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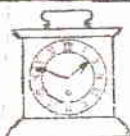
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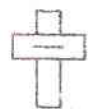
Wesleyan Church
- Low Row
Swaledale J. P. M. 1992

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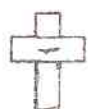
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CHURCH SERVICES

in ARKENGARTHDALE and SWALEDALE



October 1

9.15am St Mary's Muker *Eucharist*
 10.30am Gunnerside Methodist
 Low Row URC
 Reeth Methodist *Communion*
 11.00am Reeth Congregational
 Holy Trinity Low Row
Eucharist Rite A
 St Edmund's Marske
Family Eucharist
 2.00pm Keld Methodist *Harvest*
 2.30pm Arkengarthdale Methodist
 6.00pm St Andrew's Grinton
 6.30pm Keld Methodist *Harvest*
 Muker Methodist *Communion*
 Reeth Congregational
 St Edmund's Marske *Harvest*

October 8

9.00am Keld URC
 9.30am St Andrew's Grinton
Eucharist
 St Michael's Downholme
Holy Eucharist Rite B
 10.30am Low Row URC *Harvest*
 Reeth Methodist
 11.00am Reeth Congregational
 St Edmund's Marske
Morning Prayer
 11.15am St Mary's Arkengarthdale
Holy Communion BCP
 6.30pm Gunnerside Methodist
Communion
 Marske Methodist
 St Mary's Muker *Harvest*
 Muker Methodist
 Reeth Congregational

October 29

10.30am Low Row URC
 Reeth Methodist
 St Mary's Muker *Eucharist*
 11.00am St Edmund's Marske *Eucharist*
 Reeth Congregational
 2.00pm Keld Methodist *Communion*

October 15

9.15am St Mary's Muker *Eucharist*
 10.30am Low Row URC
 Reeth Methodist
 11.00am Reeth Congregational
 St Edmund's Marske *Eucharist*
 Holy Trinity Low Row
Eucharist Rite A
 2.00pm Keld Methodist
 2.30pm Arkengarthdale Methodist
Communion
 6.30pm St Mary's Arkengarthdale
Evening Prayer
 Gunnerside Methodist
 Marske Methodist *Communion*
 Muker Methodist
 Reeth Congregational

October 22

8.00am Holy Trinity Low Row
Holy Communion BCP
 9.30am St Andrew's Grinton
Eucharist
 St Michael's Downholme
Holy Eucharist Rite B
 10.30am Low Row URC
 Reeth Methodist
 11.00am Reeth Congregational
 St Edmund's Marske
Holy Eucharist
 11.15am St Mary's Arkengarthdale
Holy Communion BCP
 2.00pm Keld URC
 4.00pm Marrick Priory *Compline*
 6.30pm Gunnerside Methodist
 Marske Methodist
 Muker Methodist
 Reeth Congregational

2.30pm Arkengarthdale Methodist
 Gunnerside Methodist
 Muker Methodist
 6.30pm Marske Methodist
 Reeth Congregational

REETH & DISTRICT GAZETTE

EDITORIAL

It's all over – till the next time ! the 'petrol crisis' that is. Doesn't it make one realise how much we take for granted ? First of all, most of us were worried about getting from A to B, other things didn't really affect us. Then it became clear how bad things were, and we were worried about our emergency services, and then there was the threat of losing deliveries of food. That was quite scary ! Just as well that the crisis didn't occur the week before, or it could have had a disastrous effect on our two local shows. They were very good, shame about the weather to start with at Muker, but things picked up. Well done to everyone concerned in the organisation. Anyway back to the 'petrol crisis'!

What amazed us was the fact that here in our two Dales, there was petrol to be had. Our thanks must go to our two local garages for their handling of the situation, by prudent management, probably no local went without. But this does beg another question – what would we do without them. Life for any business is hard, particularly small businesses, and we have stated before in our belief – Use It Or Lose It. Yet not only were there people at one garage who would normally frequent the other (in fact it is known that one person buying petrol at one of the garages, made his cheque out to the other!), but there were many people who queued for fuel who normally buy outside the Dale – to save a couple of pence per litre – (the economics of that is another question).

However it does raise the point how convenient our local businesses are, and how convenient it was for those people who do not normally support them, to actually be able to use them. If they are not supported all the year round, the two garages will find it difficult to provide the services that we need, and that they supply - from the small and efficient shop, ordering of spares, MOT's, servicing and repair, breakdown service, car and equipment purchase, and of course the all important fuel. We hope, now things are back to normal, people will not forget them for the service that was provided to all during this small crisis. It may very well happen again ! There is no doubt that the tax on fuel is just about crippling, and although sympathy was with the demonstrators in spirit, many thought that their actions should not be allowed to influence a government – it is not the way to run a country. What do you think, let us know please. GL

REETH & DISTRICT GAZETTE

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Mike Beckwith at above address. Articles and adverts are better sent but telephone with details if necessary.

HURST — MORE MEMORIES

After reading Mrs M. Metcalfe's memories of Bygone Hurst I felt I had to tell you about my more recent memories of Hurst.

My father G. Graham (who sadly died last November) was born in Hurst in 1920. He was the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Graham who lived at The Lodge. William (my Grandfather) was the Gamekeeper for Colonel Wilson and later Sir Thomas Sopwith. He looked after Hurst moor and was also a Special Constable. During the second world war my Dad was in the Home Guard, whereas his younger brother, J. Maurice, was in the army.

My Dad moved to High Stelling farmhouse when he married my mum Margaret Stubbs from Langthwaite. High Stelling was the first house you came to that stood by the side of the road. My Dad farmed there until he moved in 1975 to Slack Hills, next door to the old school-house. I still remember the Green Dragon being open and how packed it used to get, especially in the summer. It was a great loss when it closed down and it was as if a little bit more of Hurst and its history was disappearing.

Many of the houses were empty and derelict when I was growing up. Ing Head where M. Metcalfe was born was a barn with a large sheep fold in front. There was a rumour that there was a ghost near Ing Head called "the white lady". I was absolutely petrified of passing there, especially when it was dark. Low Greenas was also empty, up until about 15 years ago, and I used to play there with a girl who lived in the school-house. Shiny Row and the cottages opposite "the hillocks" were also derelict, but have now been restored.

The School closed down many years before I was born, as did the lead mines, but there used to be quite a few that you could still walk into. They were very cold and wet. Playing in them when you were about 10 years old seemed great fun, until your dad catches you and you get into trouble because they were dangerous!! I own a map that shows you where all the lead-mines were.

I can still remember the Chapel being open, although the largest congregation I can recall was for the harvest festival. My Dad was the auctioneer for it and a healthy sum of money was raised each year. My Grandmother played the organ there for many years. My Dad also followed in his Father's footsteps and became a Gamekeeper, although only part time, and a Special Constable. He received a 25 yr Service medal from the police in 1975. He also sat on Marrick Parish Council for many years as Hurst was not a big enough village to have a Council.

Hurst is a very beautiful and serene village, but I can remember when we were blocked in with snow during the early 70's. For three weeks we were stranded, and if we needed any shopping we had to walk over Fremington Edge to Reeth. The walk seemed to last forever! Most of the original families have now left Hurst, for whatever reason. My Dad was the last person to actually spend all his life in Hurst. He is now buried with his family in Hurst cemetery.

Maureen Taylor (nee Graham) - Newcastle
(Ed. Mrs Taylor sent a School Photograph circa 1927/28 which shows her father George and his brother Maurice with nine other children. The teacher is a Miss Merryweather. We could not reproduce it, sorry, but have taken a copy)

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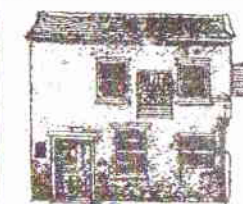


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EXCITING TIMES & NARROW SQUEAKS**2. With the Eighth Army in the Western Desert****Major F T C Williams****TAKING the KINGS SHILLING -**

Part 1 of Major Williams' story was published in the September issue.

1 May '42. - A Royal Send-Off

Promoted Captain, 2IC of 23 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron. Today the Brigade was inspected by HM King George VI. Major Joe Walker away, so I acted as OC. The Brigade formed up in hollow square and HM walked slowly down each side. I presented the Sqn. To him and he chatted away without trace of a stammer, never once looking at the men. "What d'you think of the new battledress?" he asked. I told him and he said "They tried to make me wear one and I told them I'd rather go naked!"

It was my job to escort him up to our Mess for tea, where he ate little and talked a lot. Finally he produced his own brand of cigarette, with a long paper tip (in spite of the Teofanis offered by our Brigadier). Then, after a second cup of tea, he stubbed out his cigarette, said "Time to be going," scattered a few "Goodbyes" around him, and was swept away in a maroon Daimler.

Footnote: A subaltern quietly pocketed the Royal fag-end!

5 July '42

We are now in the Western Desert (West of what? You ask. Egypt, of course!) and are a part of the famous Eighth Army, about 15 miles south of a small railway station called El Alamein. Each of our trucks is equipped with a **sun compass**, which works like a sundial in reverse, i.e., it tells you the North Point if you know the time - dashed ingenious.

22 August '42

We have a new Army Commander, Montgomery by name. Quite a firebrand. He has told us what he expects - that we, the Eighth Army, will hit Rommel for six out of Africa!

7 Sep '42 Our First Battle:**ALAM HALFA**

Rommel started a right hook attack from the south, making for the key height of ALAM HALFA to our rear and trying to cut us off. Terrific "stonking" all day and night from our 25-pounder guns and tanks - coming from behind us, so pretty unnerving. However, every one of his tanks got bogged down in loose sand, marked as "hard going" in the spoof maps supplied to him by our Secret Service!

2 Dec '42 Reading out the Monty Message

Finding that the latest Monty Message had not been dealt with I paraded the whole Squadron and read it out as dramatically as possible. A great gift of plain English here, all in about half-a-dozen crisp paragraphs which lend themselves to dramatic reading.

14 Dec '42 At EL ADEM

Ran on to unmarked minefields here. Two of our Signals lorries hit Teller mines and were blown up. As I was about to alight during a halt here my batman, Bryce, who was holding the door open for me, suddenly shouted "LOOK OUT, sir!"

Continued top of page 7.....

From page 6....

and there, just at the spot where I would have put my foot down, was a Teller mine! It might not have gone off even if I had put my foot on it, being a vehicle mine, but still...

25 Dec 1942 Christmas Day

Although supplies are now desperately short (e.g., water half-a-gallon per man per day) men's Xmas Dinner quite lush - soup, pork, roast and mashed pots, peas, apple sauce, gravy, Xmas pud, oranges and nuts, plus free beer and 50 "V" cigs per man - all on Hydra cookers and Soyer stoves! Lots of lovely mail caught up with us and officers dinner same as men's. Junior officers sang carols in falsetto voices outside Mess to begin with, and we finished up with cherry brandy and funny stories all round.

So to bed in a downpour, waking up next morning in a pool of warm water at bottom of canvas bed. Dashed cosy, though!

3 Jan 1943 EL AGHEILA

Brigade tank exercise today. General Montgomery drove up to have a look. I was on the very spot when a large car, flying a red and black flag, drew up behind me. I looked round and there was Monty, leaning out of the window and beaming at me. "I want to see your Brigadier," said he in his thin, squeaky voice. I dashed off, but Riccy Richards, our Brigadier, wouldn't come - "Tell him to come to my tank," he said. So I rushed back, wondering how on earth I could convey this to the Army Commander, but he just said "All right".

13 Jan 43 At BUEBAT.**"Williams's Folly"**

We are on the edge of an extensive salt marsh, the Wadi El Chebir, about 2 miles across, and my idiot line-lorry driver tried to cross it, for heaven's sake! The lorry slowly sank up to its axles. A tank tried to tow it out but slowly sank up to its bogies. "Don't worry, sir," said the NCO i/c tank cheerfully, "another couple of tanks'll soon pull us out!"

Up came the two tanks, but they began to sink while still 80 yards from the lorry! By this time half the Brigade had come to watch, and I had visions of a court-martial. In the end we made a huge raft of sand-channels and ran tank No. 4 on to it. Luckily it dragged out all the victims on the end of 8 tow-ropes joined end-to-end!

"...I looked round and there was Monty leaning out of the car window & beaming at me...."

23 Jan 43 The Fall of Tripoli

We marched into Tripoli early today. I took the afternoon off with Geoff Thorns, our EME, and went to the Grand Hotel in search of a bath, but "Sorry sir, only cold water", so no bath. In the town centre the sadly shattered but still beautiful Cathedral of pink and white stone, striped horizontally. Also there, but not quite so pretty, a huge black tar boiler, on which someone had chalked, in huge capitals: "HOT PIES".

4 Mar 43 Monty's latest message

"The enemy is now advancing to attack us. This is because he is caught like a rat in a trap ... We will stand and fight ... there must be NO WITHDRAWAL, and of course NO SURRENDER. We will in fact give him a very "bloody nose".

Continued top page 34

Richmondshire Senior Forum

6 Flints Terrace, Richmond, DL105AH Tel:01748 822335

Dear Readers,

Great success at our last meeting, as readers of the Reeth Gazette you would have read in my last article that we were having our next meeting in the methodist hall in Leyburn, as usual I put up posters in villages and towns and this time we had a response from new people, it was nice to see some new faces and indeed the interest from other people. So thank you to the people that attended.

Libraries and the rotation of their books was one of the points on the agenda, Gill Rocket who is a Special Service Librarian was invited and came along to discuss the problems that some of the members were experiencing as regular users of Richmondshire Libraries. We had a very good outcome and together we are adhering to implement some of our suggestions and ideas.

The Richmondshire Senior Forum are coming out to villages and towns to involve more people further afield. Our next meeting will be in Reeth so watch out for the posters in your area. So as always, if you are over 50 and want to discuss your issues either personal or public, please get in touch with me Diane Jex TEL: 01748 822335. Your voice will be heard.

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SATURDAY 14TH OCTOBER

SCHOOLMASTER ARTHUR LOUIS SHEPHERD AT REETH FRIENDS SCHOOL

It is always interesting to read about events and the progress of pupils at the present day Reeth School. My memories are of a time when great changes came to the school.

When I was young, at the beginning of the twentieth century, many pupils had to walk long distances, several miles, to reach school. There were no cars or buses in those days. In bad weather we would arrive at cold and wet and would have to stay that way throughout the day. The school day began with the ringing of the school bell. One of the pupils was given this job. It was considered a great privilege. The school was divided into four classes: infants, two middle juniors and the top class. Leaving age was fourteen. The lessons were very formal and the cane was used plentifully for bad behaviour or for not being able to do lessons. We were generally frightened of our teachers. Assembly began the day, with prayers and hymn singing. Miss Croft and Miss Siddel usually led assembly, then we went to our various classrooms for lessons.

This routine continued until the elderly man, who had been Headmaster for a long time, retired. Then along came the new, young Headmaster, Mr Shepherd. He arrived with his wife and three daughters from the south of England. His coming changed everything. Mr Shepherd was like a breath of fresh air in the school. The children forgot their fear and began to enjoy their ...

lessons and to like their teachers. The first thing to be banished was the cane.

Mr Shepherd and his family seemed very strange to us dales children at first. They spoke so differently and dressed in a totally different way. Lorna and Eryl Shepherd, the two oldest daughters, wore brown lace up shoes instead of clogs. Their socks were fawn and went up to their knees instead of home knitted long black woollen stockings. They had short skirts and long jumpers instead of dresses with a pinafore over the top. The baby, Mary, stayed at home in the School House with the softly spoken, kind Mrs Shepherd, while Lorna and Eryl attended the school.

Continued top page 11.....

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Arthur Louis Shepherd Continued....

Mr Shepherd immediately introduced simple, kind improvements. When he saw how cold and wet we were after walking miles through the snow or rain, he gave permission for our wet things to be dried round the classroom stove. At lunch time we were allowed to stay indoors in cold or bad weather and to sit on the hot water pipes that circled the classroom, to eat our lunch, while the Reeth children went home. He had one of the teachers make us hot milky drinks on the stove to have with our sandwiches. He even chided us for not eating lettuce or fruit; 'Too much cake and pastry' was his view of our meagre packed lunches.

With the coming of Mr Shepherd, lessons became more varied and much less monotonous. The girls got cookery and sewing classes and the boys gardening and woodwork. One new lesson was nature walks, when we explored the beautiful countryside around Reeth. Mr Shepherd was musical and played the piano well. He taught us many traditional songs such as 'Jerusalem'. I remember one day Mr Shepherd had his daughter Lorna sing something to help teach us the tune. When she had finished, he thanked her and gave her a little kiss. The girl next to me whispered in awed tones, 'He kissed her!' We children were not used to any display of affection from our fathers.

Good standards of work in the basic subjects were insisted upon. This was

especially true of writing, hence the beautiful handwriting found amongst the people of my generation.

Mr. Shepherd gave great encouragement wherever he saw talent. He encouraged me to write stories and poems, an interest I still have today. English lessons must have been difficult for Mr. Shepherd. The dales dialect was all we children knew and was very different from his manner of speaking.

Mr. Shepherd introduced several very new and exciting ideas to broaden the experience of his pupils. At Christmas he organised a 'Sale of Work' to raise funds for the school. In agreement with the teachers of the other dales schools, he organised an inter-schools Sports Day to be held in Reeth. It was a huge success and became an annual event. Fremington School won the first competition and were awarded an engraved shield trophy.

Continued top of page 29..

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THE END OF AN ERA

Sunday the 27th. August 2000, will be a day remembered with sorrow by Swaledale Methodists. On this day, Low Row Chapel hosted its last service, as closure beckoned. There were no television cameras for this occasion, and they would only have been a hindrance had they been present. However, the packed chapel was blessed with the services of fellow Methodists from Darlington, who helped to make this last occasion memorable, albeit tinged with sadness and regret.

Almost 250 years ago, Jacob Rowell of Allendale, was commissioned by John Wesley to form a dales circuit based around Barnard Castle. Two of his converts, John and Joseph Spence of Newbiggin in Teesdale, came over to Swaledale to work in the Surrender Mines. They were men with leadership qualities, and ultimately moved from Feetham to Brownsa House, a ruin that can still be seen on Brownsey Moor. In close association with William Spensley, these men began to power a Methodist revival movement. On his way North, Wesley was encouraged to visit Swaledale in 1761, and did so on this and several other occasions. After a visit by the great man in 1768, the society felt moved to build its first chapel in 1769. By 1796 the society had a recorded membership of 62 persons. During its earlier years, the society was sustained particularly by the Spensleys, and amongst its other supporters were to be found the Spence, Wiseman, Close, Raw, Cleminson, Alderson, Pratt, Knowles,

Sunter, Robinson, Calvert, Peacock and Cherry families. Mrs. Batty tells us that a burial ground was added to the chapel in 1829. Apparently a new vicar who took up his post at Grinton in 1822, was offended at the joyous nature of the Methodist burials. Strangely I have discovered that one of the burials, that of a John Spence, took place in the little graveyard in 1822!

In 1841 a new and more spacious chapel was opened in Low Row. It was an interesting dual purpose building, housing the school in the lower and the chapel in its upper story. The entrances to these respective premises, were at the opposite ends of the building. In 1851, Ralph Place, an agent for Sir George Denys, reported that the chapel had an average congregation of 174 with a Sunday School of 92 scholars. Its congregation was drawn from Low Whita, Crackpot, Summer Lodge and Spring End to the south of the Swale and from Blades, Smarber, Barf, Isles, Low Row, Feetham and Kearton to its north.

The imminent collapse of the chapel section of the building, urgently required new premises. Hence the existing and recently closed chapel was built in 1901, on land that was donated by Miss Jane Plues. By this time of course the mines were in a state of collapse, and the chapel had 45 members and a normal congregation to match. The most fascinating and unique feature of this chapel, is that it has no balcony, and the pews forsaking the usual straight arrangement, rise from the pulpit in a semi-elliptical

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It's a Doc's Life

A column with a medical slant

Flu vaccination

This year you will notice a big push in the press and elsewhere to vaccinate all people over the age of 65 years against influenza. GP's will be set targets and in future years, as targets often do, they will be ratcheted upwards. There is logic in this in that elderly people are more susceptible to the ravages of influenza and it has been shown that vaccination can reduce the incidence of influenza and the winter death rates. Whether at 65 you consider yourself "elderly" is another matter.

In addition, people under 65 will no longer be eligible for a flu vaccination unless they are in another high-risk group, mainly because of restrictions on vaccine supplies.

There are many myths around the flu vaccination, mainly on the

theme of "Well I had one and then got the flu". The vaccines nowadays are made up of bits of the virus, are therefore inactive, and cannot cause the flu in their own right. In addition, there are often other viral infections around at the same time, which may appear like flu.

I have had a flu vaccination every year for as long as I can remember, mainly because I cannot afford to be off sick during an influenza epidemic and I have had no reactions whatsoever.

We will be publicising this as widely as we can and those whom we do not reach through the repeat prescription system we will write and invite directly.

The flu vaccines themselves usually arrive about the first week in October so treat yourself to a trip to the surgery and get protected for the winter. We are making appointments for our flu clinics already. So if you want to protect yourself from one of the few killer viral diseases that still stalk our land then ring and make an appointment.

Dr. Paul Bond, The Surgery.

End of an Era continued from 12..... configuration. For my part, although having visited during my life time, an enormous number of chapels, I have never seen such an arrangement, in any other house of worship. The thought of the interior of this building being destroyed for the purpose of building a house or warehouse facility, I find gut wrenching.

I assumed the pastoral care of the society in 1954, and by this time it was held together by a relatively small and faithful band of women. Alice Spensley the chapel steward and Jenny Sunter, both being related to my late wife Thelma, Mary Davidson, Mrs. Hatfield, Margaret Bell and Doris Tiplady, who distinguished herself by being the chapel organist for over 60 years. Come rain or snow they would always attend the Sunday services, and give the necessary support when there were special chapel functions. My ministerial duties in Swaledale were to be of short duration, and it was some 35 years before I returned to preach in its pulpits again, although by reason of my marriage, I was a constant visitor to the dale. When I returned to conduct a service at Low Row, there to greet me were the faithful Jenny Sunter, now the chapel steward, and Doris Tiplady the organist. It was just like old times, and Jenny insisted that I go to her home for a cup of tea, and of course in Swaledale, with people of her kind, it was always much more. I was happy to respond positively, even though I was rather anxious to start my journey to the West Midlands.

In the end of course life must follow its inevitable course, and Doris died,

leaving Jenny, sustained by a few earnest supporters, to carry on. Jenny and I became great friends, and she told me much about her life, that had been very harsh. Born in the small village of Whaw, she became bereft of her young husband, and was left with two small babies to bring up. Her faith never wavered, even when her body showed ominous signs of her coming death. I was very hopeful, that we might keep the chapel going after she had left us, but although I did not recognise it at the time, she uttered a prophecy during one of our conversations. "They close this chapel," she said "over my dead body", and so it proved to be. It appears that an appeal for support for the chapel and its continuation, received next to no response, and hence its fate was sealed. A vote of thanks must go to those who carried on to the bitter end, and also to Mr. and Mrs. Rishworth of Darlington, who have been such good friends to the chapel and its members.

Turn to page 27



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SPONSORED PARACHUTE JUMP

At last Heather & Julie have done their parachute jump. Due to poor weather conditions (wind, rain, low cloud) the jumps were delayed. Both ladies did their jumps without a problem. The jumps were done in tandem with a qualified partner. First they enjoyed the thrills of the free fall, travelling at great speed (100/200 mph), through the air for about 30 seconds, then up went the parachute, this part of the jump is very peaceful and graceful and finally the perfect landing. Both ladies thought it was a fantastic experience and would love to do it again.

Heather and Julie would like to **THANK** everyone who sponsored them, the response was over-whelming, and they are both amazed at the generosity shown by their sponsors. Also many thanks to all the people who helped to collect the sponsorship monies. The amount raised for the MS Society was a marvellous total of £ 2,217.46 - **THANK YOU ALL.**

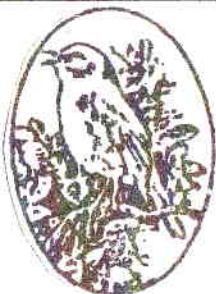
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MUKER SILVER BAND -

The Friends of Muker Band - established six years ago, and with over a hundred members drawn from all parts of the country - will hold their second musical and social weekend on the 6th / 7th October.

The programme includes a concert of Millennium Favourites, chosen by members of the 'Friends' and played by the Band, in Muker Public Hall at 7.30 pm on Friday 6th October. This concert is also open to the public and tickets, price £ 3.00, are available in advance from both Muker and Gunnerside Post Offices. For further

information about the 'Friends of Muker Band' organisation please contact : Mr P. J. Guy, 2 High Row, Muker, Richmond, N. Yorkshire. Tel 01748 - 886350.

KELD PUBLIC HALL -

A Whist Drive with Dominos for the children will be held in the Public Hall on Saturday 14th October at 7.30pm. There is to be a Raffle and a famous Keld Supper. The committee humbly beg prizes for the Drive and the Raffle. Proceeds to Hall funds.

ALDERSON FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY -

The society held it's annual meeting in Muker Public Hall on the 9th September and there were 'Alderson's' from around the world. Certainly the furthest visitor was a lady from Australia who was overjoyed to be able to speak with relatives of her folks. The Society meet each year at Muker on the Saturday following Muker Show, which is always held on the first Wednesday in September.

MUKER SHOW 2000 - Though the weather forecast was very poor, the Show Day proved to be dry but breezy. After the early morning rain, it fared up at 8.30am and the wind dried out the field for the exhibitors to place their entries in relative calm conditions. Because of the bad forecast the numbers attending were rather somewhat lower than normal,

but all the scheduled events took place and it was a most enjoyable day. Visitors came from America, Australia, Canada, Norway as well as from all over the UK. to see and soak in the atmosphere of this traditional

dales show. The Fell Races again proved very popular, both with the visitors and the competitors. The British Open Fell Race Association control all races and the Muker Fell Race counts towards their annual championships. The River Swale was running too high for the competitors to cross on the normal course so it was the longer run via Rampsholme Bridge. This course takes some six and a half minutes longer to complete. The Senior race was won by Ted Mason. The first local home being John Baker who won the Rev. Peter Midwood Trophy. Bright evening sunshine blessed the crowds (over 250 people) who gathered to join the community hymn singing outside the Farmers Arms Inn. The singing, accompanied by Muker Silver Band traditionally rounds off Show Day. To hear 'Beautiful Swaledale' sung with such emotion and gusto left a lump in many a throat and the odd tear or two.

PMB.

MUKER PARISH**Diary Snippets**

" A lady came
from Australia to
be with the
Alderson's "

HEALAUGH MILLENNIUM

HEALAUGH THEN AND NOW: 150 YEARS OF CHANGE



DR DUNCAN BYTHELL - Researched and wrote this article in connection with an exhibition of village history held in Healaugh Chapel. This was part of the Healaugh village millennium celebrations held during the weekend of 12 -13th August. Well over 100 people came to see the exhibition.

Although they contain errors and ambiguities, the Census returns for 1851 provide the first clear, complete listing of the people of Healaugh. The community which they reveal is startlingly different from that of today; and the contrasts remind us just how much village life has changed during the past 150 years.

HEALAUGH IN 1851

HOUSEHOLDS.— Excluding the farms, such as Daggerstones and Riddings Bushes, which border the village itself, Healaugh in 1851 contained 251 people living in 46 households—an average of 5.5 persons per household. Unlike today, there were very few small households: only three people (two old women and one middle-aged bachelor) lived alone, and only three married couples (two elderly, and one probably just married) had their houses entirely to themselves. At the same time, there were very few of the 'large families' which we associate with Victorian times: only 4 of the 46 households had more than ten people in them.



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Continued from page 18...

FAMILIES. — The pattern of family surnames suggests that many of Healaugh's households in 1851 were also inter-related. Out of the 46 households, there were eight households of Pedleys, five of Peacocks, and three each of Dolphins, Hutchinsons and Natrasses. The Census does not trace relationships between households: but among the household heads there appear to have been at least four pairs of brothers. In other words, some — perhaps many — of the village children would have grown up in close proximity to uncles, aunts and cousins, as well as to parents and siblings. The picture of a community permeated by complex family ties is re-enforced by the information about people's birthplaces. Of the 46 household heads only three had been born outside Swaledale; and of their 36 spouses, only two came from further afield than Richmond. With few exceptions, neither the men nor the women appear ever to have lived more than a few miles from their birthplaces. Healaugh in 1851 was a settled, rather inbred and relatively immobile community — except, of course, that there must have been natives of the village who at some stage moved away and never came back. Unfortunately the Census is silent about these emigrants.

CHILDREN. — However, the Census carefully records the ages of all the inhabitants; and the picture it presents is the opposite of today's. This was overwhelmingly a young community. More than half of Healaugh's population in 1851 (134 out of 251 people) was under the age of twenty; whereas fewer than one in ten was over sixty. There were 43 infants under five years, and a further 40 children, mainly between the ages of five and ten, who were described as 'scholars'. Included in the small group of elderly people were five 'paupers' (presumably receiving a small weekly allowance from the Poor Law Guardians), four were said to be retired, and two 'landed proprietors' living on rents from land and houses.

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Healaugh Millennium

Continued from page 19....

The youthful profile tallies with what we know about the high birth and death rates of the mid - nineteenth century. But we must also remember that the death rate among the lead-miners was higher than average; and Healaugh at this time was essentially a lead-mining village.

WOMEN.— Two other features of Healaugh's households in 1851 are worth noting, because they cast light on the role of women both in the community and in the family. Firstly, all except 5 of the 46 household heads were men: and of the five women who headed households, two in fact lived alone, and only two - one an elderly stocking knitter, and the other a widow who had evidently taken over her husband's farm - appear to have actually been earning money. Secondly, there were remarkably few domestic servants employed - just four, to be precise; and only two of the four conform to our usual notion of a servant - a couple of elderly women acting as resident house-keepers to the two elderly men who described themselves as 'landed proprietors'. This is odd, because domestic service was arguably the biggest single employer of female labour in Victorian Britain.

It suggests two possibilities: first, that there were hardly any 'better-off' families in Healaugh who could afford to hire a house-servant; or second, that with so little paid employment of any kind available locally to young unmarried women, there was no shortage of daughters-living-at-home who could help their mothers with household tasks. In reality, about a quarter of Healaugh's female population appear to have been acting as unpaid and unacknowledged 'domestic servants' in their own families.

EMPLOYMENT.- Although surrounded by, and containing, a number of small Farms, Healaugh in 1851 was a single - industry village whose men folk earned their living by working for wages in the local staple industry, lead-mining. The census records 71 of it's 126 male inhabitants as being 'occupied' - almost all the rest being either infants or scholars. Of these 71 male workers, 50 were lead-miners and another 10 were employed in lead-related work, as lead-ore dressers, lead-ore carriers, or lead agents. Some 33 out of the 41 male household heads worked in and about the mines, as did 22 out of 24 of their employed sons.

Continued top of page 21...

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From page 20...

Boys as young as ten years old are recorded as lead-miners in the Census. Only a handful of Healaugh's men earned their livelihood in any other way: they included four farmers (one of whom doubled as a grocer); one shopkeeper; together with a shoe-maker, a joiner, a stone-mason, and a 'coal-leader'. It would seem that the villagers depended on the tradesmen of nearby Reeth for many of the goods and services they required.

150 years ago, Healaugh's boys had one obvious career-path open to them: they could follow their fathers into the mine. By contrast, the job prospects for girls were almost non-existent. In 1851, the village boasted just ten 'gainfully-employed' women: the two 'household heads' (a knitter and a farmer) and the four 'domestic servants', already noted; together with three dressmakers and one school-mistress. Otherwise, if we exclude female infants, female scholars and female paupers, there were 36 married women (that is, housewives) and 34 'unemployed' single women in Healaugh. For these 34 young women - dependent at best on occasional and casual earnings - marriage was in fact the only realistic career prospect. The hope of catching a young man's fancy, and the fear of being 'left on the shelf' must have been the over-riding obsession of a large part of Healaugh's female population.

THE UNANSWERED QUESTIONS. - The Census returns tell us something about the people of Healaugh in 1851; but they also leave important questions unanswered. For example, where did the men work? - presumably, most of them walked daily up to the Old Gang and Surrender mines. And what did they do in

their leisure time? Given that the village apparently had no public house, we must assume that it's social and cultural life was dominated by the Chapel. And did the one school-mistress run a 'dame' school in the village, or did the scholars march off to Reeth every morning? Most intriguing of all, how did the 34 'unemployed' young women occupy their time—other than assisting their mothers in the endless round of washing, cleaning, sewing, mending, cooking and child-minding?

Other questions spring to mind too.

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From page 21....

Questions? - At what point in the past had Healaugh come to be a village of lead-miners? If we had comparable data going back another 150 years to 1701, what differences would we notice? We know where the villagers drew their water; but where did they throw their slops and empty their privies? How many households had a small garden, or kept a pig? In the end we can only imagine a close-knit community which must have been noisy with babies crying, children playing and couples quarrelling, and also smelly with coal fires, tobacco fumes, and overflowing middens. It must have been a place of much gossip and little privacy: a village which fell quiet in the morning, when men went to work and the children to school, but which sprang to life in the late afternoon, as houses filled up again. Would we be able to cope with it if we were to be miraculously transported back those 150 years?

YESTERDAY AND TODAY

The main changes which have transformed the village over the last 150 years are obvious enough. Healaugh's population has fallen dramatically; and although the number of houses has not fallen proportionately, some - second homes and rented holiday cottages - are not permanently occupied. Single-person and two-person households now predominate; and the proportions of old people and children have been pretty well reversed. In some cases, what were once three cramped miners' cottages have become one roomy house. Most obvious of all, there are no longer any lead-miners. The last shop, the Chapel, and latterly the post office have all closed, leaving Healaugh without either business premises (apart from farms and bed and breakfast establishments) or public buildings. What was then a busy, crowded village of working men and their families has become a quiet, rural dormitory suburb for the middle aged. Apart from the hum of passing traffic, the sounds most frequently heard are the slamming of house doors, the starting of car engines, and in summer- the drone of lawnmowers. Our predecessors of 1851 would, almost certainly, be as uncomfortable in our privatised, sanitised world, as we would be in theirs.

Duncan Bythell—Healaugh

Author's note : I am grateful to Sheila and Lawrence Barker for lending me their transcripts of the 1851 Census returns for Healaugh, and for their helpful comments on the first draft of this paper.

Anyone with an interest in local history may wish to note that Dr Duncan Bythell will be giving a series of six weekly classes on *Victorian Swaledale*, under the auspices of the Reeth branch of the W.E.A. starting on February 28th. 2001. Dr Bythell is also the author of the book 'Banding in the Dales' which is a history of Brass Bands and Banding. He is the Conductor of Muker Silver Band.

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There will be no Sunday
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Books, Greeting Cards,
& Stationery can be bought
through the

Corner Shop on Sundays

**MORE THAN JUST A
POST OFFICE**

R/C

NORTHUMBERLAND NIGHTS REMEMBERED

Ten giggling gourmets
Went out to dine
Marion got a tummy ache
Then there were nine

Nine naughty nancies
Came back rather late
Margaret thought she knew the way
Then there were eight

Eight footloose females
Thought they'd gone to heaven
Audrey Brown enjoyed a drink
Then there were seven

Seven loonie ladies
Ate their Weetabix
Leslie chased the toilet duck
Then there were six

Six sexy strollers
Went out for a drive
Kay went with the A A man
Then there were five

Five willing women
Looking for something more
Shirley went home to see to Bob
Then there were four

Four fearless floozies
Went for a cup of tea
Trixie called at the trucker's "caff"
Then there were three

Three Gossiping girls
Looking for the loo
Audrey Jagger supped too much tea
Then there were two

Two happy hussies
Having lots of fun
Barbara over-indulged herself
Then there was one

One lonely lass called Liz
Wondered where we'd gone
High-tailed it back to Richmondshire
Then there were none.

Trixie Bradley

Friends of Reeth School— News

Reeth Show- Our stand was a huge success, raising £ 156 towards new outdoor play equipment for the school. Lamb one- weighed 37kg and was won by Denise Dolphin from Carperby. Lamb two - The name was Laa-Laa. She was won by Annie Stones from Marrick. Thanks to everyone who helped or entered the competitions and many thanks to our Chairman, Ruth Guy, for donating the lambs.

Quiz - Our next fundraiser will be a general knowledge quiz sheet, price £1, first prize £10. This will be on sale at various local outlets (including school) and must be returned by 24th. October. Please buy a sheet and have a go, even if you can't answer all the questions you could win a spot prize. If you would like to buy a quiz, or even better, sell some on our behalf (perhaps where you work), please contact the Secretary :- Julie Bissicks on Tel. 884912

Reeth Sports Day - Thank You

Many, many thanks to everyone who helped to organise this years Sports Day and to all who helped on the day. Thank you to everyone who entered the competitions and to those who came along to watch and support us. We have had lots of positive comments about the day and we are delighted that so many of you came to share in the fun with us. The next committee meeting is on Monday 9th October at 7-45pm at Watson House, Arkengarthdale Road, Reeth. The Committee would very warmly welcome anyone who wishes to join in the discussion about how the day went, what worked well and what could be improve upon. We also promise not to give you a job unless you ask!

Our next event is a Hallowe'en disco, open to everyone under 16 years (under 5's must be accompanied by an adult). This will take place in the Memorial Hall between 7pm and 9pm on Saturday 21st October and the entry charge will be £ 1. On a personal note, May I thank my fellow committee members for making me feel so welcome and for doing a wonderful job of guiding me through what was my first Sports Day as Secretary. Lost Property - still unclaimed are a child's jumper and an umbrella. Julie Bissicks, Secretary, Reeth Sports Association

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R/c

I WAS THERE.....

The start of Major Bill Williams' article in your last issue reminded me of my own experiences and the Battle of Britain, the 60th anniversary of which we now commemorate.

It was in December 1940 (the War was three months old) when I walked from my home to the Recruiting Office in Reading to volunteer for the Royal Air Force. I was 18 years old. I enlisted to be trained as a Wireless Operator but, in the changing circumstances of those early war months, I never did become a Wireless Operator but found myself with clerical duties at the RAF Station, Farnborough in Hampshire, seconded to the "hush hush" establishment of the Royal Aircraft Establishment. That only lasted a few months, however, and I received my first posting to an active fighter squadron (No 501 - Hurricanes) in September 1940 to RAF Station, Gravesend with the Battle of Britain in full rage in the Kent skies. After a couple of weeks I joined No 141 Squadron (Defiants) operating as night time fighters. The Boulton Paul Defiant was a heavily armed fighter with a revolving gun turret (four Vickers .303 machine guns) as well as eight forward firing machine guns in the main planes. It did not have the manoeuvrability of the Spitfire or Hurricane and our losses in manpower and machines were quite heavy. The Defiant came into its own, however, during the "Blitz" by chasing crippled German bombers across the North Sea and shooting them down. (But, of course, German bombers had unloaded their bombs on London).

Gravesend operated 24 hours with Hurricanes and Spitfires by day and Defiants by night. No matter what your trade all were required to work flat out supporting the air crews. Constant refuelling, rearming and crash recoveries were the main duties of the ground staff. What sleep we could snatch was in our billet which was a structure of wood and glass. It had been a restaurant and was known as "Laughing Waters", built on stilts in the middle of a lake! (There is a restaurant there now, bricks and mortar, known as the "Inn on the Lake".) I well remember the night the Luftwaffe set the docks alight from Tilbury (on the opposite bank of the River Thames to Gravesend) to the City of London. Standing on the airfield you could read a paper at midnight. There was no need for a flare path for our Defiants taking off and landing.

So many memories come flooding back as I sit to write this - the deaths, the destruction, the bombs, the guns; but above all the sheer determination that Hitler, Goering and the Luftwaffe would not beat us - and they did not! I may not have been one of "the few" but I was privileged and honoured to be with them to assist them in their magnificent victory over the Luftwaffe.

Cyril H. L. Purver - Keld

Is/was your surname ALDERSON? - My maiden name was Alderson and I am tracing our family history. I am originally from Richmond, Surrey, but now live in Halifax. Through my research, I have traced back to 1837. I believe at some stage an Alderson maybe moved south and began another branch of the family. I have found many Aldersons in the cemetery in Muker, but would love to hear from some live ones please! If you have any information at all which you would share with me please write to Karen Trueman-Smith, Hillside View, 84 Shay Lane, Holmfild, Halifax. HX3 6QU

End of an Era continued from 14....

Further, justice would not be done, if Margaret Batty's prolific efforts to uncover the past of the chapel were not acknowledged, for without her work, many of the people who graced this place of worship, and the statistics relating to its progress, would have long since been forgotten.

On this our last occasion of meeting for worship, the growing reluctance of people to commit themselves to the Christian ideal, and the problem that now arises within the dale due to the many homes that are intermittently occupied, was noted. However, the fundamental message of the Christian faith, that has been heard from the pulpit of the Low Row Chapels across two and a half centuries, was reiterated. Namely, that by His life and death, Jesus the Christ of God, has made it possible for us to receive the offer of Eternal Life, and we ignore that offer at our peril.

JOHN HARDY

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Re-opening April 2001

R/C

**The Deadline date for the
November Issue is
Saturday 14th October**

CHILDREN'S FOOTBALL - Swaledale & Arkengarthdale (2 Dales)

For the start of the new football season we have entered a B team (11 years and under) in the Wensleydale Friendly Sunday League and in the Jack Charlton Cup. This is a cup presented by Jack Charlton to the League for 12 years of age and under. Although we do not presently have enough players to enter an A team (13 and under) we expect to play non league friendly 13 and under games whenever the B team is playing. We also intend to organise some weekend under 11 matches.

Boys and girls aged about 8 to 13 are very welcome to join us. Practices are presently held at Lanthwaite on Sunday mornings at 10.30 and John Jackson has kindly agreed to coach.

Mike Sparrow is also organising football for younger children (from age 4) at Lanthwaite at 10.30 on Saturday mornings.

Please support us. There is no need to go out of the Dales for a game of football. Dads (and Mums) are warmly welcomed to help and support. Transport is available from Reeth and other areas.

Please contact: - David Williams on 884650 or Mike Sparrow on 884808

NB : This is not an activity by any individual school. All children play at their own risk.

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OCTOBER RECIPE LETTUCE SOUP

About 3 ozs lettuce leaves - Bruised are OK
1/2 small onion Pinch of Salt & Pepper
1 oz butter sugar
1/4 pint chicken stock 1/4 pint of milk
Grated nutmeg Croutons to garnish

Method :- Chop the onion finely and soften it in the butter for about 5 minutes - add chicken stock and lettuce - season with salt and pepper add taster of sugar and nutmeg. Bring to boil for 5 mins. Put in a blender. Reheat with the milk and simmer for 5 mins. For a thicker soup add egg yolk beaten in a cup with cream, but don't boil.

All the ingredients are of course available at :

**THE CORNER SHOP
REETH**

R/C

Arthur Louis Shepherd

continued from page 11

One Christmas he took us to Darlington to see the pantomime 'Cinderella'. It was the first time any of us had been to a theatre, let alone seen a pantomime. Tom Milner, one of the boys, who had a good singing voice, sang a song from his seat in the audience. He was famous! Mr. Shepherd also took his scholars to see the small circus that came to Reeth one year. It was the first time we'd ever seen an elephant.

Mr. Shepherd was with his 'flock' for lots of firsts; the first motor car, nicknamed Puffing Billy by the locals, when it drove into Reeth. The first aeroplane to fly over. He let us all go running outside to stand and stare at it.

The few elderly adults left in Reeth today who remember their childhood at the village school, remember Mr. Shepherd. They speak of him with respect and gratitude for all he did for the school. Sadly he did not stay long, only six years, then he became the first Labour member of Parliament for Darlington, where he was very popular for a while.

Mr. Shepherd can truly be said to have brought modern education to Reeth School at the start of the twentieth century.

Martha (Matty) Moralee - Billingham

(Ed. Mrs Moralee does write well - Mr Shepherd certainly gave her confidence. The article on Fremington Chert Quarries in last months issue was also by Mrs Moralee. Her father was Adam Edward Hammond. The 'Gazette' welcomes articles telling of your memories of bygone days.)

MUKER EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Applications are invited from any resident of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Swaledale for a grant from the above fund towards any expenses, costs, projects or other scheme concerned with the obtaining or furtherance of Education.

Residency in the said Parish and Education generally are pre-requisites to any application.

Application forms required by individuals or any other group so qualified should be obtained from the Secretary to the said fund;

Mr. Michael B. McGarry,
c/o Johnsons Solicitors, Market Place,
Hawes, North Yorkshire. DL8 3QS

Please note: all applications initially and thereafter must be accompanied with a stamped self addressed envelope.

The closing date for the submission of completed application forms is -
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Details from Ray Wright

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LOW ROW WOMEN'S CIRCLE 32nd SESSION

Meetings are held on alternate Wednesday afternoons beginning at 2.30 pm. The Circle welcomes new members. The programme runs from October 11th 2000 to 21st March 2001. The first meeting on 11th October is to be held in the home of Miss E. Barker, Greenygate, Healaugh. 884451

Arkengarthdale in 1891

A hundred years ago the lead mines of Arkengarthdale were almost completely closed. Many families had moved away from the area altogether. Using the 1891 Census Returns and other material Rev Ian Gomersall has produced a book about this time in Arkengarthdale's history. The book includes details of occupations, migrations and families in the dale. Daykins, Atkinson, Barninham, Harker, Peacock are commonly occurring names. Book (privately published) available by post from 11, Mardale Ave, Manchester, M20 4TU at £8.85 which includes postage.

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GENERAL NEWS - LATE LAST MINUTE NEWS & CORRECTIONS**MUKER LADIES GUILD**

At our meeting on Thursday 14th. We journeyed through some of the most lovely gardens, wandered along paths past fragrant shrubs and flowers, in the company of David Braithwaite of the Nursery & Garden Centre, Leeming Bar. His slide show was delightful. The plants he brought were soon selected and purchased. Our next meeting will be on Thursday 5th. October at 7pm. In Muker Public Hall, Tea Room and will be flower arranging by Mrs Iveson. New Guild members are always welcome. The November meeting will be on 2nd November and the AGM is postponed until the January gathering. Christmas Dinner will be at the Ghyll Foot Restaurant on Wednesday 6th. December.

St. Mary's Church Muker

The Harvest Festival service will be at 6.30pm on Sunday 8th October and music will be by Muker Silver Band. The service will be followed by a Harvest Supper in Muker Public Hall - All are welcome. The Church will be arranged for harvest on Saturday 7th. October and all who wish to help, including youngsters would be very welcome. Produce will be auctioned at 7pm. On Monday evening 9th October in Muker Public Hall - Proceeds of the sale are donated to Charity. Please come and support. The wine Party raised £609 thank you to M S Band and all prize donors for your support

FOUND - FOUND

Found at Muker Show - a ring - Contact The Secretary, Margaret Rutter 886330

**** *

Found a kitten 6 months to a year old - contact Sylvia Close, Peatgate Head. Low Row.

Letters to the Editor :

Sir,

I have just been reading the September edition of the "Gazette". A very interesting little magazine. Keeping the dales folk and others up to date as to what is going on in the dales, also the stories from and about local people. I've been here on holiday again, staying with my daughter and son in law, John & Clarice Blenkinsop in Richmond. We have had the pleasure of listening to Reeth Brass Band playing on the Green, on Sunday afternoon. But I must say I'm disappointed in the Band Stand, a wee concrete platform. It should be a real and Proper Stand with a roof to shelter the bandsmen when they give you pleasure on a windy, chilly day. It's been good to visit Reeth again, brings back memories of when my husband Cuthbert Croft and I had a home here 40 years ago. Sadly or Gladly I return to Australia at the end of the month.

Sincerely, **Bretta Croft.**

THANKS

My 90th Birthday party held at the Ice Cream Parlour and the Kings Arms, Reeth. I would like to thank everyone for the cards and presents, also all who supported the District Nurses fund which I started 8 years ago and we raised £100. This was your present on my 90th birthday. I had many guests, roughly speaking 200. The main speaking guest was John Hardy, the author of the book "The Hidden Side of Swaledale". I also had a card and present from Lord and Lady Arundel. I would like to thank Sarah and Peter and Mark Thompson for putting on such a lovely party - one which I won't ever forget. I say thank you once again.

Fremont Hutchinson,
The Gallery, Reeth

The Two Dales Partnership.

A Community Partnership for Swaledale and Arkengarthdale.

Newsletter No 1. Autumn 2000

The Partnership has been working together since April, with the aim firstly, of assembling an up-to-date checklist of assets in the Two Dales and subsequently, to draw up new economic initiatives, based on those assets which we hope will help to secure a healthy and sustainable economy now and in the future. We are now looking at a wide range of projects. The following are just a few examples:

1. A Community Office in Reeth to provide a local information centre i.e. facilities, training and advice centre and youth club premises
2. Themed holidays for visitors e.g. walking, crafts, local history, ecology and botany.
3. More play areas throughout the Two Dales with wet-weather facilities for visitors and locals alike.
4. A "Friends of the Dales" scheme to help support and protect the local environment
5. Local produce and farming initiatives to help promote the excellence of our local produce.
6. A Community Orchard, possibly in the garden of the old bank building in Reeth, as a local amenity, a venue for special events, and an educational resource.
7. Provision of homes for those local people who choose to remain living in the Two Dales by developing a local register of housing needs accessed at the Community Office in Reeth.

There are dozens of other projects being reviewed and if you would like to know more, get in touch by ringing either of these numbers: 01748 884040 (Stuart May) or 01748 884655 (Liz Smith).

Exciting Times & Narrow Squeaks

Continued from page 7

... Let us show him what the famous Eighth Army can do ...

B. L. Montgomery, General

6 Mar '43 The Battle of Medinine

1000 hrs. The enemy attack began at dawn and is still raging. My OC is with Advance Brigade HQ and I am i/c the Main Bde HQ Signal Office. The enemy is advancing with the German 90th Light and Italian Spezia Divisions. Six enemy tanks knocked out so far.

Tony Roberts*, 11th Hussars, Acting OC Main Bde HQ, said to me just now: "Frank, I think we ought to prepare to move at short notice. Don't want to put the wind up people, but things are happening rather fast". (*Unusual name: accent on the "barts")

1100 hrs. Everyone "standing to" on their vehicles. Bill Tomlinson has just phoned from Advance HQ: "Frank! Where are you moving to?" "South-eastwards, we hope". "But Frank! If you do that you'll run right into the enemy! You'll have to go north-east!" So there it is. We'll be put in the bag, I suppose.

1200 hrs. The road down which we are about to move has just been heavily shelled. The noise sounded like someone falling downstairs.

1300 hrs. Lunch an alfresco affair, as our Mess lorry is packed ready to move. Suddenly Doc Archdale shouted "LOOK OUT! They're coming at US!" and as we turned to see what was the matter we saw six German fighters speeding towards, low down, firing into our Mess as they came. Bullets screamed overhead and we flung ourselves into the sand. I looked up and wished I'd had my camera. Six silver Messerschmitt ME109Fs, so close that I could see the pilots!


Black crosses edged with white were painted large on the side of each machine. Later we found several cannon shells in the sand near the table where we had been sitting; so narrow squeaks all round. Afterwards John Baines, our Staff Capt 'Q', said: "Remind me to dive on my right shoulder next time we get strafed, will you? I hurt my left one just now!"

7 Mar '43 Black Nights

The nights have been exceptionally black lately, and darkness falls at about 7 pm on our way to dinner. So all wise officers carry prismatic compasses to take a bearing from the Mess to their own little holes for use in getting back after dinner ... and again, to and from the "thunderbox" they use at night. Otherwise you may wander round in utter blackness, trusting to a mythical "sense of direction" - hugh!

Continued top page 35

THE C.B. INN



ARKENGARTHDALE

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The menu is written up daily on an imposing mirror which hangs at the end of the bar

Traditional Sunday Lunch

A warm and friendly atmosphere, fine fresh food in a traditional Inn environment.

• **Booking advisable** •

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From page 34

22 Mar '43 A Lucky Hit

Considerable air activity tonight under a bright moon. Half-an-hour ago an enemy raider came over and was shot at by our fellows. He replied with cannon fire. Quite a pretty sight - streams of red tracer flew upward at the unseen target in the moonlit blackness - fountains of white tracer from him. He circled round, dropping four bombs which made a draught round my legs!

Then someone got a lucky hit. Down came the raider with a terrific roar. He crashed right among us and burst into flames. A tower of black smoke rose against the moon amid great cheering from us, and someone shouted "That got 'im by the goolies!"

23 Mar '43 The Battle of MARETH

At 2145 hrs last night the battle began. Suddenly the ground shook with the thunder of our guns massed against the MARETH LINE, the flashes of gunfire making a continuous line of light, flickering and incessant, and the infantry of 50 (Northumbrian) and 51 (Highland) Divisions advancing behind it.

Here I sit in the Signal Office. A lot is going on. My Superintendent is receiving **sitreps** (situation reports) from 51 Div and relaying them in his dry-as-dust voice to our Advance HQ. He then hands me the carbon copy and I mark up the War Map:

"**SITREP** zero three one zero stop. Some tanks approx one two launched attack on figure six SEAFORTHs at figures two one five zero hours stop ..." and so it goes on and on. Sitreps often cover an exciting story. I read dozens of them every day:

"2 SEAFORTH pinned down in anti-tank ditch by heavy and accurate fire. 6 DLI withdrew leaving one man wounded on minefield. Later picked up by enemy stretcher-bearers. 4 tanks of 50 RTR crossed ditch with 5 EAST YORKS but forced withdraw in face of concentrated 88 mm. fire ..."

28 Mar '43

By 1100 hrs it became clear that the enemy had withdrawn completely from the MARETH LINE & 50 (Northumbrian) Div crossed it by what they called LEEMING LANE.

30 Mar '43

We moved up to GABES, a little white town among palm trees beside a deep blue sea. General Montgomery was at a road crossing directing traffic. I was in my scout car and tore him off a beauty but he didn't acknowledge it and only shouted "Get on, get on!" At a welcoming ceremony in Gabes a pretty girl presented him with a bunch of flowers and said to him: "Veel you kees me?" Monty recoiled, recovered, and gave her a peck on her nose!

Continued top page 36...

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01/91

Exciting Times & Narrow Squeaks :

Continued from page 35...

13 May '43 German Prisoners

Off with Lt-Col Jim Finnegan (OC 40 R Tanks), Major Reg Hughes, Jack Bradley-Cook and Freddie Foot (all 40th) to chat with German prisoners of 164 Infantry Div, a crack unit of the AFRICA KORPS. A surprisingly large number spoke pretty good English. They said: "We know you are British. You are Panzer troops". They wanted us to take them prisoner, but we told them they were going to have a nice time with the Free French instead. They had a high opinion of the Eighth Army troops who, they said, were like them. But the French, no, The Americans, no, The Italians, a spit.

9 July '43 At MONASTIR

Off with Don Skinner, a lively subaltern newly joined, for a day's shooting in the coastal marshes, he with an Italian rifle, I with a tommy-gun. Snipe, some duck of sorts and the odd pigeon - but dashed difficult to hit with ball ammo!

8 Aug '43 Off to SICILY

Sailed out of Sousse in LST 199 (Landing Ship Tank) and found I was OC Troops, of whom 210 on board. Made Don Skinner my Adjutant, appointed a Ship's RSM and made him detail guards, mess orderlies, etc.

After that, nothing much left to do. Sea very rough.

We shipped several "green ones", & FTCW, no sailor, retired to cabin....oh!

FTCW.

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CONCERNED ABOUT TRANSPORT ?

For the interest of any person, group, business or association who have concerns about transport within Swaledale and surrounding areas. I, Allan Lloyd Payne have for my sins, volunteered, and was accepted to be on the steering committee of the Hambleton and Richmondshire Rural Transport Partnership as a user member of Public Transport. Which as you know is virtually non-existent in the dale.

If you need to know more or want to air your views on any transport matter relating to the dales please ring me on 01748 886010 or write to me at Heatherdene, Blades, Low Row, Richmond, N. Yorkshire, DL11 6PS. I do need your support on this, so please do help me to help you. If there is a large enough response I will arrange a public meeting and for the Project Officer to explain everything in depth and to answer any questions. I hope my phone is going to be buzzing!!

THANKS

To all my good friends in Gunnerside and beyond - I would like to write to you all personally to thank you for the beautiful cards and gifts you sent to me on my 90th Birthday, but my arthritic hand and fingers will not let me. So will you please accept this as my sincere thanks to you all, not only on my birthday, but also for all your kindness to me from the day I came to live among you as a perfect stranger and as an "incomer" some sixteen very happy years ago.

Maurice Welford

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REETH FABRIC CRAFT GROUP

The Group held an exhibition of their work in the Methodist Chapel during the Bartle Fair. Quilts, both antique and new, rugs, parchment work, embroidery and Christmas crafts were all displayed to great advantage in the ideal setting of this charming chapel. Despite the wet weather, the exhibition was well attended and raised a total of £188.86 for chapel funds.

Thank you to Rev. Andrew Bell and chapel members for 'lending' us the chapel and to Dibs and Ethel for their sterling work on refreshments. Thank you also to Chris Proctor, Blenkins, who provided equipment for hanging the quilts.

Anyone interested in joining the group is welcome. We meet every Tuesday in the schoolroom adjoining Reeth Chapel from 2 pm till 4 pm.

THE MELBECKS SOCIETY

The Society meet in the Institute, Low Row, on the second Thursday of each month at 7.30 pm from October to March. We aim to offer pleasant, interesting evenings to all and cater for a wide interest range. New members and visitors welcome.

Please address all editorial material to:

George Lundberg : EDITOR
Reeth and District Gazette
GALLOWES TOP - LOW ROW
RICHMOND - NORTH YORKS
DL11 6PP

Tel / Fax :- 01748 - 886505

All material can be left at Reeth Post Office, marked for the Editor, Reeth and District Gazette.

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at 5 pm & 8 pm
**'CHILDREN OF THE
MARSHLAND' (PG) (subtitles)**

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at 5 pm & 8 pm
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