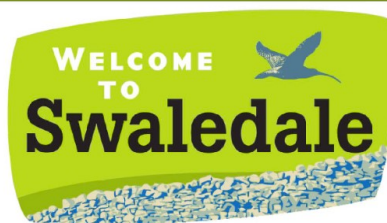
I know we've only just had Christmas but now I'm suggesting you Save the Date for an Easter event.

On Saturday 23rd March The Swale Singers will be holding a Come and Sing Day, when we shall be working on

Stainer's Crucifixion

It will be a whole day event in St Mary's Arkengarthdale, with a performance open to the public in the afternoon. The cost will be £20 to include tea/coffee and hire of the score.

Come and sing, or come along to the performance in the week running up to Easter.



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WiFi comes to Muker

Visitors to Muker can now access WiFi as they sit on the benches by the green and those overlooking the beck, and with that of course comes the ability to use their mobile phones through WiFi calling.

The Trustees of Muker Public Hall and Literary Institute have recently installed WiFi in the Institute, initially with a view to being able to take donations electronically from visitors to the permanent exhibition of local photographs and artifacts held there. Thanks go to Community First Yorkshire for a grant which paid for the contactless payment machine. CFY also paid for a special booster which allows the WiFi signal to be received within a much larger radius around the Institute. Visitors wishing to use the WiFi in the village need to visit the Institute where they can find the password and are encouraged to make a donation towards the upkeep of the Institute.

As Muker does not have a mobile phone signal, this will make a huge difference to visitors. **Muker PH&LI Committee**



Photo Katherine Calvert

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Bellerby Study Group

for JANUARY 2024

Meetings are on Wednesdays at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall, Church Street, Bellerby, DL8 5QL.

Talks are followed by refreshments and a chance to chat.

The cost for this term will be £15 to join as a member for the term, or £3 for a single visit. Any queries can be directed to **Chris Akrill** on **07983 300336**

January 24th Jim Morton will talk on his "WALKING AROUND BRITAIN". On 12/04/2021 he set off from Penistone and walked around the coast of the British mainland to raise money for the Gurkha Welfare Trust. He was gone 537 days and walked 8895 miles, and wrote a book at the end.

January 31st Chris Bibby gives his "REMINISCENCES OF A COACH DRIVER".

Then the following week Roger Burnett returns to do a "GARDENING Q&A" and as a former RHS and Britain in Bloom judge he will be more than able to cope with all our questions.



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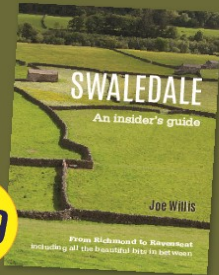
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Share views to develop the household waste recycling centres



We have a legal duty to provide household waste recycling centres for residents to dispose of any additional household waste, free of charge.

There are 20 household waste recycling centres (plus mobile sites) across North Yorkshire and this service, including the disposal of the waste delivered, costs more than £5 million a year.

We face many significant challenges now and in the years ahead, including the impact of inflation, increased demand for services, climate change, and the impact of the cost-of-living crisis on our communities.

To help address increasing costs and improve the service it provides, the council is looking at various options for HWRCs and is asking people to share their views about changes to the following services:

- Restricting the use to North



Yorkshire residents only.

- Limiting access for commercial-like vehicles.

Changes to commercial waste.

Seventeen per cent of household waste recycling centre users live outside North Yorkshire. If only North Yorkshire residents were allowed to use the household waste recycling centres, this could generate savings of approximately £140,000 a year.

Similarly, 93 per cent of visitors in a commercial-like vehicle (for example, a van or a pick-up) visit less than 12 times a year. It is believed that some waste being deposited from these vehicles could be commercial waste, which should be paid for.

If we limit these vehicles to 12 visits a year, it could bring in savings of around £370,000 and reduce congestion at sites to improve the experience for everyone.

Commercial waste, which is a paid-for service, is currently accepted at all household waste recycling centres (except Harrogate Stonefall).

Although we have no legal obligation to accept commercial waste at household waste recycling centres, we understand that this is a useful service to very small businesses that operate from home in rural areas.

Therefore, people are also being asked whether they would support the accurate weighing and charging of commercial waste.

Executive member for waste services, Cllr Greg White, said: "It is important that we continue to provide high-quality waste and recycling services for our residents and businesses, that

REETH AND DISTRICT GAZETTE LTD

doesn't have a detrimental impact on our overall costs and the offer we provide.

"By limiting access to North Yorkshire residents only - which would align with most of our neighbouring local authorities - we can ensure we continue to provide an excellent and cost-effective service for our residents.

"And by improving our service for commercial-like vehicles, as well as commercial waste, we can also ensure businesses would be charged an accurate and fair amount for their waste.

"Before we adopt any changes to the household waste recycling centres, we would welcome views to understand the benefits of each approach and what it will mean for our residents and businesses."

People can share their views on the North Yorkshire Council website until Wednesday, 31 January.

In 2022/23, our network of household waste recycling centres handled more than 57,000 tonnes of waste, much of which was either recycled or re-used.

Hundreds of items can be taken to one of the household waste recycling centres for recycling, from small electrical appliances to musical instruments. Since October 2022, some five tonnes of medical equipment have been donated for recycling.

Cllr white said: "Recycling is great for the planet as it reduces the cost of buying new and gives unwanted items another lease of life. I'd urge people to make the most of return and reuse schemes, so that collectively we can make a positive impact on the environment."

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**18TH JANUARY 2024
THE BUCK HOTEL**

PLEASE COME ALONG TO ENJOY A 2 OR 3 COURSE LUNCH IN THE BUCK HOTEL, REETH ON THURSDAY 18TH JANUARY 2024

THE PRICES ARE £12/£16 FOR 2/3 COURSES OF HOME COOKING INCLUDING TEA/COFFEE WE WILL HAVE THE USE OF THE FUNCTION ROOM FROM 12.00-15.00 HRS.

ALL ARE WELCOME TO ENJOY GOOD FOOD AND HAVE A GOOD TIME MEETING FRIENDS. NO NEED TO BOOK A TABLE, JUST CHOOSE FROM THE MENU WHEN YOU ARRIVE. (IN COLLABORATION WITH HUDSON HOUSE)

Diary Dates

January

Mon 1st Jan - 7pm New Year Fireworks & BBQ Reeth Green

Fri 5th Jan - Owd Roy Dominoes, Muker Public Hall, 7.30pm

Thur 18th Jan - Reeth Community Lunch Club, Buck Hotel 12-3pm

Sat 27th Jan - 7.30pm January Jazz & Cocktails Night @ The Station CafeBar

February

Fri 9th Feb - Domino Drive for Arkengarthdale Sports Assn, 7.30 CB Function Room.

Hudson House

Your valuable community asset
Rooms for hire

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.

Access to PCs, Internet, printer, photocopier, laminator and kitchen facilities.

The Orchard Gallery for hire

Suitable for exhibitions of paintings, photographs and other artwork.

Own entrance through the garden. Sales can be handled for you.

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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