

# REETH & DISTRICT GAZETTE

ISSUE NO. 354

DECEMBER 2025



*Your local news magazine  
for the two dales*

**PRICELESS BUT DONATIONS WELCOME**

## Reeth Market Christmas Dates

**Jack with the Fruit and Veg** will be standing at Reeth market on the following dates and will take any orders beforehand

Friday 19th December normal

Tues 23rd December

Tues 30th December

Saturday 3rd January

### **Richard (Meat)**

Fri 19th December normal

Tues 23rd December orders only

Tues 30th December

Sat 3rd January orders only

### **Simon (cheese)**

Fri 19th Dec at market then holiday until mid January

### **Mark (Plants)**

Fri 19th Dec at market, weather permitting back Fri 9th. Jan.

There may be other stallholders but it will be weather dependant.

All the best for Christmas and the New Year

Colin and Christine

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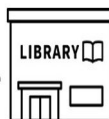
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All articles or items for inclusion should be sent to the editor

E-mail: editor@reethGazette.co.uk  
or left at Reeth Post Office.

## Donations

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

## Gazette Deadlines

The deadlines for the next two months are:

**January issue: November 24th**

**February issue: January 12th**

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

**Posting The Gazette:** Some issues are a little larger and so heavier. It will require a Large Letter size and will likely cost £2.00 2nd class, or £3.60 1st class but different sized issues may vary. Check with the PO.

## Fremington Village Hall

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

The Hall is a registered charity run by a small and dedicated volunteer committee. You can book the Hall by phoning or texting the bookings secretary **Carol Witham** on **07783 924827** or by email at [c.whitham149@btinternet.com](mailto:c.whitham149@btinternet.com)



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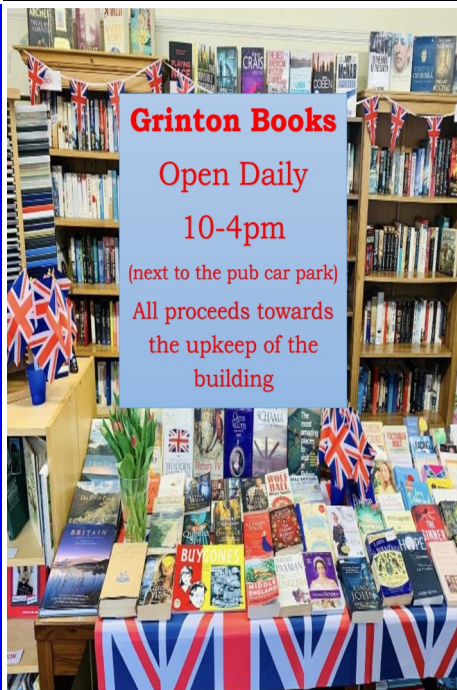
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## REETH AND DISTRICT GAZETTE LTD

### Central Dales Pharmacy Hawes—Winter Opening Hours

Due to increasing financial pressures on the Community Pharmacy sector, and lower footfall through the winter months, a decision has been made to reduce our opening hours during this time.

As such, we will be **CLOSING** on Saturdays from Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> December, through until the beginning of April.

We very much regret having to make this decision, and apologise for any inconvenience this may cause, however remaining open during these quieter months is not financially viable.

#### CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS

We will be closed from 5:30pm on Christmas Eve and reopen on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> December at 9am.

We will also be closed on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> January.

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**Margaret Whitehead - Reeth**  
would like to wish all her family & friends a Merry Christmas and a Happy & Healthy New Year.

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## Open Morning 8<sup>th</sup> December is the last date for signing up for this event

There has been very little interest in this event and not enough to even have a typical section's activities at the morning. Neither are people prepared to volunteer as helpers or as a leader.

**This is your LAST CHANCE to  
help save the Group!!**

**Nick Caldwell, Group Lead Volunteer**



## Planes, Automobiles... but no Trains #1 By John Hunter

A quirky look, over a couple of articles, at two star-studded British comedies from the 1960s, both written and directed by 'Bond' alumni Ken Annakin, both featuring a race between vintage machines, both with the same composer, and both having many of the same stars and characters. First to

the starting line in 1965 was 'Those Magnificent Men in their Flying Machines' which told the (partly true) story of an air race in 1910 between various European machines (pre-dating the Schneider trophy race by quite a few years!). Amongst a host of British comedy stars; Terry Thomas, Eric Sykes, Benny Hill, Tony Hancock - and more heavy-weight

thesps; James Fox, Robert Morley and Flora Robson - was token American star Stuart Whitman (looking very much like Troy Tempest from the contemporaneous TV show 'Stingray'), and various Euro-stars flying their own countries planes such as the German Gert Frobe ('Goldfinger') and French Jean-Pierre Cassall.

Actual full sized working aircraft were built representing the various designs of the day (only 'modern' engines ensured increased safety), some still flying from 'Shuttleworth' museum for

many years later - and only some shoddy matte work at times mars the impressive aerial scenes. Accompanying the splendour *and* mayhem is the music of the great Ron Goodwin (*I met him once when he was conducting the BBC Concert Orchestra - he was a childhood hero of mine as a very young musician!*) - his opening song is still performed today by bands and choirs, and the spoof 'nationalism' of his characters' 'lietmotifs' is an object lesson in film writing. Goodwin's big hits 'The Battle of Britain' and 'Where Eagles Dare'

were yet to come (although he had already made a name with his 'Miss Marple' theme).

Stuart Whitman was not popular on set apparently, and the shoot was beset by some bad weather, but it became a very popular film for all ages and certainly brought to the public's attention an almost forgotten era of aviation pioneering. You will notice we mentioned TWO similar films at the outset - the



other features vintage *automobiles* and set two decades later, but with *mostly* the same cast and story - *and* as you'll see here, the *same* cartoonists' work adorning both the poster and opening credits - we'll take a closer look next time. **This** article's movie poser is therefore twofold - *who* is this famous British cartoonist whose most famous 'creation' were the awful 'St Trinians' girls - and also, what is the name of the film's 'sequel'? CLUE - its *American* release title is very similar to this one, but strangely its *British* one was not!



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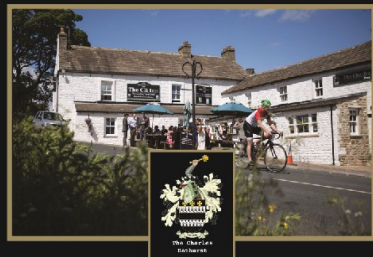


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# REETH AND DISTRICT GAZETTE LTD

## Leyburn Arts and Community Centre

Leyburn Arts & Community Centre is slowing down ready for Christmas and the New Year break. Some groups and activities finish early but the ones who celebrate with Christmas festivities or nibbles, a Party or Lunch do not. These include our Tuesday Club and Lunch Club whose members look forward to something special!

We shall be closing from Monday 20th Dec and re-open, refreshed and eager for 2026 to begin on Friday 2nd January!

Before then we have a lots going on - the Community Shed members have been making items for the Christmas craft fairs; an Xmas Wreath workshop is planned; Exhibition on Screen is screening Caravaggio on Thursday 4th Dec; we are hosting the regular Friday Coffee Morning at the Methodist Hall on the 5th Dec; the French Film Festival continues with Love Affair(s) on Tuesday 2nd Dec and comes

to a close on Friday 12th Dec; we have an evening's entertainment with Paul Sowden on Saturday 6th; Westlife come to Leyburn on Thursday 11th Dec with a Cinema Live screening of the their 25th anniversary concert from the Royal Albert Hall; the Celebrating 100 years of Community Cinema finishes with the wonderful classic 'Singin' in the Rain' on Friday 5th Dec with a special £3 ticket, free refreshments & a free raffle! Not forgetting as it wouldn't be Christmas without him, the wonderful Andre Rieu's Piece of Magic, his 2025 Merry Christmas concert is on Sunday 7th. Into January amongst other events we get all serious again with National Theatre Live: Hamlet.

Thank you to all who have supported us during the year and we look forward to seeing you again in 2026. If you haven't yet been to the Centre or Community Shed, then give us a try, we are a friendly volunteer led charity supporting our local communities.

Best wishes from us all,

**Jeannie Bishop**

  <b>LEYBURN ARTS AND COMMUNITY CENTRE</b> 	
<b>Tuesday 2 December 6pm – French Film Festival screening – see website for full festival details</b> <b>Love Affair(s) (N/C15+) 2hrs 02m</b>	<b>Thursday 4 December 2pm-4pm</b> <b>Christmas Wreath Making Workshop</b>
<b>Friday 5 December 6pm – Celebrating 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Community Cinema –**Ticket price of £3** - see website for further details</b> <b>'Singin' in the Rain' (1952) (U) 1hr 43m</b>	<b>Thursday 4 December 7pm</b> <b>Exhibition on Screen: Caravaggio</b>
<b>Friday 12 December 6pm – French Film Festival screening – see website for full festival details</b> <b>The Bertrands' Farm (12+) 1hr 22m</b>	<b>Friday 5 December 10am-midday</b> <b>Fundraising Coffee Morning, Methodist Hall</b>
<b>Friday 19 December 6pm</b> <b>It's a Wonderful Life (1946)(U) 2hrs 10m</b>	<b>Saturday 6 December 7.30pm</b> <b>Evening with Paul Sowden</b>
<b>COMING SOON: The Ballad of Wallis Island: Downton Abbey – The Grand Finale: I Swear</b>	<b>Sunday 7 December 10am-4pm</b> <b>Shed Fundraising/Awareness stall, Middleham Key Centre</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You can book and pay online via our website.</li> <li>For a full list of what's on, head to our website or give us a call.</li> </ul>	<b>Sunday 7 December 2pm</b> <b>Piece of Magic: Andre Rieu's 2025 Merry Christmas Concert: Merry Christmas</b>
	<b>Thursday 11 December 7pm</b> <b>Cinema Live: Westlife - Royal Albert Hall (25th Anniversary)</b>
	<b>Thursday 22 January 7pm</b> <b>National Theatre Live: Hamlet (with closed captions) (12 tbc)</b>



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## St Andrew's, Grinton

We would like to **sincerely thank** all those who have helped at fundraising events at St Andrew's over the last year. To the Brown family for providing event parking, to those providing refreshments and cakes at services and concerts; to those helping with the various events held over the year including the Lambing service, the Heritage Day including the bell tower team, the musicians supporting the Pimms and Hymns service and all those supporting the conservation work in the churchyard over the past year.

Thanks also go out to Sustainable Swaledale who have helped provide a planting plan for the new trees and shrubs following the removal of the elderly Cyprus trees along the path. The new planting took place on the 25<sup>th</sup> November alongside a conservation meeting.

Do **'Come and Sing Carols'** on **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December at 4pm** at St Andrew's Grinton. With the parish community music group playing, the wearing of festive jumpers, and much jollity, this annual service has taken on a life of its own with visitors coming to the Dale just to attend this popular event! Mulled wine and mince pies will be served following the service in the hope that, suitably sung out and refreshed, your donations to Christian Aid's Christmas Appeal will be dropped into the collection plate at the back of church as you leave.

We meet at St Andrew's at 10am on the morning of **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December to prepare the church for Christmas**. Do come and help put up

the Christmas tree and crib scene and cut greenery from the churchyard to decorate church windows and/or to take back home for your own decorations. All are welcome - accompanied children most especially.

There is a **Midnight Service on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December** starting at **11.30pm**.

The final service for this year is on **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December** and is a whole parish service being held at Fremington Hall at 10.30 am.

St Andrew's winter church services will be held at Fremington Hall between January and March on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays at 9.30am followed by coffee at approx. 10.30am. Do come and join us at these services or for coffee or for both service and coffee - all are very welcome to come and share this time with us.

We look forward to your future support at all our events. Please see the parish website or church noticeboards for further details of any events.

[www.swaledalearkengarthdaleparish.org.uk](http://www.swaledalearkengarthdaleparish.org.uk)

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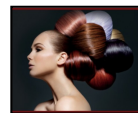
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## International Caving Exhibition in Hawes

Where in the world is most like the Yorkshire Dales National Park? The best answer is possibly Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park in Vietnam, as illustrated in the latest special exhibition at the Dales Countryside Museum in Hawes.

"Underground worlds - caves of the Yorkshire Dales and Vietnam" showcases how both national parks have large tracts of limestone underfoot and boast some of the world's largest and longest cave systems. The exhibition was officially opened in October and will run until 4 January.

Featuring top class photography and video footage of cavers and caving systems in the Yorkshire Dales and Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Parks, the exhibition celebrates 35 years of exploration and exchange between British and Vietnamese cavers.

Chair of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, Derek Twine, opened the exhibition, remembering "being a kid coming up from the southeast of England" in the 1970s to stay at Whernside Manor to try caving. He said: "We are very proud of this exhibition. Caves are one of the undersold, or hidden, special qualities of the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

"We might be 6000 miles apart, but we have been learning from each other. Phong Nha-Ke Bang is probably the best-preserved limestone cave system in the world. In the Yorkshire Dales, we've got the longest cave system in Britain.

"An international caving community began in 1990 when Howard and Deb Limbert were given permission by the Vietnamese government to lead parties of cavers in explorations. That led to the discovery of

the expanse of the caves.

"Full compliments to those who put this



*Above, Visitors were able to experience a VR tour of Hang Son Doong Cave - below Son Doong Cave, looking from the "Rat Run" to "Watch out for the dinosaurs", the first doline. Courtesy of Ryan Deboodt*

exhibition together. We are grateful to the film makers and photographers who have kindly presented their work for free at this exhibition."

The partnership between the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park has developed from a cooperation agreement established in January 2024.

Mr. Dinh Huy Tri, Deputy Director of the Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park Management Board said: "The exhibition is very impressive, very special, and not just for the caving, but how it presents the history, conservation values and the indigenous people of Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park. We are hoping to build our first interpretation centre in the National Park, and the partnership with the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority means we can learn much that will help us to progress our plans and ultimately secure funding."

Ms. Nguyen Ha Dung, the Deputy General Director of Oxalis Adventure, which offers caving tours in Phong Nha,





## REETH AND DISTRICT GAZETTE LTD

said: "This is the first time I've been in England. I'm very happy to be here today. It's a moving experience. I would like to use this opportunity to thank all the British cave explorers who came to Vietnam, especially Howard and Deb Limbert. We've been able to develop sustainable tourism, and we would like to thank the Yorkshire Dales National Park and Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park for their support."

The Yorkshire Dales National Park has three show caves where people can get underground without crawling or expertise: Ingleborough Cave near Clapham, Stump Cross Caverns near Greenhow and White Scar Cave near Ingleton. For the more adventurous, there are caving clubs including Bradford Pothole Club and Craven Pothole Club.



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## The May Sinclair Essay Prize

### Who Was May Sinclair?

In the early 1910s the author May Sinclair (1863-1948) chose to stay in Reeth for a few months each year, to escape from her duties in the south, and write. May was a very influential, popular and prolific writer, a friend of T.S. Eliot, a cycling companion of H.G. Wells, and did much to support up and coming authors. She is mentioned in an early guidebook to Swaledale, though you, like me, had probably not heard of her. After the lead mines closed in the early 1900s, writers began to 'discover' the area, and May was one of the first to do so.

She was a passionate walker and loved the hills. While she was here she wrote two books, one semi-autobiographical, called *Mary Olivier* (1919), which is part set in what is now Hudson House, and the other *The Three Sisters* (1914), about three sisters who live up in Langthwaite who all fall in love with the local doctor, Rowcliffe, based on Dr Speirs, who was our local GP. In both books the landscape forms an important character in its own right, and there are detailed descriptions of Reeth, Swaledale and Arkengarthdale and its people. If you read her novels (re-published by Virago in the 1970s) you will recognise her descriptions of Morfe (Reeth), Greffington Edge (Fremington Edge) and many other local places.

May was very attached to Reeth, and when she found it too difficult to make the journey up here, she left money to set up an essay prize at Reeth School. It is administered by the same Quaker Trust today. The final year children

are all encouraged to enter the competition. The judges felt that it would be a good idea to share with you this year's two winning essays, both of which we felt May would have very much approved of, and which we very much enjoyed. One is published here in the December issue and the other will be published in the January issue. (Both essays were well illustrated with lovely photographs, but unfortunately the Gazette does not have the room to include all the pictures. Ed.)

We thank the authors, their families and Reeth and Gunnerside School for giving us permission to print them. We hope you enjoy them. We were very impressed by all the essays, which were varied, personal and perceptive, and a great credit to the children, and their school.

**Helen Bainbridge and Barbara Windle**

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## REETH AND DISTRICT GAZETTE LTD



### December Update

It can't that time again? The festive period is upon us and our thoughts are already looking well ahead into 2026. To all our volunteers, participants, audiences and supporters thank you, we couldn't do it without you! We hope you join us again before the year is through - registration is open for all upcoming events and activities so please book early and support us to keep community arts happening in the Dales.

### EVENTS

**Christmas Together Concert** - Join Light My Choir!, Musical Director Colin Bailey, and special guests The Stanley Duo, Gail Barlow and Bee Darceey, for an afternoon of classic Christmas songs and festive cheer with a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie. The concert takes place at St. Matthew's Church, Leyburn on **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December at 2.00pm** (doors open 1.30pm). Tickets: Pay as you feel (suggested donation £10.00). The concert follows the Church's Christmas Coffee morning with local craft stalls. All Welcome.

### **A Christmas Cracker - The Garden Rooms at Tennants, Leyburn.**

BlueBoxt are thrilled to be joining the Service Children's Community Choir and friends for a heart-warming evening of festive music and community spirit.

The concert takes place on **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December, 7.30pm**. Tickets are available from [www.tennantsgardenrooms.com](http://www.tennantsgardenrooms.com) or from the reception and cost £10.00 - Adults | £5.00 - Children.

**FEAST Christmas Party:** Start the holidays with some festive fun for ages 4 to 12 on **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> December from 11.00am - 3.00pm** at Leyburn Methodist Church Hall. Enjoy an action packed few hours as a family or, let them have all the fun while you sneak in some last-minute preparations for the big day! There will be festive activities including Christmas cards and decorations to make and take home. A family friendly disco with traditional party games, challenges, and plenty of singing and dancing. All fuelled by healthy snacks, biscuit icing, and chance to prepare the party tea. The session will finish with a visit from Mother Christmas for a special festive story time and a gift to take home. Places cost £20 inc. gift and party tea. FEAST voucher places are available from Schools or North Yorkshire Together - contact us to find out more.

### **2026 DIARY DATES (so far!)**

Spring Lunch with vocalists Gail Barlow and Colin Bailey - **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May** (Thoralby).

Wensleydale Community Arts Festival - Various events throughout June.

Twice Nightly - A celebration of the glory days of Variety. With Dominic Goodwin as Freddie Francis. **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June** (Askrigg), **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup>** (Leyburn) and **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup>** (Reeth).

Colours Fashion Show with entertainment by Bee Darceey and local



## REETH AND DISTRICT GAZETTE LTD

Makers Stalls - Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June  
(West Burton).

Quiz Night with Simon Eastwood -  
Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October (West Burton).

Leyburn Jazz Festival - Thursday 15<sup>th</sup>  
to Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October.

**Grand Prize Draw** - The winning numbers and prize list can be found on our website. A huge thank you to everyone who donated prizes, sold, and bought tickets. You helped us raise over £1,400 - amazing! One of the team will be in touch with the winners. The winning numbers are: 61, 113, 320, 459, 797, 891, 943, 959, 981, 1283, 1333, 1369, 1397, 1401, 1403, 1570, 1775.

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

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### Sustainable Swaledale

#### **Survey reveals shortage of affordable housing in Upper Dales**

A survey by the Upper Dales Community Land Trust (UDCLT) and North Yorkshire Council's Rural Housing Enablers has concluded that 17 new homes are needed to meet demand in upper Swaledale and Arkengarthdale. The study was conducted in a bid to formally assess the shortage of affordable, sustainable housing for people born, living or working in the Upper Dales area. The report highlights that the greatest need is for one and two-bedroom homes, suitable for local individuals, couples, and small families who are struggling to afford either market rents or house prices.

Source: *Richmondshire Today* <https://tinyurl.com/yhwnczst>

#### **Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust launches Autumn & Winter photography competition**

The Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust (YDRT) has launched a photography competition for images showcasing the beautiful rivers, streams and wildlife found in the YDRT catchment area (Swale, Ure, Nidd, Wharfe and Ouse, and associated tributaries). Selected photographs will be displayed at the Rivers4Life summer exhibition taking place at the Dales Countryside Museum in Hawes from 6th June to 6th September 2026, and in a future Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust calendar.

The autumn stage of the competition closes on 5th December; and the winter stage on 5th March 2026.

Source: *YDRT website*

<https://tinyurl.com/zspe4esv>

#### **Yorkshire Dales National Park unveils new eco-friendly Management Plan**

The National Park has launched its new Management Plan for 2025-30, with a strong focus on wildlife and climate—the main areas highlighted in responses to the first public consultation. Along with ambitions including the 'Finest Wildlife' and 'Climate Mitigation,' other key objectives include supporting a distinctive cultural landscape; a flourishing local economy; strong, resilient communities; and outstanding opportunities for visitors. The Management Plan is a statutory requirement of every National Park Authority, reviewed every five years, and guides how it is managed, cared for and developed.

Source: *YDRT website*

<https://tinyurl.com/9z87e45z>



#### **Reconnected floodplain nr Leyburn Ousewem Natural Flood Management partnership restores the flow at Hauxwell Estate**

For the first time in more than a century, a watercourse has been

## REETH AND DISTRICT GAZETTE LTD

reconnected to its floodplain, allowing it to meander naturally once again. The project at Hauxwell Estate near Leyburn, was done in partnership with Ousewem, a scheme aiming to show how restoring natural processes can make landscapes more resilient to flooding and climate change. Hauxwell's new nine-hectare wetland stores around 2,992 cubic metres of water—more than an Olympic-sized swimming pool—while providing rich habitats for wading birds, insects and amphibians. Will Dalton, of Hauxwell Estate, said: "The wetland will be transformational to the landscape and nature restoration in the heart of the estate and really enhances what we're trying to achieve with regenerative farming and woodland creation."

Source: Ousewem website

<https://tinyurl.com/mr38sx3w>

### Bats seeking sanctuary in England's churches

New research, based on citizen science surveys by the Bat Conservation Trust, estimates that half of England's 8,000-plus churches have bats in them. And that figure rises to about 80% for older churches. "They're basically like a man-made forest," says a trust representative. "Full of little nooks and crannies where they can roost, big open flight spaces, dry spaces inside, away from the rain, where they can fly around. It is really just an absolutely perfect environment." While mostly seen as a positive, the trust recognises that bats can be very messy house guests: Advice and grants are on offer to churches wishing to explore bat-friendly solutions.

Source: BBC News

<https://tinyurl.com/3nwzfuv6>

*Curious to learn more about these nocturnal creatures? Bat walks will resume at St. Andrew's, Grinton in the spring. Details to follow in the new year.*

### Spaces still available for Sustainable Swaledale winter volunteer activities

There are still places available for our winter volunteer activities, December to March. From tree planting to hedge laying; from Maske to Muker; all helping hands are most welcome. Please email [info@sustainableswaledale.org](mailto:info@sustainableswaledale.org) for more info and dates.

Thank you to everyone who has helped to make our meetings and events possible this year. Wishing you all peace and joy for the festive season.

Liz Sutcliffe

### Sustainable Swaledale Group

Find out more and join in...

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

Phone: 01748 886 381 (Secretary)

Facebook Group:

[Sustainable Swaledale](#)

Website:

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### **Public Views Sought on Funding for Essential Council Services**

Residents and businesses have been urged to help to shape our financial plans and outline their priorities for a host of services amid growing concerns over the impact of the Government's reforms on local government funding.

We are responsible for a wide range of essential services from waste collection and recycling to providing social care, education and roads maintenance.

However, we are facing intense financial pressures in a situation mirrored across the local government sector. The deeply rural parts of North Yorkshire mean that providing services to often remote communities increases costs significantly.

These financial pressures are expected to intensify when the Government announces a package of reforms later this year in the way that local government is funded.

Among the greatest pressures on our finances is the need to provide vital support for vulnerable people across the county.

Currently 50 per cent of our overall annual budget of £1.3 billion is used to fund support for vulnerable people - with the largest amount at 32 per cent going on adult social care and health.

A countywide consultation was launched in November to glean the public's views and pinpoint the key priorities for the council's budget for the next financial year and the Council Plan up until 2030. Residents are being encouraged to take part in the Let's Talk Money survey, which will help inform decisions on the council's budget for the 2026/27 financial year.

Council leader, Cllr Carl Les, said: "We are lobbying the Government with support from our MPs to ensure that we get the fairest funding deal possible for North Yorkshire.

"But we are concerned that Ministers do not fully understand the financial issues of running services in such a large rural area. Unless the Government changes its approach, we are likely to be dealing with very significant reductions in the grant we receive.

"We are committed to ensuring we offer the very best value for our taxpayers, and it is vital that we are able to see exactly what people see as the main priorities.

"All councils are facing significant financial challenges, and there are unrelenting demands for services including those for children and young people with special educational needs and adult social care.

"I would urge all our residents and businesses to give their views and have a say in such an important consultation for the county."

We were handed one of the worst funding deals nationally for the current financial year which has led to an unexpected reduction in funding of almost £22 million.

This is due to the loss of £14 million in funding after the Government scrapped the rural services delivery grant as well as an unfunded share of the costs of higher National Insurance contributions.

It is predicted that there will be a total deficit of about £34 million by the end of 2027/28 due to a series of factors including inflation and demand on services, especially adult social care and special educational needs.

The financial deficit is likely to



## REETH AND DISTRICT GAZETTE LTD

increase due to proposed changes in the way the Government allocates funds to local councils. Although final figures are not expected to be available until later in December, it is estimated that we are set to lose between £15 million and £20 million under the new arrangements.

Deputy leader, Cllr Gareth Dadd, whose responsibilities include finance, said: "We have always prided ourselves on the fact that our finances have been well managed, which has been so important with the challenges we are facing for our budget.

"The Let's Talk Money survey will give the public the chance to let us know what they see as the priorities for the next financial year. We will listen and take into account all the views and comments we receive, but we cannot rule out that there will be some tough decisions going forward."

Despite the financial challenges, a series of major projects are being introduced across North Yorkshire.

Vital upgrades to infrastructure are under way, including a project with a budget of £82.5 million to create a new stretch of the A59 at Kex Gill. There have been 15 landslips on the key route since 2000 which have caused significant disruption for the public and cost the council more than £6 million to repair. The new stretch of road is due to open next year.

Plans for a major £40 million investment to promote healthy and active communities across North Yorkshire by transforming leisure and wellbeing hubs were approved by the council's executive in November.

And children and young people with special educational needs and

disabilities (SEND) in North Yorkshire are being supported through a £3 million investment. The council is increasing the number of specialist school places across the county through the funding.

The Let's Talk Money survey is asking people to say how important the council's key priorities of affordable homes, promoting health and wellbeing, providing education and social care support, reducing the impact of climate change, supporting the local economy and transport are to them.

The public will also be asked if they are prepared to support an increase in council tax. Eight out of 10 people who responded to last year's survey said that they would support a rise to help deliver critical services.

The results of the consultation will be included in a report on the proposed budget for the 2026/27 financial year which will be considered by the council's executive in January before a final decision will be made at a full council meeting on February 13 next year.

A paper copy can be collected from local libraries or council offices and returned in the envelope provided. Residents can also email [LetsTalk@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:LetsTalk@northyorks.gov.uk) or call [0300 131 2 131](tel:03001312131) and say 'Let's Talk Money' when prompted to request a survey. The survey is also available online.

Surveys are also available by post by writing to Let's Talk, North Yorkshire Council, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AD. The Let's Talk Money consultation closes at midnight on Sunday, 21 December.



### Heart and Craft Wins National Lottery Funding to Keep Creativity — and Community — Thriving!

We're thrilled to announce that *Heart and Craft* has received funding from the National Lottery Awards for All to help our friendly creative sessions continue to flourish! This wonderful support means we can keep offering a warm, welcoming space for anyone in the community to come together, get creative, and enjoy good company — completely free of charge.

If you haven't yet joined us, *Heart and Craft* is all about connection through creativity. We are a relaxed, social group where people of all ages come to chat, laugh, and make things together. Sometimes we paint or knit or embroider, other times we make collages, cards. Try something new each week! The focus isn't on what you make — it's on having fun, meeting people, and feeling part of a friendly, supportive community.

The workshops are led sessions, with regular guest artists bringing fresh ideas and inspiration. Everyone is welcome — no experience or artistic talent is required — and all materials are provided. The kettle is always on, and there's always a plate of biscuits to share. Whether you're looking to try something different, meet new friends, or simply enjoy a few hours in good company, you'll find a warm welcome waiting for you.

Our New Year sessions start in mid-January and take place fortnightly at the following times and locations:

Tuesday mornings at *Low Row Institute*

and *Muker Public Hall*

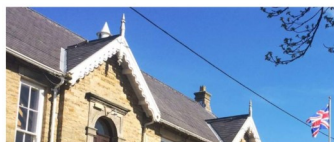
Tuesday afternoons at *Arkengarthdale Hub*

Thursday afternoons in *Reeth*

We're also delighted to say that free transport can be arranged through *Reeth and District Community Transport*, so getting to and from sessions is easy, even if you don't drive. Thanks to the National Lottery Awards for All, we can continue to grow this creative, connected community — where people come together and great things happen.

So, if you've been thinking about joining in, now's the perfect time! Come along, pick up a paintbrush (or a glue stick), and be part of the *Heart and Craft* community — where art and friendship go hand in hand.

**Gaynor Voice**



#### **December at Low Row and Feetham Literary Institute**

Mon 1st – Wed 24th: Advent windows in Low Row Village

Tues 2nd: Dales Taiji at Low Row Institute 10.30am – 2nd of 3 sessions – £25 for all three

Wed 3rd: Workout Wednesday 6.30pm & 7.45pm £5/ class

Tues 9th: 10.30am Heart and Craft: free, everyone welcome

Wed 10th: Workout Wednesday 6.30pm & 7.45pm £5/ class

Fri : 12th Domino and Whist Drive 7.30pm

Tues 16th: Dales Taiji at Low Row Institute 10.30am – 3rd of 3 sessions – £25 for all three

Wed 17th: Workout Wednesday 6.30pm & 7.45pm £5/ class

[lowrowfeethaminstitute@gmail.com](mailto:lowrowfeethaminstitute@gmail.com) to find out more!

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### Reconnecting the floodplain at Hauxwell Estate

A project at Hauxwell Estate near Leyburn is showing how farming and flood management can work hand in hand. Working with [Ousewem](#), the estate has reconnected a watercourse to its floodplain for the first time in more than a century, creating a new nine-hectare wetland and bringing back the natural meanders once common across the Dales (see picture below).

Storing around 2,992 cubic meters of water - more than an Olympic-sized swimming pool - the work slows and stores water in the landscape, reducing flood risk and creating rich habitats for wading birds, insects and amphibians.

*"It's been a real pleasure to work with Ousewem on this project. The new wetland fits perfectly with our ambition to manage the estate in a more wildlife-*

*friendly way,"* said Kevin Birch, Estate Manager.

Will Dalton, of Hauxwell Estate, added: *"The wetland will be transformational to the landscape and nature restoration in the heart of the estate and really enhances what we're trying to achieve with regenerative farming and woodland creation. The Ousewem team and Kevin have worked really hard to design and create a fantastic project and I'm very grateful for the opportunity we've had to do this."*

**Read more:** <https://www.ousewem.co.uk/news/article/50/reconnecting-the-floodplain-restoring-hauxwell-s-landscape-for-flood-resilience-and-wildlife>

If you're interested in flood resilience projects or think your land could benefit from fully funded NFM measures, visit [www.ousewem.co.uk](http://www.ousewem.co.uk) or email us at [ousewem@york.gov.uk](mailto:ousewem@york.gov.uk).



# REETH AND DISTRICT GAZETTE LTD

## Church Opening Times and Services in December

<b>7<sup>th</sup> Dec.</b>	9.15 am	St. Mary's Muker	<i>Eucharist</i>
	10.30 am	St Joseph & St Francis Xavier Richmond	<i>Mass</i>
	10.30 am	Low Row URC	
	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	
	4.00 pm	Reeth Evangelical Congregational	<i>Refreshments from 3.45 pm</i>
	4.00 pm	St. Andrew's Grinton: Come and Sing Carols	<i>informal Service with a Christmas jumper parade and a collection for Christian Aid.</i>
<b>14<sup>th</sup> Dec.</b>	9.30 am	St. Andrew's Grinton	<i>Eucharist</i>
	9.30 am	St Michael's Downholme	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
	10.30 am	St Joseph & St Francis Xavier Richmond	<i>Mass</i>
	10.30 am	Low Row URC	<i>Informal carol singing</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>
	4.00 pm	Reeth Evangelical Congregational	<i>Refreshments from 3.45 pm</i>
<b>17<sup>th</sup> Dec.</b>	7.00 pm	Reeth Evangelical Congregational	<i>Carols by Candlelight</i>

### Church of England

Reverend Canon Caroline Hewlett  
Vicar of the Parish of Swaledale with Arkengarthdale  
01748 884706 carolinejhewlett19@gmail.com

#### United Reformed Church

Rev. Nadene Snyman  
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07876 707863  
teesandswaleurc@gmail.com

#### Methodist

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01969 623818  
jo.brown@methodist.org.uk

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07582 575 815 www.reethecc.co.uk

#### Roman Catholic

Fr John Bane  
01748 822 175  
www.stjosephsfx.co.uk

# REETH AND DISTRICT GAZETTE LTD

## Church Opening Times and Services in December

<b>21<sup>st</sup> Dec.</b>	9.15 am	St. Mary's Muker	<i>Holy Communion BCP</i>
	10.30 am	St Joseph & St Francis Xavier Richmond	<i>Mass</i>
	11.00 am	Holy Trinity Low Row	<i>Low Row Village Carol Service</i>
	11.00 am	Reeth Evangelical Congregational	
	11.00 am	St. Edmund's, Marske	<i>Holy Communion</i>
	2.30 pm	Gunnarside Methodist	<i>Shortest Day Service</i>
	3.00 pm	St. Michael's Downholme	<i>Lessons &amp; Carols</i>
	3.00 pm	Keld URC	<i>Carol Service</i>
	6.30 pm	St. Mary's Arkengarthdale	<i>Carol Service</i>
	8.00 pm	Reeth Green: Carols round the Tree	<i>with Reeth Band</i>
<b>19<sup>th</sup> Dec.</b>	1.30 pm	St. Andrew's Grinton	<i>School Christingle Service</i>
<b>24<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	3.00 pm	Outside the Punch Bowl Inn	<i>Carol Singing</i>
	7.00 pm	Reeth Evangelical Congregational	<i>Informal Christmas Eve Carols</i>
	10.00 pm	St. Mary's Arkengarthdale	<i>Holy Communion BCP</i>
	11.30 pm	St. Andrew's Grinton	<i>Christmas Eucharist</i>
	11.30 pm	St. Michael's Downholme	<i>Midnight Mass</i>
<b>25<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	9.15 am	St. Mary's Muker	<i>Christmas Eucharist</i>
	9.30 am	Low Row URC	
	11.00 am	Reeth Evangelical Congregational	<i>Christmas Day Service</i>
	11.00 am	Holy Trinity Low Row	<i>Christmas Eucharist</i>
	11.30 am	St. Edmund's Marske	<i>Holy Communion</i>
<b>27<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	6.30 pm	St. Mary's Muker	<i>Carol Service with Muker Band</i>
<b>28<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	10.30 am	Fremington Village Hall	<i>Parish Eucharist</i>
	11.00 am	Reeth Evangelical Congregational	
	11.00 am	St. Edmund's Marske	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
	4.00 pm	Reeth Evangelical Congregational	<i>Refreshments from 3.45 pm</i>

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

Quaker House, 7 Grove Square, Leyburn every Sunday at 10.30 am  
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## REETH AND DISTRICT GAZETTE LTD

### SWAAG

The archaeology and local history group is now in its winter programme with our talks on Zoom and so open to members only. There is no talk in December as we have our Xmas social at Marrick Priory with 'Soup & Puds' always very enjoyable and great value. Talks resume in January with "Peru: Highlights of the Archaeological Record". Following a visit, Jane Harrison will give an illustrated talk about some of the societies that flourished there before the Spanish Conquest. You may join us using the form on the website at <https://new-swaag.org/join-us/>. The fee is £20 per year, falling to £10 on 1<sup>st</sup> January for the remainder of the membership year. Most of our talks are recorded and available to members a week or so after the talk.

Last month I looked at local chert quarrying. Continuing the local history theme, Marrick Priory has an interesting history. Now an Outdoor Education and Residential Centre, it was founded around 1150 as a Benedictine Nunnery. It became relatively wealthy with income from fisheries, a corn mill, lead mining tithes, donating around 25% of this to help the poor and needy. This wealth attracted Scots raids in the 14thC. The Priory was so badly "destroyed" in 1318 that it was granted relief from taxes by Edward II. It did not escape the Reformation however, and was closed in 1540, passing into the hands of local landowners; there is much more on the Marrick Priory website [marrickpriory.co.uk](http://marrickpriory.co.uk)

**Alan Mills**

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## Dales Police Crime Bulletin



### Monthly Police Report 10<sup>th</sup> Oct- 7<sup>th</sup> Nov 2025

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

Incidents of note:

Reported 11<sup>th</sup> Oct Theft of an Eldis caravan and Ivor Williams tipper trailer from Quarry lane Leyburn. Reported 13<sup>th</sup> Oct Theft of motor vehicle from Bainbridge area: the vehicle was recovered 14<sup>th</sup> Oct and a person was arrested on separate charges.

Between 9<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> Oct Theft of approximately £500-£600 of electric cable scrap copper pipe and radiators stolen from a property under renovation in the Harmby area. Reported 6<sup>th</sup> Nov Theft of a Graham Edwards trailer from the Gunnerside area.

16 - Suspicious Circumstances (Door to door sellers/Vehicles parked etc).

13 - Abandoned Calls (misdials/pocket dials).

2 - Animal/Wildlife.

7 - Highway Disruption (Floods/Trees/Animals).

14 - Violence.

4 - Criminal Damage.

3 - Civil Dispute.

9 - Missing Person/Concern for safety.

8 - Road Traffic Collision (Minor).

7 - AntiSocial Behaviour.

1 - Burglary.

1 - Lost/Found.

1 - Fraud/Forgery (online/phone).

1 - Theft.

In total 120 calls were received reporting either the above or making general enquiries.

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

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

**PC355 Heather Campbell.**  
**PCSO Tracie Taylor-Page.**

For the observant of you, you may have noticed I have not listed myself on the above. The reason being, as of Midnight 17<sup>th</sup> December I will no longer be part of the team as I have decided it is time for me to hang up my stab vest and radio. I have enjoyed my service making new friends and meeting the people of the Dales where I have worked; thank you for being such friendly folk. I will in due course be replaced by PCSO 3521 Di Smith who will be moving over from Catterick Garrison. Right, that's all from me.

**PCSO 5232 Don Watson.**

## REETH AND DISTRICT GAZETTE LTD



### Spotlight on your business?

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### Wensleydale Concert Series

September saw the end of our 10th anniversary concert series. It was a successful series with lots of positive feedback from audience members who came from as far afield as Berlin, Manchester to Scarborough and the south coast to Northumberland as well as lots of regulars who live locally!! During the series we hosted 18 musicians from all over the UK and from Berlin and Salzburg. We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone involved: the musicians and audiences but also a big thanks too to volunteers who helped at the church, with parking, distributing posters and leaflets and especially to the individuals who generously sponsored concerts and to the many who gave smaller donations. Without your involvement the concert series could not happen.

Our 2026 season of six concerts is already planned for next May to September and tickets are on sale now in time for Christmas presents!! Tickets are £18 if bought in advance (£20 at the door) or £1 for under 18s and full time students. We also have a generously discounted season ticket for £72 (that is the equivalent of 6 concerts for the price of 4). Full details are at our website now.

[www.wensleydaleconcertseries.co.uk](http://www.wensleydaleconcertseries.co.uk)

Our 2026 concerts sees a return of some old friends and supporters of our series: our very versatile friend and pianist Daniel Grimwood in a new collaboration with clarinettist Emily Worthington, also the effervescent

pianist Yasmin Rowe is returning from Melbourne, Australia to give a piano recital. Other past performers returning with new partners are pianist/composer Huw Watkins with the astonishing virtuoso horn player Ben Goldscheider and Richmond based early music specialist viol player Susanna Pell with her lutenist husband Jacob Heringman (as Pelingmans' Saraband). We also welcome the virtuoso pianist Tyler Hay for his debut in Wensleydale performing the monumental Grande Sonate by Franz Liszt. Finally we are welcoming a young and extremely talented cellist Inez Karlsson with her pianist partner Ayaka Shigeno. Inez and Ayaka will be performing some beautiful and popular works but also are including the world premieres of two works, one written especially for this concert by composer David Blake and the other work by a composer featured a number of times in our series, Cheryl Frances Hoad.

Best wishes for a Happy Christmas and a hopefully less troubled New Year. We hope to see you in May.

Carol Haynes

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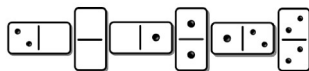
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## Shake off the winter blues...

After a busy Autumn, with appearances at the Georgian Theatre, Richmond Station and several further afield, John and Jane Hunter's 'Good Vibes' Jazz combo return to the Station for another night of swinging jazz, film and show tunes and a touch of light classics. All recent evenings have been total sell-outs so those interested are encouraged to purchase tickets as soon as possible. As usual the evening features a two-course meal in addition to the musical entertainment. Jazz @ The Station, Richmond - Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> January 2026 - For further information and tickets contact The Station, Richmond. Call 01748 825967 or email [reservations@thestation.co.uk](mailto:reservations@thestation.co.uk).



**T'Owd Roy**

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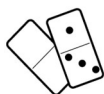
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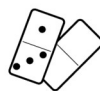
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Wednesday 24  
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Cover photo: Christmas tree on Reeth  
Green courtesy of Vanessa Barkley



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### **Be Wise, Immunise! – Protect yourself and your loved ones this winter**

NHS Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) is urging residents to protect themselves and their families by getting vaccinated against flu, COVID-19, and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV).

The ICB's *Winter Wise. Immunised!* Campaign highlights the importance of winter vaccinations in keeping our communities safe and healthy.

Winter viruses spread more easily when we spend time indoors. Flu and COVID-19 can cause serious illness, especially in older adults, pregnant women, and those with long-term health conditions. RSV is a common virus that can be particularly dangerous for babies and older adults.

Vaccination is the best defence. It reduces the severity of symptoms, speeds up recovery, and lowers the risk of hospitalisation. Even if you've had flu or a vaccine before, immunity fades and viruses change each year—so it's vital to stay protected.

#### **Who Should Get Vaccinated?**

**Flu:** Pregnant women, children aged 2-16, people aged 65+, those with long-term health conditions, carers, care home residents, close contacts of immunocompromised individuals, and frontline health and social care workers.

**COVID-19:** People aged 75+, care home residents, and those who are immunosuppressed (aged six months+).

**RSV:** Pregnant women (from 28 weeks onwards) and adults aged 75-79 (or turned 80 after 1 September 2024).

Dr Nigel Wells, family GP and NHS Humber and North Yorkshire ICB's Executive Director of Clinical and Professional, said: "The latest data from the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) shows Rhinovirus – what many of us would call the common cold – has been on the increase in recent weeks, together with COVID-19, flu and RSV.

"While it's not uncommon to have these illnesses circulating more at this time of year, these viruses can pose an increased risk to people with existing long-term conditions, like heart, kidney or respiratory disease. Pregnant women are more likely to be hospitalised if they catch flu or RSV.

"On 2 January this year, more than 300 local people were seriously ill with flu in our hospitals – the equivalent of 10 full wards – so it's definitely something people should take seriously.

"Vaccination is the best defence."

You can check your eligibility for the free flu and COVID vaccines and find your nearest vaccination centre at <https://humberandnorthyorkshire.org.uk/vaccinated/>

If you are pregnant and have not been offered the RSV vaccine around your 28-week antenatal appointment, contact your maternity service to book.

Alternatively, if you're aged 75-79 (or turned 80 after 1 September 2024), contact your GP surgery to book your RSV vaccination. There's no need to wait for an invitation.





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### Joint Winner of The May Sinclair Essay Prize - Jessica Rukin

A Year of my Life on a Hill Farm  
November 2023 - October 2024



I live on a 165-hectare hill farm at the top of Swaledale, near Tan Hill Inn. We have 800 Swaledale sheep, 20 cows and 5 border collie sheep dogs - one of them being my own. It is never easy with the harsh conditions the weather throws at us, but it is always a fun experience and has become the way of life.

Unlike the Gregorian calendar, which is from January to December, our farming calendar is from November to October, as this is when the livestock cycle begins.

#### Tupping time - November

This is an incredibly special time of year where we put the gimmers (females) to the tups (males) for breeding. We must decide which group of females go to each tup. To do this we look at which features the sheep and tups have and think about how they would look together. We also use bloodlines so, if the sheep's mother was bred with a certain tup, then you might want to breed them with that same tup if you liked the result the mother gave.

On the tup's chest, we put **rud** so when the tup jumps on the sheep to mate with them, it will rub onto the sheep's bum, so you know that they have been tupped (already bred with). Every day, my dad and I go and look at the sheep to check on them and add more rud to the tup. I have a couple of my own sheep, and I love to see if they have been tupped yet.

#### Smitting - December

In December, we start to put a mark- either spray or paint- in a certain colour, on the sheep, so we know which tup is the father and when they are due to lamb. The gestation period for a sheep is five months forward and four days back. So, for example, if the sheep was tupped on the 12<sup>th</sup> of November, then the due date would be on the 8<sup>th</sup> of April. My Dad then writes it all down into his sheep book, this process is called **smitting**. My favourite part is when I get to put the mark on the sheep. Unfortunately, I do not get to do it very often because my dad does not want me to mess it up as it is especially important. Then, we take the **shearlings** to a lowland farm for grazing over the winter, and we turn out the **ewes** to the moor. I also really enjoy doing this job too!

#### Fothering - January

During the harsh, winter months of January, as a family, our main job is to feed and care for the sheep up on the moor. This is called

fothering. Every day, my dad will go up the moor with a bag of **sugarbeet** and feed the hundreds of sheep we have- no matter the weather condition.



## REETH AND DISTRICT GAZETTE LTD

Throughout the day, January is a better. The colours for other amounts wonderful time for a catch-up on like singles and twins vary every year. paperwork (this is my Mum's leading **Hoggs return home - March.** role) and other maintenance jobs Throughout the whole of winter, the around the farm as well. Little jobs like **hoggs** were away at other farms. So, this are perfect for me as they do not when the warmer months start to tend to be too hard and do not require approach, we bring them home and look as much responsibility. after them for summer. When they

### Scanning - February

February can be quite busy as you two injections to prevent them from usually feel as if you are all over the aborting their lambs in the future. They place. This is when we start to scan. also need to be dozed, and we horn burn them. We gather in all the ewes off the moor

and bring them into the shed so we can **What is horn burning?** see how many lambs they are going to have. Horn burning is where you burn the horn of the sheep with a special iron rod so you can easily identify them as yours. The person who scans our sheep (who is also a farmer) uses an ultrasound Some farmers (including our family's machine to see how many lambs they farm) have a mark of their own that is are going to have. The machine he uses special to them, meaning that they are has a built-in spray so he can mark the only farm with that mark on their them so my dad is prepared for the sheep.

number of lambs and can put them in **Lambing time - April** the correct fields. Lambing time is my favourite time of the year as it is when I get to help the Since the shearings are at a different most. I love seeing all the little lambs farm, we usually go and scan them running around in the fields. This is the there to reduce hassle. The process of busiest time of the year by a mile as scanning stays the same although, while there is always something to be getting we are there, we walk around all the fields and check to make sure all the on with. sheep are still okay (as we do not get to

see them every day) and are thriving As we are quite high up in the dale, we do not start lambing as early as most with the luxury of extra grass. This is farmers do. Our sheep are usually due to lamb around the 10<sup>th</sup> of April. During also a good family time where we are all the first few days of the month, we together. gather all the sheep to the sheds. The If a sheep is **geld** two years in a row, tups, hoggs and geld sheep stay on the then my dad will go on to sell them at a moor but are still fed often. Most of a later date, on a Tuesday sale, when I am at school. Although, if it is their the ewes are out in a field (except for a few who are left in the sheds). All the first-year geld, he will turn them out to the moor for lambing, so they do not shearings are kept inside as they are get in the way and become a nuisance. first time mothers and do not have the When they are geld, the scanner sprays same level of experience as the ewes them in red so we can identify them who were not geld last year.

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Every day, my sister and I will go out to the sheds to check on all the lambers and put them in the pens made from wooden gates if they have lambed. The sheep who are in the pens, need to be given feed, water, and hay twice a day daily. Me and my sister love helping with those extremely important jobs as they are not too strenuous or require as much assistance from my family. We give them just under half a bucket of water and a spoonful of sugarbeet each. For all the sheep outside, my dad must go round them all as often as possible to make sure that there is no sheep struggling to lamb or any other general problems. He also must move them round different fields all the time so they can reach fresh grass.

Meanwhile, the rest of the household are on shed patrol, watching over all the sheep indoors. At this time of the year, when it is unbelievably busy, my Grandparents are a huge help with all the remaining jobs that we have not got round to.

### Tagging + scratching - May

During May, all the lambs need to be **tagged** and **scratched**. They also need to be put somewhere for grazing. If they are a single, then they will be put to the moor but if they are a twin, then they will be put to the **in-bye**.

In the middle of May, all the meadows need to be completely empty without any sheep in them so the grass can grow long for hay timing.

Throughout the whole of the month, there is a series of shows, one of them including our most local show - Tan Hill Show. We prepare all our best sheep to a show-worthy level. To do this, we wash and dress the sheep until they look as close to perfect as possible.

On the day, my dad will wake up nice and early so he can make the finishing touches to them, loading them up into the trailer. After the few minutes it takes to get there, he will find a pen and put his best sheep in there. At around 1pm, the rest of our family will arrive as that is when the show starts. They do lots of judging on the sheep and I love watching my dad show his. We usually do quite well in the show and this year we even won overall champion tup hog.

### Eastgate Show!



There are other shows we attend but we usually don't show at them. One of my favourites that we go to is Eastgate Show because when my dad is looking around the sheep, we get to go on the bouncy castle and try the tombola. Although, it is nice to have a look at all the different breeds and styles of sheep.

### Holiday time! - June

On a hill farm, June is usually the least busy of all months, so it is the perfect excuse to go on a little holiday. There are still little jobs that need to be done every now and then though.

We recently moved into our new house, even though it was right next to where we used to live, so we spent most of June trying to renovate our new house while still juggling the farm.



### Clipping time - July

In late June and the most of July, we have the shear all our sheep. We take off the sheep's coat of wool, so they do not overheat during the summer.

We gather in all the sheep from on the moor and in the fields to clip them. As a family, we bring them all into the sheds where we shear them. If we are planning to clip a lot of sheep in one day, then we hire some contractors to help us clip them, so it is quicker and saves my Dad's back. But if they are a smaller batch, my dad and my Uncle will clip them themselves.

If the sheep are at a lowland farm, then we will go and shear them there as it is a lot easier than having to bring them back.

This is one of the only jobs which I cannot get involved in because the machine is extremely dangerous.

### Hay timing - August

In August and sometimes July, my family are busy hay timing when the sun is shining. I absolutely love hay timing because the weather is (hopefully) nice and warm so running around with my siblings is always super enjoyable.

### Making the hay:

To make the hay, we use a mower (a machine sort of like a lawn mower except it is used for fields) to cut the grass before **dashing** it. We must dash - strow- the grass about 4-5 times if we are planning to make hay but if the grass is too wet, then we need to use the grass for **silage**. This means that we only must strow the grass 2 or 3 times. Then, we row the grass into rows before baling it into either small bales of hay or round bales of silage.

Although, small bales of hay are a lot easier because living up in the dales, it

is not as easy to be always using big machinery to transport the big bales to the sheep. This is why we like to use small bales on the back of the quad bike to take the hay to the sheep on the moor in winter.

### Why do we make hay?

The reason behind why we make hay is because during the winter, when the grass is covered in snow or there is really bad weather, the sheep struggle to reach the grass. So, we take hay up the moor to give to our sheep so they can eat and will not starve.

### Spaining:

August is a very busy time of month as there is a lot of things to be done. In August, we are hay timing but also spaining. Spaining is where we take the lambs off their mothers, as they must move on and look after themselves. To help me understand it, I sort of think of it as like the lambs moving out of their family's house and starting their life except, they are lambs not humans. The mothers head back to the moor without their lambs. Meanwhile, lambs are split between fields depending on whether they are **keeping gimmers, wethers**, tup lambs or to sell.

### Preparing for sales - September

During September, our job is to fatten up the lambs and prepare them for breeding sales. We feed them every day and even start to make our first profits. My dad will take the fatter lambs (most weeks) to be sold for meat.

### Muker Show!

Muker Show is a sheep show and one of my favourite times of the year. We prepare some sheep the same way as we do for Tan Hill Show. At this show, there are other parts of the show,

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other than looking at the sheep, that children can do because although it is nice to take a look at sheep, some people can do other things such as: a bouncy castle, young handlers, the fell race - my favourite - and you can even enter things like different crafts.

### Sheep sales - October

In October, we sell some of our livestock to make a profit. All the animals we are planning to sell need to be dressed and washed just like they are going to a show. First, we sell the **draft ewes** then the gimmers, before the most important sales which are the tup sales. My dad sells his tups in both Kirby Stephen Auction Mart and Hawes Auction Mart.

Over the two days he sells on, he also must think about buying for the years to come. Before he goes into the ring, he looks around at other farmers tups to see which ones he would like to bid for. He needs to buy a new tup, so the breeding cycle can continue on our farm. My favourite part is running around the Auction Marts with my friends although I like to watch the stock in the ring too! We may not get as many holidays as the average family, as you can see, it is not



easy to escape this busy lifestyle - but I wouldn't change it for the world.

No time for a rest, the whole cycle starts again in November as all our livestock rely on us.

### References:

I have learnt a lot about farming from my Dad, and he has taught me practically everything I know about farming in the hills.



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**Incidents 10<sup>th</sup> Oct 2025 to 9<sup>th</sup> Nov 2025**

*Below: Underground training in the Brandy Bottle Mine during October*

### **3 Incidents this edition**

**Incident 45: 01-02/11/2025:** Called by the Police to search the river Swale and immediate surrounding area for a missing person. On the second day of the search, we located a body in the water and evacuated the casualty to the Police.

**Incident 44: 25/10/2025:** Called by the Police this evening to search for a missing person, fortunately they were located safe and well by the Police while we were travelling to the RV

**Incident 43: 18/10/2025:** Called by the Ambulance service to rescue an injured walker on the Pennine Way between Keld and Muker. Treated on scene by team medics and Ambulance crew. Evacuated to Keld for transport to hospital. Thanks to Rukins farm for the usual help.

Thanks to the following for their recent support, whether it's a little or a lot we can't do it without your help  
Travellers Rest, Skeeby £31.04  
Aysgarth NP Visitor Centre £64.36  
Kings Head, Gunnerside £237.67  
Greenlands B&B, Keld £48.64

**Wishing all our supporters a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year**





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## Gunnerside Chapel

Two important dates for your diary this month.

Firstly, at 6pm on Tuesday 16th December the School will be holding its carol service in Gunnerside chapel, ably led by their Headmaster and staff. The sheer enthusiasm of the children is uplifting in its own right. Parents, villagers and visitors are all welcome.

Then on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December, (6 for 6.30), the Chapel will be holding its annual "Shortest Day" carol service, followed by tea and mince pies for all, (those who sing in the "volunteer" choir can expect the usual tap on the shoulder sometime soon).

Whatever else you do at Christmas-time - parties, pubs or television - might be fun, but as more than one person who has attended them have said, ".....these two events at the chapel **ARE** Christmas....."

Don't miss them.

A Happy Christmas to everybody.



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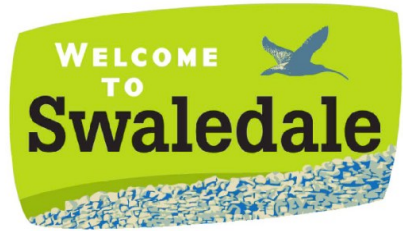
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Contact Debbie for details

07707683317

[yogadebbie@hotmail.com](mailto:yogadebbie@hotmail.com)

**Jennie Calvert** of Lodge House, Gunnerside, would like to wish all her family, friends and neighbours a Happy Christmas and good health in the New year



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Reeth Memorial Hall

## Reeth Memorial Hall

Our last concert of the year is coming up.

### Saturday 06<sup>th</sup> December - The Wilderness Yet

Vocals, fiddle, guitar & flute weave a tapestry of traditional & original songs and tunes; from a cappella three-part harmonies to luscious instrumental arrangements, to welcome the Christmas season.

Tickets £17 (£19 door).

Thank you to everyone who has been to one or more of our concerts during 2025. Your support helps us to raise much needed funds for the hall that are used for ongoing maintenance and improvements. We are also able to keep our hire fees at a reasonable level providing a benefit to everyone who books the hall from the two dales.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year on behalf of the Memorial Hall committee.

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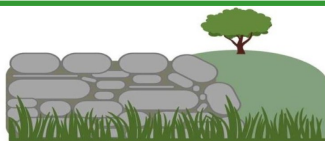
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# Diary Dates

## December

**Mon 1st Dec - Wed 24th Dec,** Advent windows in Low Row village

**Tues 2nd Dec** - Wreath-making workshop with Mandy Kilner from Swaledale Botanical. 7 to 9pm, Low Row LI

**Tues 2nd Dec** - Dales Taiji at Low Row Institute 10.30am - 2<sup>nd</sup> of 3 sessions - £25 for all three

**Wed 3rd Dec** - Workout Wednesday at Low Row LI, 6.30pm and 7.45pm, £5 per class

**Thurs 4th Dec**—Heart and Craft at Low Row Institute - free, everyone welcome! 10.30am

**Fri 5th Dec** - Felting Workshop with Harriet Morley, 1-4pm, Low Row Literary Institute

**Sat 6th Dec** - Table Top sale, Reeth Memorial Hall 10 -12

**Sat 6th Dec** - The Wilderness Yet (seasonal concert), Reeth Memorial Hall 8pm

**Sun 7th Dec** - Richmond Orchestra Christmas Concert, Tennants Garden Rooms, 4pm

**Sun 7th Dec** - Come and Sing Carols St Andrew's Grinton 4pm

**Tues 9th Dec** - Heart and Craft at Arkengarthdale Hub - free, everyone welcome! 10.30am

**Tues 9th Dec**—Heart and Craft at Low Row Institute - free, everyone welcome! 10.30am

**Wed 10th Dec** - Workout Wednesday at Low Row LI, 6.30pm and 7.45pm, £5 per class

**Fri 12th Dec**—Domino and Whist Drive 7.30pm Low Row LI

**Sat 13th Dec** - 10am to 12 noon, Coffee and Carols, Reeth Evangelical Congregational Church

**Tues 16th Dec** - Dales Taiji at Low Row Institute 10.30am - 3<sup>rd</sup> of 3 sessions - £25 for all three

**Wed 17th Dec** - Workout Wednesday at Low Row LI, 6.30pm and 7.45pm, £5 per class

**Wed 17th Dec** - A Christmas Cracker, Blueboxt join the Service Childrens' Community Choir, Tennants Garden Rooms, 7.30

**Wed 17th Dec** - 7pm, Carols by Candlelight, Reeth Evangelical Congregational Church

## January

**Fri 2nd Jan** - T'Owd Roy Dominoes, Muker Public Hall 7.30pm

**Sat 17th Jan** - 10am to 12 noon, Coffee morning, Reeth Evangelical Congregational Church

**Sat 24th Jan** - Jazz Night - The Good Vibes Trio + 2-course evening meal @ The Station CafeBar, Richmond to book Call 01748 825967 or email [reservations@thestation.co.uk](mailto:reservations@thestation.co.uk)

**Sat 31st Jan** - Dixon County Gig, Low Row LI

## February

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



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Happy and  
Peaceful New  
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readers.

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