

REETH & DISTRICT GAZETTE

ISSUE NO. 357

MARCH 2026



*Your local news magazine
for the two dales*

PRICELESS BUT DONATIONS WELCOME

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First Thoughts

We were saddened to hear of the death of Elsie Whitehead at the end of January. Elsie had been a stalwart member of the Gazette board for over a decade and played a vital role dealing with subscriptions for those who have the Gazette posted to them every month. She despatched copies all over the country and to many far-flung parts of the world. More recently she also played a key part in ensuring the right number of copies of the Gazette are delivered on time each month to our local network of distributors. We really appreciated her hard work, humour and quiet unflappability. She will be much missed.

Our March issue is again full of lots of opportunities to get together and share in different activities. Do keep sending in your information about events in your hall or organisation or area - it's such a good way of keeping local people in touch with what's going on.

To our huge disappointment the Charity Commission doesn't seem to see this service as a Public Benefit. Much work went into rewriting our constitution to better reflect what we do, and we were very grateful to Andy Shield from Community First Yorkshire for helping us with this. However, after trying and failing twice to gain Charity approval, we feel it is a lost cause. A local news information publication somehow does not qualify.

We had hoped to gain Charitable Status and thereby be eligible for Gift Aid on any donations, and also for any grants available only to

charities. As this has not happened, we continue to be dependent on the generosity of our readership to top up our finances and thus keep us going. Information on how to donate is on page 3, and we are very grateful to those who make regular annual or monthly donations, as well as those who fill our collecting tins dotted around the dales. This month we have been very pleased to receive sizeable donations from Trevor Barningham and from Reeth Fireworks Committee (Reeth Millennium Fund). Thank you so much.

The website remains a work in progress. Illness has prevented more rapid progress over the winter, but it is still high on our agenda.

The committee is very happy to welcome Marilyn Brown to our ranks. Marilyn worked with her late husband Trevor for many years distributing the Gazette around the two dales, and we are pleased she is back to help us and use her experience. Later in this issue you will see an advertisement for a replacement Treasurer for the Gazette. Andrew Bedford has been on the Board and dealing with the finances and the advertisers for many years, and we are very grateful to him for all he's done. If you have accounting experience and can use Sage, and would consider becoming part of this happy band that produces the Gazette - which WE know does provide a benefit to the public - then do get in touch with Andrew for a chat.

Jackie

Cover photo: Spring flowers struggling in Muker by Jackie Pope

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

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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:

April issue: March 9th

May issue: April 8th

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

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

**Melbecks Parish Council
Extraordinary Meeting
held on 17th November
2025**

Present: Councillors Silver, Calvert, Bowe and Strafford with Cllr R. Alderson chairing. Also present was NYC Councillor Yvonne Peacock.

Clerk: Miss N. Adams.

To discuss information shared and actions regarding turning circle at Low Row Institute.

A discussion took place regarding the sharing of information between parish councillors, in particular about the turning circle at Low Row Institute and why some information had not been shared following a meeting between a resident and the Chair of the Parish Council.

It was advised that the information was not shared because this issue was not considered by Councillor Alderson to be the concern of Melbecks Parish Council, as the land concerned belongs to Reeth Estates. Reeth Estates have been contacted regarding this, and they do not wish to take the matter any further. A conversation also took place with the North Yorkshire Council Highways Officer, who also did not raise any concern about this.

However, councillors had been approached by three local residents regarding the tarmac issue who informed them that this would be raised at the next Parish Council meeting. The other members of the Parish Council felt that they would have made a different decision if they had known the full facts.

In addition, the name of a resident who had requested to remain anonymous,

was shared at a previous meeting by the Chair of the Parish Council, with a member of the public present.

To consider how to respond to communication received regarding this issue (by email and verbally)

It was agreed for a letter of apology to be sent to the two residents who had previously contacted about the tarmac concern, and to the resident whose name had been disclosed at a recent Parish Council meeting.

5. Motion of no confidence in the Chair

Councillor Alderson left the meeting for this item, and Vice-Chair, Councillor Silver took over as Chair.

A motion of no confidence in the Chair had been proposed by Councillors Strafford and Bowe.

A vote took place with the following result;

1 - abstain, 3 - approve, therefore the motion of no confidence in the Chair, Council Alderson was carried.

Councillor Alderson returned to the meeting and was informed of the above decision.

Any other business

The councillors were provided with a copy of an email complaint from a resident, which was shared as requested. It was agreed for the Clerk to reply to the resident, to acknowledge receipt of this complaint and to be provide a copy of the Melbecks Parish Council Complaints Procedure. Councillor Alderson was thanked for all his service to the Parish Council.

Dates of next meeting

Thursday 27th November 2025 at Low Row

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Melbecks Parish Council Meeting held on 27th November 2025

Present: Councillors Alderson, Calvert, Bowe and Strafford with Cllr A. Silver chairing. Also present was NYC Councillor Yvonne Peacock.

Clerk: Miss N. Adams.

Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting, held on 2nd October 2025 were agreed to be a correct record, and these were signed by the Vice-Chair.

Subject to a correction, the minutes of the extraordinary meeting, held on 17th November 2025 were agreed to be a correct record, and these were signed by the Vice-Chair.

Matters arising

It was noted that the speeding issue in Low Row has been reported to Highways, but there is a long waiting list.

Finance

a) Order to pay and a cheque were signed for Geoff West for £51.96 for repairs to the notice boards in Low Row and Gunnerside.

b) Order to pay and a cheque were signed for Sheila Lewis for £120 to pay for diesel for the emergency generator (Melbecks Emergency Group) The clerk will send the cheque.

c) Quotes were received from Irving Joinery new notice boards at £1278.10 for two, and there is £300 from NYC Locality funding and £250 available from Reeth Estates. As a new website and email addresses are needed before the next audit in April 2026, it was agreed that this was the main priority, and the purchase of new notice boards

will be put on hold for now.

d) Parish Precept. It was unanimously agreed to request £1900. (post-meeting note: it was unanimously agreed to increase this request to £2500 to cover the cost of a website etc.) The clerk to contact NYC.

Highways

a) Peatgate: The clerk was requested to contact Highways regarding the work that Highways were to do at Peatgate (a pipe needs to be fitted by the cattle grid to take water across to the gutter).

b) Surrender Bridge: Top stones are missing from the wall at Surrender Bridge, the Clerk to contact Highways regarding this.

North Yorkshire Council

a) Garden waste collections: It was noted that garden waste collections will come to an end for this year between Monday 24 November 2025 and Friday 5 December 2025.

YDNPA

a) The summary note of Yorkshire Dales National Park Management Plan Annual Forum was shared with councillors.

b) The Autumn Parish Forum Notes Slides and Recordings were shared with councillors.

c) Protected Tree Decision: Rowleth Edge, Gunnerside, to remove 2x willow and 2x silver birch - approved, replant recommended. There were no comments or objections.

d) Protected Tree Decision: Thistlebout Farm, Gunnerside fell 1x pine and crown lift 1 x elm approved no replant recommended. There were no comments or objections.

e) Protected Tree Decision Gunnerside Chapel Fell 1x leylandii, and lower by a third 1x yew approved replant

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recommended. There were no comments or objections.

f) Protected Tree Decision Land next to Brockma Gill, Kearton, Low Row Fell 1x ash approved replant recommended. There were no comment or objections.

g) Coast to Coast Stakeholders Meeting 27th November 2025. This meeting has been postponed. The clerk to send out details when this has been rearranged.

h) Full planning permission for conversion of existing stable/coach house to residential use for local occupancy or tourist accommodation at The Old Stable/Coach House, Gunnerside, Richmond, DL11 6LE. It was noted that this has been considered by the YDNPA planning committee and refused.

i) Listed building consent to retain the works carried out to the outbuilding comprising: i) replacement of the west window to the front elevation with a top hung casement; ii) insertion of a vestibule; iii) partial laying of a wooden floor; iv) partial provision of an insulated ceiling and v) provision of an electrical supply at Ling Garth, Low Row, Richmond, DL11 6PH - R/05/73Q/LB. The council raised no comments or objections.

j) Barn at High Hillways, Gunnerside. It was noted that there have been some alterations made to the barn next to High Hillways, Gunnerside, and the council unanimously agreed for the clerk to check if there has been planning permission submitted for this.

Any Other Business

a) IT Policy: The council unanimously approved and adopted the IT Policy which was signed by the Vice-Chair.

b) Dales Police Report 10th October 2025 to 7th November 2025: This was

shared with councillors

Dates of next meetings

Thursday 29th January 2026 at Gunnerside

Thursday 19th March 2026 at Low Row

Thursday 14th May 2026 at Gunnerside

Thursday 16th July 2026 at Low Row

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World Day of Prayer 2026

Friday 6th March 14.30

Low Row URC

We do hope you will join us for the World Day of Prayer on Friday 6th March at 2.30pm at Low Row URC. Everyone is welcome. If you would like a copy of the service booklet in advance or if you would like to help with the preparation for our service please contact Sue on 01748 886963. More information can be found on the WDP website: wwdp.org.uk.

**Sue Pellatt, on behalf of Christians
Together in Swaledale**

Reeth Show

Domino and Whist Drive

Reeth Memorial Hall

Friday 6th March 7.30pm

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Glenn...who?

By John
Hunter

A few articles back, the name of *this* month's featured artiste was mentioned, *partially* in jest, as a potential subject for one of my 'know the face but not the name' features. Well, as we're currently enjoying binge watching the excellent '**The Resident**' (2018 - 2023, Channel 5, Netflix, Amazon Prime), who should pop up but Mr Glenn Morshower playing the titular character's father. (Incidentally, young Matt Czuchry (the 'resident' himself) moved to this show from an excellent turn in another recommended seven season US import, '**The Good Wife**'). Mr Morshower has almost cornered the niche market of dependable military / political types for three decades. You may have spotted him in several **Transformers** movies (OK, maybe not), **Black Hawk Down**, **Pearl Harbor** etc and TV shows such as **Star Trek** (TNG and Voyager), **Quantum Leap**, **The West Wing**, **CSI**, **Criminal Minds**, and **Hawaii 5 O** plus numerous others.

What is really fascinating about Mr Morshower's roles is when you check his character's names (or in his case, ranks) - at a rough count there were three sheriffs, five Colonels, six Generals plus a couple of Presidents

and numerous Senators, Defence Secretaries, Detectives and Agents. This seems a direct link back to the heady days of Hollywood when actors (such as those I have previously featured) could carve out a whole career playing the town drunk, the dodgy mayor or the local 'good time girl'. However, watching Mr Morshower work, his range is far beyond the typecasting suggested above. Whilst seeming to exude reliability, there is just a hint of some darker overtones as we watch **The Resident** - but please don't tell me more as we're only on

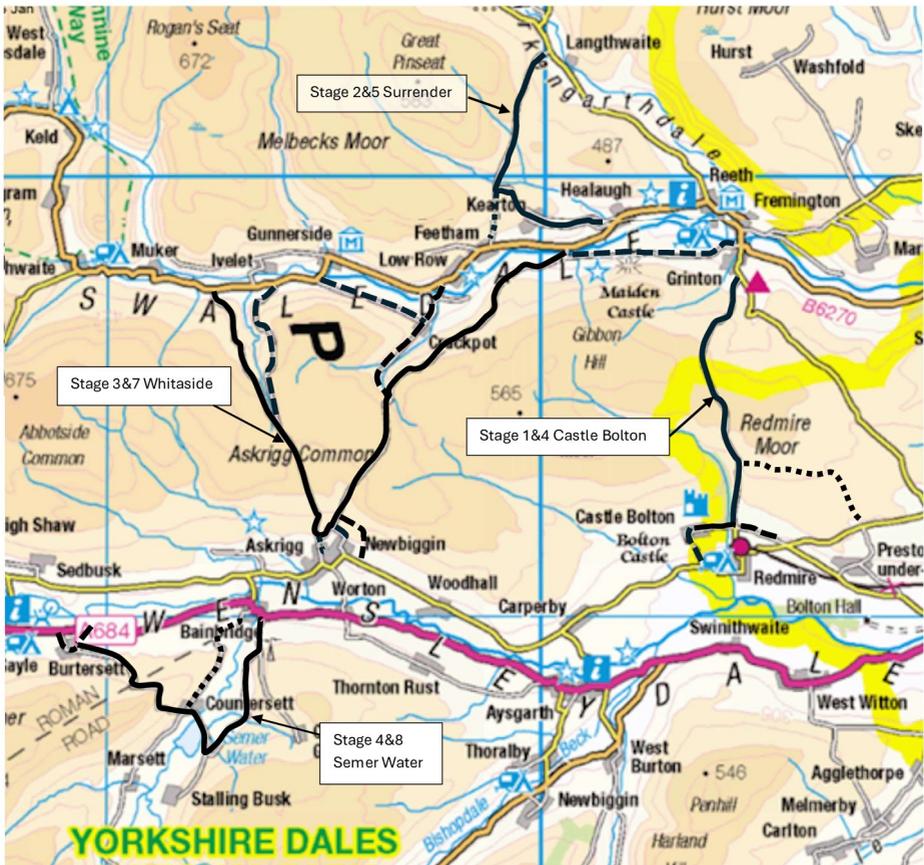


Season 1 at present! Perhaps it's that familiar Texas accent or the 'friendly' well-worn face? - did you know that he was the **only** character to appear in ALL seven seasons of '**24**' other than our hero himself Jack Bauer. His caring for the first lady during the 'reign' of a very dodgy President

in a later season was a standout performance for me - so that's the role he is pictured in here.

In real life his story speaks volumes - he acted at the Dallas Theater Centre from the age of 12, and at 19 married his childhood sweetheart Carolyn (together now for 47 years they have two children and several grandchildren). He still teaches at his local Baptist church. His series of 'audition mastery' lectures for actors led to a second career in 'motivational speaking'. He certainly sounds like the decent chap he portrays!

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designated spectator areas to help minimise disruption for those living nearby.

We hope the event causes as little inconvenience as possible. If you have any concerns or questions, please contact our **Residents' Helpline: 07377 371565**. Further information is available on our website: www.northallertonautoclub.co.uk/yorkshiredalesrally

You can also follow our Facebook Page for live updates on road closures and reopening times throughout the day.

Thank you for your patience and support as we bring this exciting new event to the area.

Geoff Balls

KELD PUBLIC HALL

A Domino & Whist Drive

will be held on

Friday March 13th at 7.30pm

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St Andrew's, Grinton

St Andrew's winter church services

These will be held as usual at Fremington Village Hall until March 22nd on the 2nd and 4th Sundays at 9.30am followed by coffee at approx. 10.30am. Do come and join us at these services or for coffee or for both service and coffee! All are very welcome to come and share this time with us.

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

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

We are running a **Make Do and Mend** session on **Saturday 21st March** between 10am and 3pm at Fremington Village Hall to raise funds for St Andrew's upkeep. You can bring items of clothing for repair [think zips, hems, buttons etc] and either stay and have refreshments with us or drop off your jobs and collect them later. Jobs will be assessed as to whether we are able to help or not. Payment is on a donation per item basis. We look forward to you

support for this event. Please contact Susan on 07969 424547 if you would like further information.

ADVANCE NOTICE: Saturday 11th April 2pm in St Andrew's Church, a concert kindly provided by the **Military WAGS choir Catterick Garrison** for the Helen Ashton Appeal for Childhood cancer research on behalf of CRUK.

Tickets are £13 and include a cream tea. There will be the usual raffle and a craft stall all supporting this great cause.

Tickets can be reserved online at pinktoberinthedales@gmail.com in advance or purchased from Reeth Post Office when they become available from 23rd February.

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

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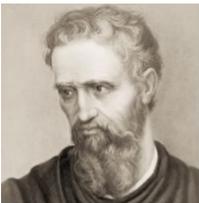
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The Arts Society Wensleydale presents “Bad Boys of Italian Art: Michelangelo, Caravaggio and Modigliani”

Michelangelo Buonarroti was only twenty six years old when he created his famous sculpture of David in Florence.



He went on to decorate the Sistine Chapel in Rome with paintings which continue to elicit awe and wonder today, but he was known throughout his life for his fiery temper.

Caravaggio was arrogant, rebellious and a murderer and his short life mirrored the drama and moving realism of his works. He created the superb Supper at



Emmaus and the Conversion of St Paul on the Road to Damascus in the Cerasi Chapel in Rome amongst other great paintings.

A more recent artist, Amadeo Modigliani, produced original portraits and nudes characterized by elongated necks and bodies but he abused his own body through alcohol and drug addiction.



The lecture, by Elaine Hansen, will take place at Tennants

Garden Rooms, Leyburn, DL8 5SG on Tuesday 24th March at 2pm.

There is plenty of free parking, a café and a restaurant, All welcome, members free, guests £10.

Alyson Jones

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March Update

Firstly, well done to everyone who took part in making Hawes Amateur Operatic Society's production of Robinson Crusoe another top notch and memorable pantomime. Packed performances at Hawes Market House is testament to how much this event is part of the community events calendar.

Get Musical Improvising Workshop
Feb. 2026 © Colin Bailey



February started with a musical workshop led by Sheffield based professional musician Sarah Henegen. Nine young people aged 7-16 years brought their instruments and explored improvisation with Sarah and community musicians Bee Darcey (Vocals), Michael Yare (Guitar) and, John Keeler (Bass). The session was made possible thanks to funding from by AMP, Youth Music and Arts Council England.

This month sees us supporting participants taking part in the Wensleydale Tournament of Song at

Leyburn Arts and Community Centre - good luck to all competitors. Members of Light My Choir! are busy preparing too. Our largest ensemble yet are getting ready to take to the stage as part of the Choir Day held at The Garden Rooms at Tennants.

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

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

Music QUIZ

ALL GENRES, ALL DECADES, ALL WELCOME.

Angela and Bee invite you to an evening of music related quiz rounds from across the decades, mixed with a bit of history, geography, and general knowledge too.

Teams of six or make a team on the night. Always a fun evening.

SATURDAY 7TH MARCH 2026

DOORS 7.00PM FOR A 7.30PM START

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Proceeds to BlueBoxt Creative & Performing Arts and Leyburn Arts and Community Centre

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Fundraiser for The Friends of Marrick Priory - Friday 27th March, Reeth Memorial Hall.

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

2026 DIARY DATES (so far!)

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

Volunteering - We welcome enquiries from potential volunteers - from

stewarding events, mentoring or helping in the office, there is a role to suit everyone. Like all Charities, it's tough going at the moment - We are seeking people interested in helping to fundraise and secure funding. Please contact us for an informal chat and to find out how you could help.

Raising Creative Aspirations - Now welcoming applications from young people aged 16-26 year olds who are interested in working in the Creative Industries Sector. Supported by Youth Music and using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England we will be able to support 20 young people with coaching and business advice and 3 paid Freelance Creative placements designed to build careers in the music and creative industries. See website for more details or contact us to find out more.

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





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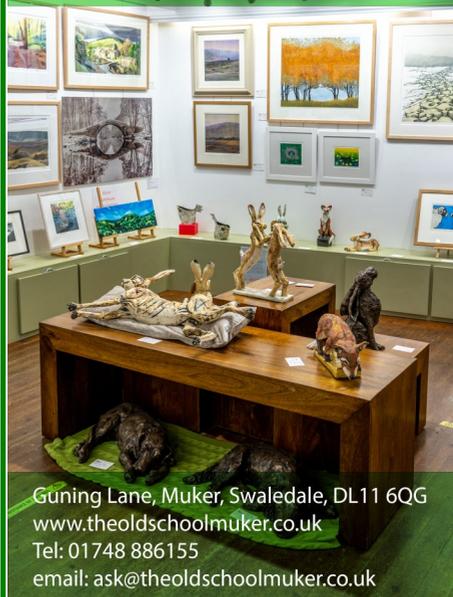
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REETH AND DISTRICT GAZETTE LTD

Seeing Stars

Thursday 26 March 7.30
Gunnarside Village Hall

TLC@Gunnarside is delighted to welcome Low Row resident Paul Clark as our speaker in March. Renowned throughout the dales and beyond as a brilliant astrophotographer, he'll take us on a stroll through the night skies of the northern dales. See familiar places from Marske to Mallerstang in a completely new light through his words, photographs and videos.



We'll enjoy images of the Milky Way, marvel at constellations and star patterns and be awed by the beauty of the dales in darkness.

All are welcome, including guests for a modest £4 donation which includes tea, coffee and home-made yummy things at the end.

You can become a member for just £10 for the year and enjoy a variety of events and activities.

Future events in 2026 include:

Card-making workshop (May)

Talk on cheese and butter making in the Dales (June)

How ladies used to dress (July)

Craft evening making lavender babushkas (September)

Artisan foods versus supermarket produce (October)

Wreath making workshop (December)

Get all the details when you become a member, or keep an eye on Facebook and the Gazette for monthly updates.

Sue Barron 07579 795886 (I'm on WhatsApp)

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Bellerby Study Group

Our programme continues on Wednesday 4 March when the plot thickens in the tantalising *Secrets of the Attic part 2* as Dr Tony Nicholson pursues the "Vile Woman" across the globe. An unwelcome guest turns up at Annie's wedding and a scandal looms. Gus suddenly disappears but we track him down and discover his unlikely fate.

In *The Marske Estate* on Wednesday 11 March Stephen Clark will describe the history of the Estate from the 1590s to the 1960s. The estate grew to a peak of over 10,000 acres the 1800s, but then began a decline until its eventual sale in the 1960s. Discover what its fortunes had in common with other large estates in the area west of Richmond.

On Wednesday 18 March Rev William Thackray will take us on an illustrated journey describing the *Churches of Wensleydale*.

Join us on Wednesday 25 March for our Annual General Meeting.

All our meetings are on Wednesday evenings and start at 7.30 in Bellerby Memorial Hall, Church Street DL8 5QL.

The talks are followed by free refreshments and a chance to chat. Membership is £15 for 8 talks, visitors are welcome at £3 per meeting. For more information contact Judy Asher 07968 596676.

**Reeth and District Gazette AGM
will be held
Monday 9th March
7.30pm
Low Row Institute
All welcome**

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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

REETH AND DISTRICT GAZETTE LTD



Eyes on the Skies -



Protecting Birds of Prey

Talking Raptor Persecution with Dr Ruth Tingay
Wednesday 18 March, 5:30pm - 7:00pm

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

A former President of the international Raptor Research Foundation, Ruth now focuses on campaigning against the illegal killing of birds of prey in the UK through the blog Raptor Persecution UK. She is also a co-director of the hard-hitting wildlife conservation organisation Wild Justice with Chris Packham.

Book for this free talk at:
www.friendsofthedales.org.uk/events

All talks can also be viewed later via:
www.youtube.com/@friendsofthedales



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**SWALEDALE
MOUNTAIN
RESCUE
TEAM**



**In an emergency DIAL 999 ask for
the POLICE then**

**Mountain Rescue / Cave Rescue /
Mine Rescue / Flood Rescue**

Incident 07: 20/01/20256: Called by the Police last night to search for a missing person near Low Whita. First team members quickly on scene with the Police search dogs, The missing person was located by the Police dogs near the River Swale and treated and assisted by the team to the Ambulance.

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

Thanks to the following for the recent support

**The Kings Head, Gunnerside Bingo
night £180**

The Travellers Rest, Skeby £277.70

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

MOUNTAIN & CAVE RESCUE

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

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

Incidents 12th Jan to 8th Feb 2026

03 Incidents this edition

Incident 09: 06/02/2026: Called by the Police to rescue a motorist stranded in snow. Team members deployed and the incident was quickly resolved.

**Incident 08: 25/01/2026: A rather
strange one!**

The Police asked us to assist 10 walkers trapped in a shooting hut on Preston Moor. With limited information available we dispatched team members to the location. On arrival we found the doors to the hut bolted shut from the outside. Ten relieved walkers were then 'released' from their temporary incarceration.



Thanks to a generous donation we've been able to replace our 10-year-old helmets with new ones. We use orange as it's easier to see damage than white, also the colour doesn't cause issues when working with other emergency services during flood and water rescue.

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The Charitable status of Low Row & Feetham Literary Institute

A public meeting was held recently to consider a proposal to change the organisational structure of the Low Row & Feetham Literary Institute from the present unincorporated charity status to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).

The management of the Institute has remained essentially the same for more than 100 years with the local community managing the Institute to meet its purpose of the "*provision and maintenance of a village hall, for use by the inhabitants of the area of benefit without distinction of political, religious or other opinions. This shall include its use for meetings, lectures, classes, and other forms of recreation and leisure-time occupation, with the object of improving the conditions of life for the inhabitants*".

The Institute became a registered charity in 2005, primarily to make it easier to apply for grant aid to maintain the building. A secondary benefit has been the ability to reclaim Gift Aid on donations made during the charitable activities held at or for the Institute. However, Charity law has been expanded in recent years, with the introduction of a Charitable Incorporated Organisation class of charity to simplify administration, and make it easier to comply with the Charity Commission regulations. Being a CIO should also provide a limited liability feature to protect trustees from personal financial risk arising from the management of the charity's assets. A key feature of being a CIO

is that the Charity would have its own legal identity which would allow it to enter into contracts and own property in its own name, rather than in the names of individual trustees as at present.

The trustees of the Institute considered the proposal at a meeting last October, and also discussed some suggested changes to the current Charity Scheme Document [our constitution] to assist the transition to a CIO. The proposal was approved by eleven of the trustees with three abstentions, so it was agreed to put the proposal to the wider community. It was noted that the Community First Yorkshire organisation recommends that charities responsible for running Village Halls should consider becoming a CIO, and that they can provide assistance with the conversion process by providing model guidance documents and constitutional formats.

A public meeting was then held on the 15th November for the wider community to hear about the proposed changes, raise any questions and voice any concerns. The meeting was attended by some twenty-five local residents and there were nine apologies for absence. On being put to the vote the meeting agreed unanimously that the Trustees should work towards the Institute becoming a CIO [with a target date for completion of the transition in November 2026]. The meeting also unanimously agreed a series of changes to the wording of five clauses of the current Scheme Document to assist the transition.

The minutes of the public meeting [an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Institute] were confirmed at the

REETH AND DISTRICT GAZETTE LTD

December meeting of the Trustees, and copies are available for any local residents or users of the Institute if they would like to know more about the proposed changes. Please contact Gaynor Voice [gaynorvoice@gmail.com] for further details. It should be emphasised that the proposed change to our charitable status will not affect the objects and purpose of the Institute in any way.

In case you hadn't noticed, there are lots of activities happening at the Institute. New members and new ideas are always welcome - please visit www.lowrowinstitute.co.uk or have a look at our Facebook page.

Alan Thorogood

Martyn Leaver

Dry Stone Waller

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Church Opening Times and Services in March

1st March	9.15 am	St. Mary's Muker	<i>Eucharist</i>
	10.30 am	St. Joseph & Francis Zavier Richmond	<i>Mass</i>
	10.30 am	Low Row URC	
	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>
8th March	9.30 am	St. Andrew's Grinton	<i>Eucharist in Fremington V Hall</i>
	9.30 am	St Michael's Downholme	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
	10.30 am	St. Joseph & Francis Zavier 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>
	4 00 pm	Reeth Evangelical Congregational	<i>Refreshments from 3.45 pm</i>
15th March	9.15 pm	St. Mary's Muker	<i>Holy Communion BCP</i>
Moth- ering	10.30 am	Low Row URC	
Sunday	10.30 am	St. Joseph & Francis Zavier Richmond	<i>Mass</i>
	11.00 am	Holy Trinity Low Row	<i>Eucharist</i>
	11.00 am	Reeth Evangelical Congregational	
	11.00 am	St. Edmund's, Marske	<i>Holy Communion</i>
	2.30 pm	Gunnarside Methodist	<i>Baptism</i>
	4.00 pm	Reeth Evangelical Congregational	<i>Refreshments from 3.45 pm</i>

Church of England

Reverend Canon Caroline Hewlett

Vicar of the Parish of Swaledale with Arkengarthdale

01748 884706 carolinejhewlett19@gmail.com

REETH AND DISTRICT GAZETTE LTD

Church Opening Times and Services in March

22nd March	9.30 am	St. Andrew's Grinton	<i>Eucharist in Fremington V Hall</i>
	9.30 am	St Michael's Downholme	<i>Holy Communion</i>
	10.30 am	St. Joseph & Francis Zavier Richmond	<i>Mass</i>
	11.00 am	Reeth Evangelical Congregational	
	11.00 am	St. Edmund's, Marske	<i>Holy Communion</i>
	11.15 am	St. Mary's Arkengarthdale	<i>Holy Communion BCP</i>
	4.00 pm	Reeth Evangelical Congregational	<i>Refreshments from 3.45 pm</i>
29th March	10.30 am	Low Row URC	
	10.30 am	St. Joseph & Francis Zavier Richmond	<i>Mass</i>
Palm Sunday	10.30 am	St, Mary's Muker	<i>United Parish Eucharist speaker Helen McCormack, Pastoral Develop- ment worker for older people for Thirsk & Northaller- ton Methodist Circuit</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>
	6.30 pm	Gunnerside Methodist	

United Reformed Church
Rev. Nadene Snyman
Tees and Swale Pastorate
07876 707863
teesandswaleurc@gmail.com

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

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Rossini	String Symphony No.2
Britten	Simple Symphony
Mozart	Divertimento in D major K136
Gershwin	Lullaby
Mendelssohn	Octet for strings

Tickets online from the Georgian Theatre at www.georgiantheatreroyal.co.uk by phone on 01748 825252, or at the Box Office.

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Keld Heritage Centre

Events for March and April

8th March - Mosses of the Upper Swaledale 13.00 - 16.00: Approx 1 mile (easy)

Led by Sue & Les Knight includes introductory session in the visitor centre and local walk to identify and study specimens. Meet Keld Heritage Centre. Charge £8 pp

15th March - Lichens of Upper Swaledale 13.00 - 16.00 Approx 1 mile (easy)

Led by Sue & Les Knight includes introductory session in the visitor centre and local walk to identify and study specimens. Meet Keld Heritage Centre. Charge £8 pp

12th April - In Search of the Source of the Swale 14.00-16.00 Keld Heritage Centre

Join Prof. Mark Rutter who will be sharing his intriguing findings of 'where is the Swale's source?' Reviewing old maps and literature as well as state of the art Hydrological analysis of Upper Swaledale. Refreshments served afterwards. Charge £10 pp

19th April - Cyanotype Printing Workshop 10.00 - 15.00 Keld Heritage Centre

Jane Beaumont will introduce you to Cyanotype printing on fabric, producing one or two 'negative' images on a rich blue background from objects sourced that morning from Keld and surrounding area. You will then develop one of your images as a stitched or embroidered piece. Please bring a

packed lunch or sandwiches/salads available to order/pay on day. Charge: £60 pp

26th April - Proddy Craft Workshop 10.00 - 15.00 Keld Heritage Centre
Join Anne Hewitt and learn the traditional skill of proddy rug work. Create your own small project - perfect as a decorative chair pad or charming keepsake. Refreshments served. Please bring packed lunch or salads/sandwiches available to order and pay on the day. Charge: £65 pp

Full details and tickets available via keldheritage.co.uk or our Facebook page.

Email helenguy47@gmail.com

Booking essential due to limited places for some events.

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**To the Community in the
Dales**

Help Required

My name is Diane Smith, I am a Police Community Officer, I have recently moved to Leyburn Police Station to continue my job in the Dales. I have been doing my job for nearly 23 years, mostly in and around Catterick Garrison.

I am asking you, the Dales community if you know of or are involved in any established groups that meet on a regular basis, have a decent attendance and wouldn't mind me taking up a space to do my police stuff in your communities.

Many years ago I worked for 'Better Government for Older People' which involved engaging with the community within all groups that met up the Dale including Luncheon Clubs, Coffee mornings, local cafes etc. These meetings were a way to make myself available to discuss matters that concern you and your community.

I would like to do this again with similar groups in order to make myself available to members of the community that struggle with getting out further afield. I have already met some of the Parish members in Askrigg and intend to get to some of the other Parish Council meetings in the Dales.

Please drop me a line via email if you wouldn't mind me gate crashing your coffee mornings etc. my email address is

diane.smith@northyorkshire.police.uk

Thank you.

PCO Diane Smith

**What's On At Low Row Institute
March 2026**



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

Yoga for All - Sunday 8th - 10.30am - £10

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

Workout Wednesday Spring Strength Series - Wednesday 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th - 6:30 pm and 7.45pm - £8 per class drop in/ £35 Club pass

AGM - Sunday 29th - 7.00pm



Get in touch!

www.lowrowinstitute.co.uk

Extra Time Club's Extra Event!

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

In addition, there is Easter Family Fun at Reeth EC Church (the one on the Green). Parents/carers and children are invited to our Easter Family Fun Event. We shall have Games and Crafts for parents and kids to enjoy as a family. Come and celebrate Easter together! Saturday 4th April from 2.00pm-3.30pm.

Karen and Brian Hainsworth



YOU ARE INVITED TO

Easter Family Fun

Craft together!
Celebrate together!
CHAT together!
and... CHEW together!

COME & HEAR THE EASTER STORY

- Easter Crafts for All
- Games
- Refreshments
- Easter Egg for every child

FREE event

**Saturday 4th April
2 PM - 3.30 PM**

Reeth EC Church
(the church on the green)

The poster features a family of four (father, mother, and two children) smiling and hugging. There are also illustrations of a cross, a sun, a church, and Easter eggs.

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50 Years Ago!

The feature film 'It Shouldn't Happen to a Vet', based on James Herriot's books, was released in cinemas in April 1976, starring John Alderton as James Herriott, Colin Blakely as Seigfried, Lisa Harrow as Helen Herriot, and Bill Maynard as Hinchcliffe. It was filmed on location in Muker, Reeth, Swaledale and the surrounding areas.

In celebration of the 50th Anniversary, Muker Public Hall are screening the film on 18th April, tickets are £10 and must be booked in advance by phone 01748 889992, or email to mukerorg@gmail.com. A light supper is included and there will be a cash bar.

Doors open at 3:30pm, film begins at 4:00pm. All proceeds to Muker Public Hall DL11 6QQ

Do you have any photos of the filming back then, that you are willing to share for display on the day? Were you an Extra in the film? Do you have any memories to share? Please get in touch on the contact details above.

David Clayton, ex BBC Broadcaster and current compère of the Muker Show will host 'reminiscences' after the film has been shown.

Chris Browne

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50th Anniversary Film Release Screening Celebration

Muker Public Hall



filmed on location in Muker, Swaledale and the surrounding area

Come along and share your stories as we take you down memory lane...

Saturday 18th April 2026 at 4pm
(Doors open 3:30)

Tickets £10 each (includes a light supper)
N.B. Tickets **must** be booked in advance

For all enquiries and ticket sales mukerorg@gmail.com or 01748 889992

There will be a small cash bar and all proceeds from the event go to Muker Public Hall DL11 6QQ



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Leyburn Arts and Community Centre

As I write this there are some signs of Spring, very active birds up early and the snowdrops are very welcome.

After the pleasure of seeing the new windows, we have had problems with our kitchen, which began with a flood one morning. Rotten beams and interior & external tiles needing replacement! However, it has enabled the volunteers to give everything a good Spring Clean before all the kitchen items were placed back in position. We must give a big thank you to the volunteers, especially Anne, who have worked so hard to keep the kitchen and cafe bar running, and even managing to serve the food for the Tuesday Club and the Lunch Club as normal. However, more fundraising is needed so last reminder for the 100 Club if you wish to join or renew! £12 only for entry for a year to the chance to win £25; £15; or £10 each month.

The highlights for March are numerous but will just mention The Choral, starring Ralph Fiennes; Othello, starring Toby Jones; a Music Quiz with a few other topics too with pie & peas supper included; Live Theatre, Fakespeare, a tragic comedy worthy of the Bard himself; and an Exhibition on Screen: Turner & Constable from Tate Britain.

Also, our regular sessions of Carer's Plus; Staying Healthy Independent & Connected with visits from Citizen's Advice & Mind; and Digital Support sessions if you are struggling with your phone, Ipad or laptop.

If you wish to get out into the fresh air, our garden volunteers will be returning soon and are always grateful for help. Or if you wish to stay indoors, website help would be appreciated.

Jeannie

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SWAAG

The local archaeology group's research has shown that people have lived in Swaledale for several thousand years. Some of that time has been relatively peaceful, some not. One tumultuous period was around AD600, a time of conflict between the native Britons and the Angles, seeking to settle here.

The Welsh poem *Y Gododdin* commemorates a mighty battle at a place called *Catraeth* in which nearly all the Britons were slain. *Catraeth* is mostly thought to be *Catterick* but if so there are several anomalies. The poem refers to the topography of the battlefield having ditches and ramparts, being near a fort and the confluence of two rivers, one bigger than the other. This does not fit well with *Catterick* but does here, with our system of the *Grinton-Fremington* dykes, *Maiden Castle* and the *Arkle Beck* merging with the *Swale*. Perhaps this area was the scene of a mighty battle which helped reshape Britain?

Exploring this possibility further, a paper published in 1910 suggested that *Catraeth* means *Battle of Raith*, from 'Cath', the Gaelic word for battle; see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Raith. The author identified *Raith* in Scotland as the likely location but given the topographic references in the poem, perhaps *Reeth* is more likely!

Returning to our programme of talks, our next is on Tuesday 10th March, 7.30pm in *Fremington Village Hall* when member *Perry Gardner* will look at "the evolution of 'thin' and 'niggardly'"

Domesday *Fremington* and 'bountiful' *Domesday Marrick*". Members free; non-members welcome with a voluntary donation suggested. See our website <https://new-swaag.org/our-events-diary/> for more details.

Alan Mills

SWAAG is a registered charity no. 1155775



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Dales Police Crime Bulletin

Crime Figures

07/01/2026-06/02/2026

ADDLEBROUGH

1 Crime Burglary/Business: Report of a stolen quad bike.

2 Highway disruption: 1 Request for a road to be gritted, 1 report of a road blocked by a broken-down vehicle.

1 Concern report: Vehicle stuck on an icy road.

1 Road Related: Vehicle reported regarding a parking issue.

1 ASB Nuisance - on going neighbour dispute.

BOLTON CASTLE

1 Crime/Violence: domestic related, 2 people arrested.

1 Crime: caller reports harassment.

1 Crime: 1 report of fly tipping.

1 Wanted/Absconder: Person later arrested.

2 RTC minor: both incidents were damage only.

2 Administration - Person reports doing Vermin control.

3 Abandoned calls - all were made in error.

1 Civil Dispute.

2 Concern for safety reports.

1 Sudden death.

1 ASB Personal - refers to a neighbour dispute.

1 Animal/Welfare - Poaching on private land.

LOWER WENSLEYDALE

1 Crime/Criminal damage: damage caused to a fence.

1 Domestic Incident

5 Abandoned calls: all made in error.

2 Concern reports: 1 regarding concern for an injured runner. 1 report for concern for a male who was given the help and support he needed.

1 Suspicious: Person reports a youth acting suspiciously.

2 Road Traffic Collisions: 1 Vehicle hits a fence. 1 minor injury collision.

1 Road Related incident: Observation passed to officer regarding a vehicle driving all over the road.

PENHILL

1 Crime/Criminal damage: Caller reports of vehicle driving in a field causing damage.

2 Abandoned calls: both were made in error.

4 Suspicious reports: 1 report of resident hearing loud bangs which was the wind. 1 Report of 2 suspicious vans parked in a layby, officers were made aware. 1 Report of males riding quad bikes, all were checked and found to be in order. 1 Report of an unroadworthy vehicle.

1 Highway Disruption: Person reports a drystone wall fallen into the road.

REETH & ARKENGARTHDALE

2 Highway Disruption: 1 report of a van stuck on a hill. 1 report of a HGV broken down.

1 ASB Nuisance: Caller reports receiving an abusive call from SKY.

2 Concern reports: 1 report raised for concern for a female who was found safe. 1 report of concern for a male who was found safe and well.

3 Suspicious reports: 2 Reports of a suspicious van which was checked and was all in order. 1 report of quad bikes, motorcycles and vans parked, all were in order.

HAWES

1 Crime/Violence: Both parties were

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dealt with accordingly for a public order offence.

1 Crime/Theft: 1 report of theft of Hens.

1 ASB Personal: Refers to a neighbour dispute.

2 Abandoned calls: all were made in error.

1 Civil dispute: refers to a neighbour dispute.

1 Suspicious report: 1 report of suspicious males, advice given to caller.

1 Concern report: concern raised for a male who found fit and well.

1 Highway Disruption - caller reports a sink hole.

3 Road Related Incidents: 1 report of a vehicle with no registration plates. 1 incident which is ongoing. 1 Report of road rage.

LEYBURN

1 Crime/Public order offence

1 Crime/Theft: theft from a shop.

1 Crime/Theft: refers to online blackmail

1 Crime/Burglary/Business: Report of stolen quad bikes.

2 Road Related Offences: 2 reports of speeding vehicles.

3 Road Traffic Collision: 1 report of a minor collision. 1 Report of 2 vehicle collision, drivers exchanged details. 1 report of a collision, driver arrested for Driving whilst drunk.

4 Abandoned calls: all made in error.

4 Concern reports: 2 concern reports raised for 2 males, both were safe and well. 1 concern raised for a female who was found safe and well. 1 report for a male who had dementia.

4 Suspicious reports: 2 Reports of doorstep callers. 1 Report of suspicious vehicle. 1 Report of the contents of a vape, which was found to be all in order.

1 Sudden death.

SWALEDALE

1 Crime/Theft: 1 report of theft of a JCB.

1 Crime/Theft: 1 report of theft of logs.

4 Highway Disruption: 1 report of a vehicle stuck in snow. 1 report of 10 vehicles stuck in the snow. 2 reports of a vehicle stuck due to the weather.

1 Concern: concern raised for a driver who got stuck due to the weather, he was found safe and well.

1 Road Traffic Collision: 1 vehicle reported a collision due to weather.

1 Road Related: 1 Vehicle reported for obstruction, the vehicle was found to be local.

1 Abandoned call: which was made in error.

1 Animal/Welfare: Report of the Hunt losing control of the hounds.

You can sign up to receive alerts as a member of the public here:

<https://>

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Your Local Neighbourhood Team are:

PCSO3521 Diane Smith,
PCSO5550 Tracie Taylor-Paige,
PC355 Heather Campbell.
Email:
diane.smith@northyorkshire.police.uk

Useful Contact Numbers

Highways 03001312131

NHS 111

Local Dog Warden 01748 829100

Action Fraud 0300 123 2040



**Muker Parish Council
Minutes of Parish
Meeting
Held November 2025**

Present: Cllr Rukin, Cllr Porter and Cllr Calvert - Chair presiding.

Clerk: Mr Michael Cleminson.

Apologies for Absence: Cllr Metcalfe, Cllr Peacock.

Matters Arising:

a. Precept for 2026/27. Consideration was given to projected financial commitments for the following financial year. In 2027 elections will take place at a cost of £250.00 to the Parish Council. It is also noted that NYC continue to move costs to Parish Councils, Cllr Rukin proposed it be increased by £100.00 to £2600.00. All Cllrs voted in favour of this.

b. NYC School Proposals. Cllr Peacock has informed the Council that she is progressing the use of The 'Little White Bus' to transport school children to Richmond. The Upper Dales Community Partnership (UDCP) have agreed to alter the timetable to transport the children, but the proposal has now been forwarded to Integrated Passenger Transport, who will determine if it can proceed. If agreed, it would not be implemented until September 2026.

c. Off-road Car Parking, Muker. This was reported by Cllr Metcalfe at the previous meeting, the Clerk has contacted Highways, who state that the Fixed Penalty Notices should not have been issued, and have confirmed that the parking before the entrance to the car park and the area between the telephone box and the de-restriction signs, leaving Muker

towards Thwaite are the agreed areas for non-issue of parking tickets. Highways will contact Parking to ensure that this is made clear to them, again! Cllr Metcalfe also reported the obstruction of a footpath at Muker, the Clerk has viewed the footpath and no obstruction was noted, it will be monitored.

d. Development of a dwelling in Muker, potentially without planning, reported to the Clerk by Cllr Metcalfe. The Clerk has made enquiries with YDNP Planning Dept, who concluded that the majority of the alterations fall within Permitted Development, as the building is not listed. However, they do have concerns about steel girders above one of the first floor windows, if any extension or balcony is added, then full planning permission would be required. The works will be monitored and Planning informed if appropriate.

e. Gov.UK Email addresses. The Clerk has contacted a number of companies, recommended by the Government, to progress this. As the Parish Council already has a Gov.uk website, many Companies are reluctant to address the email issue, providing excessive quotes. The Clerk will continue to seek a suitable quote before we proceed.

Finance. See above (a)

Highways: Cllr Rukin reported that the potholes at West Stonesdale have all been repaired, and the 2 abandoned vehicles on the land at the side of the road to Tan Hill have been removed. Highways have now installed red reflectors on the tight bend on Coalpit Hill. Cllr Rukin reported that the cattlegrid in West Stonesdale had not yet been repaired/replaced. Cllr Rukin reported, again, that the wooden fence between Park End and Catrake

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Cottages, Keld, has still not been repaired; this was erected by Highways, some years ago. The Clerk to report this matter to Highways, again. Cllr Porter reported that the gulleys and the side of the road at Crow Trees are blocked causing ice to form on the road, recently a delivery van lost control and had to be removed by a recovery company. The Clerk to inform Highways of the above. The Cllrs also noted that the cattle grid on the Buttertubs was not replaced in October, as promised. The Clerk to contact Highways to establish when it will be replaced.

NYC - nothing to report.

National Association of Local Councils - nothing to report.

YDNPA: Full planning permission for conversion and extension of existing barn to create a one-bedroom residential dwelling; realignment of roadside walls to widen existing access, creation of associated curtilage and parking; installation of ground mounted solar array; installation of borehole and water tank and installation of a vertical axis wind turbine to west gable at Foxwith Barn, Muker, Richmond (GR: 389821, 498014) - **R/06/267**.

Dealt with by email. Not supported by the Parish Council. The Cllrs have objected to this application for a number of reasons, primarily because the installation of a wind turbine and ground solar panels are totally inappropriate in Upper Swaledale. Also, the extension of an additional wooden and metal structure, close to the road, would be unsightly in the Walls and Barns Conservation Area of Upper Swaledale.

Householder planning permission for

erection of single storey back porch to rear of house at Smithy Holme Farm, Keld, Richmond, DL11 6LW. **R/06/280**. Dealt with by email, supported providing traditional materials used.

YLCA - Nothing to report.

Other Correspondence/AOB See Highways above.

Date and Time of Next Meeting:
7.30pm Thursday 22nd January 2026 at Muker Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm.



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Quaker Close flats, Reeth

In Praise of Keld

Keld is a 'thin place', a place where heaven and earth come close. Situated in a hollow just off the B6270 between Richmond and Kirkby Stephen, 1040ft. up in beautiful Swaledale, the tiny village is an ancient place whose Viking name means 'a settlement by the stream.

A steep and rugged pathway leads down from the little church, built in 1789, to the River Swale where children can play in safety in the pool below Cartrake Force. A young lad from Durham, dangling his feet in the pool, was heard to say that 'this place is paradise!

The distinctive black-faced Swaledale sheep, far outnumbering the local population, are the major source of income, though travellers wanting to enjoy the peace and tranquillity of this wild and lovely place, contribute to the economy. There once was a Youth Hostel on the main road but Keld Lodge is now a Guest House and Restaurant and the farm in the village serves teas. Two long-distance paths cross here: - the Pennine Way and the Coast-to-Coast Walk and, since October 2010, weary walkers have been able to rest in the Well-being Garden' to the rear of the United Reformed Church's graveyard where they can sit and drink in the clear air and the fantastic tree-filled views far down the Swale.

Of recent times, the church has become a venue for weddings for those who want something just that little bit extra special, for Keld is a magical place, a 'thin place.'

Peter Clarke

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Your best reads

Thank you to everyone who has so far shared their "best read" from 2025.

Jackie Pope, editor of the Reeth Gazette, was the first to respond with **Intermezzo by Sally Rooney**.

Eileen Martin really liked **On Chapel Sands by Laura Cumming**. And Elizabeth Sykes plumped for **The Hallmarked Man by Robert Galbraith**, the pseudonym under which J.K. Rowling writes her best-selling crime series.

Rob Macdonald shares his love of **Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte** in this brilliant review:

There's never been a better time to read Emily Bronte's startling only novel. With the latest Hollywood interpretation shot in Arkengarthdale now gracing our screens, I re-read Wuthering Heights last year and was reminded why it's possibly my all-time favourite. This is no primly polite saga about truths universally acknowledged by a privileged few. It's a deeply earthy and visceral exploration of human passions in the raw: love, hate, disdain and revenge, vividly rooted in its wild terroir, cleverly and knowingly woven into the contemporary fabric of ownership and control. While ostensibly about Cathy and Heathcliffe, the story is narrated through the characters of Mr Lockwood and Nelly Dean. Bronte considers neither of them entirely reliable, leaving the reader plenty of scope for interpretation. Simultaneously modern and classic, Wuthering Heights has everything a novel should have: there's even magic and kindness if you choose to see

them. Brilliant, gripping and shocking. Does the film live up to the novel? Or was the film actually better than the novel?

Let me know your thoughts and which book you most enjoyed in 2025. I've shortlisted eight from my reading last year but I'm struggling to come up with an overall winner.

We'd welcome a couple more volunteers to help in the library and with the quarterly book exchanges, so just get in touch if you'd like to be involved.

elizabeth@bedfords.me.uk

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John Lord

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WANTED!



Well maybe not your country, but the **Reeth Gazette needs you** if you are good with numbers, have some knowledge of Sage Accounting and a few free hours each month. As Treasurer of the Gazette, you'll only need to go to about 4 meetings a year, and everything else can be done from the comfort of home. You don't even need to live anywhere near Reeth. If you want to help the Gazette survive and flourish, speak to Andrew Bedford 07957 207579



A Mediterranean Medley 🍷

27th March Reeth Memorial Hall 6-30pm

Mediterranean Food with Songs and Music from Gail Barlow

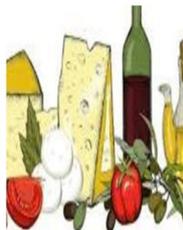
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REETH CAR BOOT SALE 2026



There will be Reeth, Fremington and Healaugh Parish Council Car Boot Sales on the following

dates

Sunday 29th March 2026 from 9 am until 2 pm

Sunday 28th June 2026 from 9 am until 2 pm

Sunday 6th September from 9 am until 2 pm

Set-up will be from 8.30 am on the Quoit and Bonfire Green

There is a £5.00 charge per table or car.

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Good Friday Walk

Friday 3rd April

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

Everyone is very welcome to join this walk, for some or all of the route, which largely follows the Old Corpse Way from Keld to Grinton. It's about 13 miles and 1,700 feet of ascent.

If you need a lift from Grinton to Keld for the start of the walk, or you'd like transport so you can join the walk later at Muker or Gunnerside, please contact Elizabeth Bedford on 07957 207579 by **31 March at the latest**. There'll be a small charge to cover the cost and availability will depend on demand.

Timings

8.00 am	Assemble at Grinton church for pre-booked transport
8.10 am	Transport leaves for Keld
8.55 am	Assemble in Keld URC for safety chat
9.00 am	Short service at Keld URC; walk starts at 9.10
10.30 am	Service at St. Mary's Muker, leave 11 am
12.30 pm	Gunnerside Methodist Church - lunch stop
1.10 pm	Short service at Gunnerside Methodist Church (hot drinks)
1.25 pm	Assemble and off
3.30 pm	Low Whita Bridge (drink and a biscuit)
5.00 pm	Arrive Grinton (Hot Cross buns and tea)
5.30 pm	Service in St. Andrew's Grinton

Post service - transport back up the dale, as far as Keld, if pre-booked.

Children are welcome, as long as they have an accompanying adult. Dogs are also welcome but must be kept on a lead **AT ALL TIMES** - there will be lambs and other livestock.

You'll need strong footwear, waterproof clothing and a picnic lunch.

The organisers will lead the walk; however you are responsible for your own safety. The route may change depending on the conditions that day. If the weather is really bad the services will take place as advertised, but there will be no organised walk.

Elizabeth Bedford

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Sustainable
Swaledale

Sustainable Swaledale

World Water Day events

In honour of World Water Day, local campaign group Save Our Swale is hosting two fascinating and free events, where you can learn more about the importance of water as a vital resource and how it sustains our environment.

The Secret Life of The Swale: Past Present and Future, Richmond Library, 16th February - 31 March 2026

Created and run by SOS volunteers, 'The Secret Life of the Swale' celebrates life in the Swale via a mix of interactive experiments, children's storytelling and craft making sessions, photographs, and drawings.

Drought Workshop, Richmond Town Hall, 22nd March 2026, 2pm - 3.30pm

An interactive workshop exploring the 1976 drought through newspaper articles and other archival material. Plus, using creative methods to explore what drought means for domestic users of water, and what we might do over the short and long term to cope with drought.

Led by Nathalie Holloway, a doctoral researcher at the Leverhulme Doctoral Scholarships Centre for Water Cultures, University of Hull. *Reserve your place in advance here:* <https://tinyurl.com/5ay39xpd>

Yorkshire Water under fire for above-inflation price increase

Yorkshire Water has come under fire after the utility company announced an above-inflation price hike. From April, average household water bills in Yorkshire are set to rise by 5.6 per cent - around £2.80 a month. The company says the increase will help fund an £8.3bn investment package to improve infrastructure and deliver better service for customers. But critics say the rise comes at the worst possible time. Jane Parlour, chair of the Liberal Democrat Group in Richmond and Northallerton, said: "Households across our region are being hit yet again with higher bills, with Yorkshire Water putting prices up by 5.6 per cent and Northumbrian Water customers facing a 6.5 per cent hike—but they're not seeing higher standards in return. People are furious about sewage in our rivers, poor customer service and a system that still rewards failure at the top. It's Rip-off Britain at its worst."

Source: *Northern Eco Substack*
<https://tinyurl.com/mz2cn7jy>

Extinct moss being reintroduced across Yorkshire's moors in fight against climate change

Two projects, one in the Yorkshire Dales and another on Marsden Moor near Huddersfield, are reintroducing mosses to the uplands. Sphagnum moss can hold up to 20 times its weight in water and helps to create peat bogs, where dead vegetation accumulates rather than decays, capturing carbon in the ground. At Kingsdale Head Farm in Ingleton, experts from the Yorkshire Peat Partnership are planting a rare sphagnum *austinii* that has been extinct

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in Yorkshire for hundreds of years. "It is so important for carbon storage, for flood mitigation, for cleaning our water but also for our wildlife and the people who use these places and want to enjoy the wildness of them," says Farm manager Jamie McEwan. "Whether I'm there to see the full results of what we're doing today or not I don't know, but we'll certainly find out more about it."

Source: BBC News

<https://tinyurl.com/3uybz6tz>

York Court rules England's first ever prosecution of raptor bird persecution

Gamekeeper Racster Dingwall, has been sentenced for trying to kill a legally-protected bird, following an investigation by North Yorkshire Police. The case for encouraging or assisting bird of prey persecution, using the Serious Crime Act 2007, is believed to be the first of its kind in the country. Judgement was based on hidden camera footage taken on the Conistone and Grassington Estate, showing the man and two accomplices planning to shoot the protected raptor, and boasting about other species they had killed during a 'nolling' hunt. The group was deterred by a satellite tag on the animal, however this was later removed and the raptor was shot.

After the sentencing hearing, Inspector Mark Earnshaw, of North Yorkshire Police, said: "The cruel and illegal persecution of hen harriers and other birds of prey is totally unacceptable. This outcome at court follows a thorough police investigation, and incontrovertible evidence. It should send a strong message to anyone

else engaged in this criminality: they will be investigated, identified, and put before the courts to face the consequences of their actions."

Source: North Yorkshire Police

<https://tinyurl.com/2h3z2zr5>

Sustainable Swaledale Group

Find out more and join in...

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Heart and Craft

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Every fortnight

Tuesdays

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

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

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

Thursdays

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

Free - Everyone Welcome!

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

Free transport available through Reeth & District Community Transport

For more information:

Call 07513 635175 or lowrowinstitute.co.uk

Funded by The National Lottery 

**The Gazette is online:
www.2dales.org.uk**

**Middleham and the Dales
Local History Group**

Hornby Castle; its families and fall
by Paul Olsen and Jill Lawson
Wednesday 18 March at 2.00 pm
Harmby Village Hall

Hornby residents Jill Lawson and Paul Olsen will present an illustrated talk focusing on the families who lived at Hornby Castle, the events leading up to the disposal of the castle and estate, the auctions and what became of the Dukes of Leeds.

Each speaker lives in a property which once served the Castle. One in the former laundry and the other in the cottage for the gas works.

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

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Jill May on:

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REETH AND DISTRICT GAZETTE LTD

Wensleydale Tournament

Save the dates!

This year's Tournament will take place at Leyburn Arts and Community Centre and at Tennant's Garden Room

Senior Speech Classes:

Monday 9th March from 6pm at LACC

Tuesday 10th March from 6pm at LACC

Wednesday 11th March from 6pm at LACC

Junior Speech Classes:

Tuesday 10th March from 9.30am at LACC

Junior Music Classes:

Thursday 19th March from 12.50pm at LACC

Friday 20th March from 10.00am at Tennants

Senior Music Classes:

Friday 20th March from 6.45pm at Tennants

Tickets available at the door. Please note that we cannot take advanced bookings.

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Tuesdays

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Reeth Memorial Hall

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yogadebbie@hotmail.com



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REETH AND DISTRICT GAZETTE LTD



Reeth Memorial Hall

Reeth Memorial Hall

We start again with concerts at the hall this month. Details and dates for 2026 concerts on our website.

Saturday 14th March - Gaz Brookfield

Tickets direct from Gaz - £15.00
gazbrookfield.com

Friday 20th March - Blackbeard's Tea Party

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

Saturday 18th April - The Haar

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

Saturday 25th April - Rosie Hood Band

Reworked traditional English songs and original material, touching on nature, human struggle, women's voices and unheard stories. Powerful and clear vocals, with melodeon, fiddle & percussion.

Tickets **£17** (£19 door).

Tickets for concerts are available from Reeth PO or phone Glen Steward (01748 884989) or visit www.reethmemorialhall.weebly.com -

tickets ½ price u16s. All concerts 8pm unless otherwise stated - doors 7.30pm

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

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

Glen Steward

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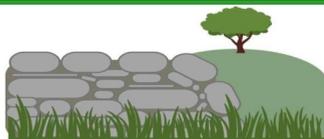
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Diary Dates

March

Tues 3rd Mar - Dales Taiji at Low Row Institute 10.30am
Tues 3rd Mar - Heart and Craft Muker Public Hall 10am
Wed 4th Mar - Workout Wednesday 6.30pm and 7.45pm £8 per class Low Row Institute
Thur 5th Mar - Heart and Craft Reeth Memorial Hall 2pm
Fri 6th Mar - Reeth Show Domino and Whist Drive, Reeth Memorial Hall, 7.30pm
Sun 8th Mar - Richmond Chamber Orchestra "Whizz-kids and Prodigies" Georgian Theatre 3pm
Sun 8th Mar—Yoga for all £10 Low Row Institute 10.30
Mon 9th Mar - Reeth Gazette AGM, 7.30, Low Row Institute
Tues 10th Mar - Heart and Craft Low Row Institute 10am
Tues 10th Mar - Heart and Craft Arkengarthdale Hub 2pm
Wed 11th Mar - Workout Wednesday 6.30pm and 7.45pm £8 per class Low Row Institute
Sat 14th Mar - Gaz Brookfield, Reeth Memorial Hall
Tues 17th Mar - Dales Taiji Low Row Institute 10.30
Tues 17th Mar - Heart and Craft Muker Public Hall 10am
Wed 18th Mar - Workout Wednesday 6.30pm and 7.45pm £8 per class Low Row Institute
Thurs 19th Mar - Heart and Craft Reeth Memorial Hall 2pm
Fri 20th Mar - Blackbeard's Tea Party, Reeth Memorial Hall

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

Sat 21st Mar - Coffee morning 10-12 noon. Reeth Evangelical Church

Tues 24th Mar - Heart and Craft Low Row Institute 10am

Tues 24th Mar - Heart and Craft Arkengarthdale Hub 2pm

Thur 26th Mar - TLC Gunnerside Village Hall, Seeing Stars 7.30pm

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

Sat 29th Mar - Low Row and Feetham Literary Institute AGM 7pm

Tues 31st Mar - Heart and Craft Muker Public Hall 10am

April

Fri 3rd Apr - Good Friday Walk Keld to Grinton with Church services.

Sat 4th Apr - Easter Family Fun Day, Reeth EC Church 2-3.30pm

Sat 18th Apr - The Haar, Reeth Memorial Hall

Sat 18th Apr - Coffee morning 10-12 noon, Reeth Evangelical Church

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

May

Sat 2nd May - The Bar Stewards Sons of Val Doonican, Reeth Memorial Hall

Sat 2nd May - Jazz Night - Saturday 2nd May 2026 - The Good Vibes Trio + 2 -course evening meal

@ The Station CafeBar, Richmond to book Call 01748 825967 or email reservations@thestation.co.uk

Thurs 2st May - TLC@Gunnerside Learn card-making skills with Emma Trussler 7.30 Gunnerside Village Hall.

Fri 22nd May - Over the Moon, Reeth Memorial Hall

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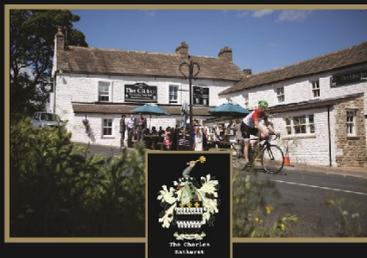


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