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REETH & DISTRICT GAZETTE

Issue No. 81

APRIL 2002



Drawing By Jocelyn Campbell

GOOD NEWS

**Reeth Swing Bridge
Reconstruction to Start in June**

The Local News Magazine for Swaledale & Arkengarthdale

FREE COPY

CHURCH SERVICES in Arkengarthdale & Swaledale

7th April

| | |
|---------|---|
| 10.30am | St Mary's Arkengarthdale United Parish Eucharist Gunnarside Methodist Reeth Methodist Low Row URC |
| 11.00am | Reeth Congregational St Edmund's Marske Family Eucharist |
| 2.00pm | Keld Methodist |
| 2.30pm | Arkengarthdale Methodist |
| 6.30pm | Reeth Congregational |



14th April

| | |
|---------|--|
| 8.00am | St Andrew's Grinton Holy Communion |
| 9.30am | St Michael's Downholme Holy Eucharist |
| 10.00am | St Mary's Arkengarthdale Workshop |
| 10.30am | Low Row URC |
| 11.00am | Reeth Congregational St Edmund's Marske Morning Prayer |
| 11.15am | St Mary's Arkengarthdale Holy Communion |
| 2.00pm | Keld URC |
| 4.00pm | St Mary's Muker Sunday School/Family Service |
| 6.30pm | Gunnarside Methodist Reeth Congregational Reeth Methodist United Praise and Worship |

21st April

10.30am
St Andrew's Grinton
Eucharist with
the Archbishop of York

| | |
|---------|--|
| 10.30am | Reeth Methodist |
| 10.45am | St Edmund's Marske Holy Eucharist |
| 11.00am | Reeth Congregational |
| 2.00pm | Keld Methodist Communion |
| 2.30pm | Arkengarthdale Methodist |
| 6.30pm | Gunnarside Methodist Reeth Congregational |

28th April

| | |
|---------|--|
| 8.00am | Holy Trinity Low Row Holy Communion |
| 9.30am | St Andrew's Grinton Eucharist St Michael's Downholme Holy Eucharist |
| 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 |
| 2.00pm | Keld URC |
| 2.30pm | Muker Methodist Communion |
| 6.30pm | Gunnarside Methodist Communion Reeth Congregational |

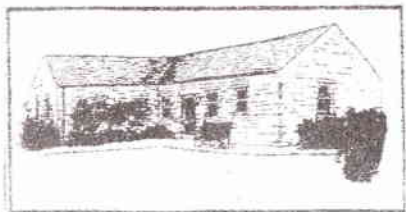
You will receive a warm welcome at all the churches in the Dales.

REETH & DISTRICT GAZETTE

EDITORIAL

Hi there! Glad you are still reading. We have printed over 2000 copies of the April edition this month, so there should be enough for everyone. Sometimes it is difficult to keep up with demand, and at the same time trying to not overprint during the winter months to help economy. There's a lot inside to read, so enjoy reading. Some articles refer back to times past, when things were different, and we all know times have changed. We are going to a wedding next Friday — not unusual in itself, except that Friday happens to be Good Friday. The wedding is a Civil Ceremony in an hotel, and the couple are not allowed to have any religious reference at all in the ceremony, not even traditional music. It all seems strange to me, when I remember being *ticked off* for not going to Church on Good Friday, when my excuse was I didn't want to go to a miserable and sad service! How I wish we had had a Good Friday Walk then, or a 'service' as Bedale has, when the local churches march round the market place, stop at different spots, the lesson is read, and the band accompanies a hymn. Afterwards they all retire for Hot Cross Buns and tea! Much more interesting than a boring old service! I would have loved to have gone to a wedding as a youngster on Good Friday (although to be honest I am really looking forward to the wedding we are going to, Good Friday or not!) but things like that didn't happen, it was fish and Hot Cross Buns. Does it really matter? If things have changed, and Good Friday is not the religious day we were brought up with, does it really matter? Is the message any less? I don't want to get into any such argument, but I do feel that as Christians we do sometimes—or often—forget or overlook the significance of that first "Good Friday". It is often much easier, and more pleasant to overlook it. But the message is still there, even though it may not be as fashionable to declare it — it is the day that we remember that God's own Son was sacrificed for us. What an absolutely stupendous deed, which really does deserve much more thought. Why then do we overlook it - fashion, laziness, embarrassment - oh I don't have any answers, like most of us just questions. Yet we all look forward to Easter, the new life, the lambs, the daffodils, the whole feeling of brightness that we expect. Yet that Queen of all Festivals, Easter, could not have happened without Good Friday. Easter is really a magnificent celebration of life, and life renewed through the Resurrection. If we don't celebrate it, and take all the joy and hope from the Festival, as the words of the Hymn we sang in the Gospel Service on Palm Sunday say: *I said it's nobody's fault but mine.* A Happy and Joyous Easter to you all from all at the Gazette. Ed.

THE GAZETTE TEAM THANK YOU FOR READING AND FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS



It's a Doc's Life

A column with a medical slant.

Well, this is it, the last Doc's Life. Since it is the end of Doc's Life maybe it should be called "Doc's Death" but that may be tempting fate. As you may have heard, my recent National Lottery win means that I can finally pay off the mortgage and realise a long-held dream. I am going to retire to the Outer Hebrides and run a distillery. I have enjoyed writing for the Gazette but I always get a pang of guilt when I read George Lundberg's editorial that says he has more material than he has room to publish each month. Just because I am the doctor, why should my drivel get published every month when someone more deserving gets left out? Anyway, the day job doesn't get any easier or less demanding and I am studying science with the Open University so I do not have the time to sit and write every month. Also two other worrying things have occurred which have convinced me I need to stop, firstly I haven't upset anybody for months so I must be losing my touch, but more worryingly, people are beginning to tell me they like this stuff and it is in the interests of their sanity that I am going to desist. I hope that you will have learned something; the messages I gave tried to get across have been:

Don't take anything too seriously (especially life).

*Don't believe everything you read, (especially this).
Black is white it just depends on your perspective.
The Universe is a very big place and we are relatively insignificant.*

Buffy the Vampire Slayer really does exist.

I think it is time for someone else to pick up the baton. How about "A Vicars Life" or "A Farmers Life". I'll bet there are many people out there with an unsuspected talent for writing; after all, it can hardly be any worse than this. I am going off now to find the meaning of Life and when I have found it I will write another column and let you all in on the secret. Until then, unless I get any brilliant bouts of inspiration or unlock any conspiracies that I feel you should know about I will remain silent. Just a few final pieces of advice before I go:

If you don't want to get ill, don't come to the surgery.

There is always someone worse off than you, and I can tell you his name.

If you are out walking on the moors and don't want to get lost take a tube of superglue

With you; it helps you to stick to the path.

Dr. Paul Bond, The Surgery.

Ed. Note: Many sincere thanks Dr. Bond for your input over the years. It has really been greatly valued, as many people will testify, and I know your monthly column will be sadly missed. If you do find the meaning of life, or you want to relate any of your adventures you have looking for it, do let us know. We will always like to hear from you.

Please send articles for the Gazette to:

**George Lundberg - EDITOR
Reeth and District Gazette,
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**MAY GAZETTE
DEADLINE FRIDAY
19th APRIL**

ST. MARY'S CHURCH- MUKER GIFT DAY

On Bank Holiday Monday, 6th May, St. Mary's, Muker will be holding a 'Gift Day'. The Vicar Rev Tim Tunley will be at the church for most of the day to gratefully receive gifts for the work of the church and St. Mary's.

The 'Gift' need not be money but any monetary gifts will be used to finance building repairs to the fabric of the church. If you have a vision for the way your gift might be used in the church, please come and talk about it. Or you may feel the need to say thank you to God and wish to give to His church or make a contribution to the church's work at Muker and in the Parish.

We are not called simply in monetary terms. God calls us to use the talents He has given us for His church, for each other and the community in which we live and serve. This is a new venture for us and I hope and pray God will bless us in this endeavour.

The above Gift Day will be run in conjunction with a:

**Coffee Morning,
cake stall and bring and buy
from 10 am - 12 noon
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TWO DALES PARTNERSHIP WINS APPEAL

On 14th March members of 2DP were thrilled to learn that their appeal for full funding had been successful. The appeal had taken an incredible four months to be settled. "This vindicates our claim that the Two Dales area has a special need for help with economic regeneration because of our population sparsity and remoteness from essential services" said Chairman David Trusson. "Carol Lewis, our Community Development Worker, can now be employed right through to August 2004. 2DP is able to plan for the future with complete confidence".

Carol writes about the next steps:

As reported in previous editions of the Gazette residents of the two dales area should by now have received a leaflet and questionnaire about ICT provision. May I thank all those people who completed and returned the forms. These are now being reviewed and the results will be used to influence the development of the ICT project. In addition a transport survey from the North Yorkshire Rural Community Council (NYRCC) on behalf of the Countryside Agency will have been received by residents. This survey is taking place as a result of the Parish Councils making applications to the Countryside Agency for free transport surveys, which were on offer. The two parishes of Grinton and Reeth were successful in their applications. However, the 2DP considered it important that the whole area was surveyed in order to use the results from the survey to develop transport projects. Funding available from 2DP has been used to pay for the remaining parishes to be surveyed. The results from the integrated transport survey should be available from the NYRCC by April.

High on the agenda is the updating of the Community Investment Prospectus (CIP). Carol is currently talking to key stakeholders in the area to update the information in the original CIP, which was published in January 2001. Public consultation will take place after Easter on the priorities for the update. Further details will follow in future Gazettes. Should you wish to contact Carol Lewis on any of the above issues or you need assistance with your community project telephone 01833 627722 or 0775 2679990.

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FRIDAY 19th APRIL

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 OR SEE PAGE 38 FOR ADDRESS

SAVING USED STAMPS

I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who has saved their stamps.

I have even had some sent by post from people out of the dale, so thank you to them as well. So far I have posted some to the RSPB and delivered some for the Guide Dogs for the Blind.

I also heard about someone who collects them for a Cancer Research Charity so some went there as well.

I aim to continue collecting them all year round and will share them between the three charities, so please keep saving your used stamps.

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Thanks again,

Sue Thompson.



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Jayne Hatton

A big thank you to all who turned out in the snow to come to my birthday bash at the Tudor House Hotel. Thank you for all the lovely presents and cards. Thank you to all who helped with the decorations and balloons and to Kath for helping me clear up and for getting up at an ungodly hour on the Sunday!! Hope all hangovers have gone now!! Can't wait to see the photo's!! - love Jayne

**MAY GAZETTE
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Ministers of the Congregational Chapel, Reeth.

The excitement of the special service of inauguration for Mr Gregson as Minister at Reeth Congregational Chapel set me thinking back over the years to things that happened at the chapel and the ministers I remember from the early part of the last century. My mother, Sarah [Bousfield] Hammond, used to take us children to the chapel every Sunday for as long as I can remember; from the time we were babies. When she left us at home, which was then East Windy Hall, while she went to the evening service, she'd tuck us up in bed and place the big family Bible on the window sill blocking the window. I believe she did this to stop anything evil coming in. Old ways and superstitions were still strongly held in those days. The first minister that I remember, as a very little girl was, the Rev Wendal Jones from Wales. He married a young lady from higher up Swaledale, who also preached. Mr Jones, of course, spoke with a Welsh accent. The Jones' had two children, Gwendoline and Ivor. After serving the people of Reeth for some years, Rev and Mrs Jones felt the call to the mission field in Rhodesia, so away they went on what to everyone seemed to be a hugely exciting adventure. Rev and Mrs Jones had another son while in Rhodesia and after years of missionary work, they died. Their ashes were brought back to Reeth and are in the burial ground behind the Chapel. When the Jones' left, the next

minister to come was Mr Skinner. I remember him as a big, well built man. He and his wife had a daughter about my own age - somewhere between 8 and 10 years old. She was a big, boff girl called Ruby. She had long dark hair in plaits. She had a younger brother called Bernard and two little sisters, Myrtle and Ivy. Poor little Ivy was very delicate and the family had come to Reeth in the hopes that the country air would improve her health. Ruby was, like myself, very good at story writing at school. There was an annual competition for story writing and Ruby won it. Her name was put on the list of winners and displayed on the wall in the school in a glass display case. I wonder if that list is still there!

We children used to go to morning and afternoon Sunday School at the Chapel. There were some wonderful Chapel members who devoted so much time to serving the congregation. I remember at about this time Mr Edward Cherry taught our Sunday School class. We'd meet in the big room behind the Chapel, surrounded by the framed photos of people who'd been at the Chapel in days gone by, gazing down at us from walls. We'd sit on little wooden round backed chairs, with the fire blazing in the hearth on cold winter days, and Mr Cherry would begin by taking a packet of large white mints from his pocket. He'd carefully break each mint in half and give a piece to each of us. We'd sit, sucking in silence,

Cont. on page 14

Cont. from page 13

as Mr Cherry read us a story from a church magazine. It was peaceful, friendly and laid the solid foundations of a knowledge of the Bible. My father, Adam Hammond, was not a regular Chapel goer. He would turn up for a funeral, though, if it was someone he knew. One day he'd put on his funeral clothes - stiff collar, tie, clean white shirt, dark suit and best hat to attend a funeral. Matt Binks stopped him at the door saying "Nay, Adam, wait a minute. I'm away to get props to prop up t'chapel afore thou comest in!" Unable to see the joke about the possibility of the roof falling in at the sight of him appearing at the Chapel, Adam replied, "I'm comin' nay more!" Mr and Mrs Skinner were well liked as Minister and wife. Then tragedy struck. An epidemic of diptheria swept the area and their daughter Myrtle was among several children who died. She was buried in the Chapel yard. The Skinner, family in their sorrow, moved away soon after. Mr and Mrs Woodmass came next. They were a pleasant, very kind and homely couple. Their children were Louie, Tom, Willie and Nancy, who was about my age. During their time at the Chapel I was growing up and taking a greater part in all that went on. I loved singing and was in the choir. From our choir seats on the platform at the front of the Chapel, I remember seeing Willie Raw regularly sitting up in the gallery with his feet dangling over the edge. It always made me anxious that he might

fall. The organ at that time was powered by bellows which had to be pumped with a big wooden handle at the side. My brother Albert was at one time responsible for doing the pumping. One Sunday, when the clocks changed, Albert arrived to pump the organ just as everyone was coming out. He'd forgotten the changed time and had been busy doing his chores at home. He was in utter disgrace for having let us all down. I remember in particular at about this time how, during the summer months, people who ran guest houses to serve the visitors who came to the dale on holiday, would hire maids to help with the extra housework. Many of these maids came from County Durham where there was much poverty in the mining communities. The Blenkiron family owned the Temperance Hotel. One year Maggie and Eadie Blenkiron hired a girl called Mary Brown. Maggie wanted Mary properly dressed to attend Chapet so she smartened up a straw hat for her by sewing a large artificial rose on the front. I can see them now - prim, proper, smartly dressed Maggie Blenkiron stepping down the aisle to her pew, with tall, gawky Mary Brown swaggering after her, her face animated as she pointed out the huge rose to everyone. At the end of the summer Mary Brown went home. Maggie and Eadie had not found her to be a good worker. She had put dirty cutlery away in a drawer! The sad end to the ministry in Reeth

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Cont. from page 14

of Mr Woodmass was the death of Mrs Woodmass. Mr and Mrs Foster were the last Ministers that I remember at the Chapel. By this time I was grown up. The thing I remember Mr Foster for most of all was the sound advice he gave me. My mother had died and I had taken her place looking after the family home, Castle Farm. I wanted to marry, but who would look after Pa and Albert? Both my sisters had left home, Mary was married and Dora away working. Mr Foster told me "I'm your Minister and your friend. I advise you to marry." I was happy to take his advice. Over the years the Chapel was blessed with many wonderful families who supported the Ministers who served the congregation. Besides our own family, the Hammonds, I remember especially the Spences, Cherrys, Aldersons, Mr Reynoldson, Blenkins, Raws and Halls and so many more. The congregation was like one big happy family, kind to each other and tremendously loyal; no one left unless they were moving out of the district. It is so good to know that the heritage of all those ministers and Chapel members is continuing today.

As told by Matty (Hammond) Moralee

Gunnerside School Hockey Team.

On Sunday 24 February Gunnerside School Hockey team travelled to York for a 7-a-side tournament with teams from York, Thirsk, Harrogate and Scarborough. Captained by Susan Whitehead and Andrew Calvert the team

was Joe Sammells, Nigel Waggett, William Porter, Jackie Thornborrow, Emma Hopwood, Eleanor Chadwick and Gail Hunter. Unfortunately Avril Hunter missed due to illness. Despite some excellent play and tenacity Gunnerside, who have not played in matches prior to this, were unable to win any of their games against strong opposition. A couple of weeks later the team played against more equal opposition from Richmond Hockey Club. This time Carol Whitehead, Amos Parkes, Laura Calvert and Zoe Wearmouth joined the team with a little help from Jack Bissicks and Ben Wearmouth. Regular practising (in all weathers) showed as Gunnerside won one game 4-1 and another 1-1 with excellent goals from Avril Hunter, Nigel Waggett and a hatrick from Jackie Thornborrow. Well done everyone.

Alison. (Next match v Hawes, Sunday 7th April 2pm)

WEA Spring Course

A course of six lectures entitled Aspects of Industrial Archaeology in the Dales will begin at Reeth School on Wednesday April 10th at 7.30pm. Anthony Keates is the tutor and the course will cover Water Power, Field Drainage, Stone Extraction, Lime Burning, Charcoal Production and a Coast to Coast Cycle Ride linking these subjects together. All existing and new members most welcome.

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Creation & Evolution

The creation/evolution debate hit the headlines recently with a creationist conference having been held at Emmanuel school in Gateshead. The media coverage surrounding this event has led me to reflect further on the issue. I happened to see six eminent people commenting on it on BBC TV's "Question Time" and I was amazed at the general lack of understanding that was shown. We must never think that the evolution supporters are scientists while the creation supporters are non-scientists who are holding on to ancient myths and fables. In fact, there are many scientists who are creationists, as well as others who are evolutionists. I personally know three University science professors who reject evolution. Actually, the so-called conflict is not primarily to do with science at all because the scientific data dealt with by both creationists and evolutionists is exactly the same. It is just that they interpret it differently, although not for scientific reasons. Really they differ not as scientists but in their understanding of early history. Since no creationist or evolutionist was present when the universe came into being and when the first human beings walked on earth, each must exercise faith to decide how he or she believes it happened. Then the whole thing becomes a question of authority: the evolutionist would have to say that he holds to human authority, the opinion of men, while the creationist would claim that he holds to the authority of the Bible, the Word of God. Can the Bible be trusted however? Is it reliable, especially at the beginning of the Old Testament in the opening chapters of Genesis? Around 100 years ago, Professor Robert Dick Wilson of the Westminster Theological Seminary in the USA decided to dedicate his life to demonstrating the utter trustworthiness of the Old Testament. For 5 years he made himself familiar with 26 languages which had a bearing on Old Testament literature; then, during the next 15 years, he examined the Old Testament text in minute detail in the light of the languages he had learnt; for example, he collected 100,000 quotations

from these languages to illustrate basic facts to show the accuracy of the Old Testament; then, during the remaining 15 years, he wrote up and published his findings. Prof Wilson's conclusion was "I have now come to the conviction that no man knows enough to assail the truthfulness of the Old Testament." Having myself studied the Bible, Old Testament and New Testament, for over 50 years, this is my conclusion too. I do not interpret the whole Bible literally because some of it is poetry, wisdom literature and prophecy given in terms of symbols. Genesis, however, is a historical book and I find no difficulty in interpreting the opening chapters literally without ever feeling that I am committing intellectual suicide. After all, we can only be sure about things that have happened, whether centuries ago or yesterday, if there were reliable eyewitnesses present. About the beginning of the world, God said to Job, "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?" (Job 38 v 4). The only eyewitness present was God the Creator and I accept His testimony unreservedly; it is found in the opening chapters of Genesis. In addition, the New Testament says that Jesus Christ who is God the Son is also the Creator. He is the Word: "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God....All things were made through Him and without Him nothing was made that was made" (John 1 v 1,3). During His earthly ministry He referred to Adam and Eve, Abel, Noah and the Flood; He obviously accepted the historical nature of Genesis. I am a Creationist because all the evidence indicates that the Bible is true in its entirety. The evolution/creation debate is not really a scientific debate at all. It is all about authority: whether we place our faith in the opinion of men or in the opinion of God as revealed in the Bible.

David Gregson

(Minister of Reeth Congregational Church)

Please note the closing date for the May Issue is Friday 19th. April Editorial material can be left at Reeth Post Office.

JAMES CLARKSON (1814 - 1881)

~ A Victorian gentleman of Swaledale ~

James came of a family of Clarksons settled in Satron. Joseph Clarkson (1690-1786) was wealthy; his home had servants' quarters, a warehouse, bakehouse, brewhouse and stables. He owned two watermills, a flock of blackfaced sheep and jagger ponies for transporting fleeces. His carefully kept accounts show that in 1730, for example, he bought cheese, salt, aniseed water, sugar, black pepper, brandy, sweet wine, white wine, peas, gooseberries, apples, salt fish, tea, coffee and hops. He paid his servants £2.10s. a year, and retired at 75, having sold his old wig to his servant for 7s.6d.

His son James married Barbara, the daughter of Marmaduke Theakston of St Martin's Abbey, another wealthy family. Their second son, Marmaduke, born in 1772, became a grocer and married Susannah Fawcett of Angram in 1812, when he was 40 and she was 20. He collected the Poor Rate from 21 houses in Satron, 43 in Muker and 22 in Calverts Houses and Ivelet, and then administered it. His accounts give the nicknames of some of the recipients; many of these names were handed on to their descendants. For example Ellen Metcalfe was 'Rumper Ellin', Jack Metcalfe 'Oggy', William Coates 'Assy Will Bill', James Harker 'Jobber' while his son Christopher was 'Kit Jammy Jobber'. The Marmaduke Clarksons lived at Thwaite for a while then moved to Rash. He died in 1827 leaving Susannah with James born 1814, Barbara 1819, Joseph 1821 and Dorothy 1824, and debts of £360. (The Bank of England's Equivalent Contemporary

Values of the Pound 1996 gives this as £12,233). The family moved to Feetham. Times remained hard for them and in 1830 James was apprenticed for five years to the grocer and druggist of Reeth, Richard, the son of Dr. John Richard McCollah of Reeth, at a fee of £70, which must have been a vast sum for his mother to raise. However by 1832 they knew they would be better off when the children reached 21, because their great-uncle John Theakston, the Rector of Hurworth, who died that year had left £2,000 each to the four children when they reached their majority.

April 1st 1835 was James' 21st birthday and the end of his apprenticeship with Richard McCollah. Before receiving his inheritance, he had drawn up an exact statement of his father's debts and now he was able to pay them all off, telling his brother and sisters he would recoup their share of them when they reached their majority. He celebrated by having a new suit made by James Turner costing 13s.6d, and by awarding himself half a crown a week pocket money. Having a dread of debt, for most of the rest of his life he kept a careful account of expenditures.

He then took another apprenticeship, this time with Matthew Coates of Coates and Cleasby, emigrants from Swaledale, who had a drapery business in Deansgate, Manchester. Coates was the nephew of Joseph Sunter, widower and mine agent of Feetham, a leading Methodist who in 1835 married Susannah Clarkson. Joseph Sunter's son John was also one of Matthew's apprentices. **Turn over / 20**

James Clarkson— cont. from page 19...

James' brother Joseph was sent to school at Hartforth. He wrote to James in the Christmas holidays 1835 .. *"I left Hartforth for my vacation on the 23rd inst. I have got a very good situation. I think his terms are very low; my bill is only £12 this half-year. My sister's was £12 per quarter. He intends to raise his terms for any new pupils so I think it was lucky I went when I did ... I should feel greatly obliged to you if you would send me a Book full of Marches and all the parts to them particularly the march called the York Troop. My mother feels very much that you don't write oftener."*

James seems to have been a poor correspondent, though he kept the letters he received. Adam Barker wrote to him in 1836, *"Your sister Barbara said I was to mind and bray your head for neglecting writing to her."* Barbara wrote, *"My mother has sent you some stockings and she desires you will write before you want more as she is so long in knitting them."* and *"as soon as you write she will send you them waistcoats."*

During James' period with Coates and Cleasby, brother Joseph developed epilepsy and left school. John Wilkinson, James' friend and Dr. McCollah's apprentice, told James *"Joseph takes fits regular. Doctor cupp'd him lately."* However in 1839 Joseph got a post in Newcastle as a wine merchant's clerk.

James returned to Reeth in 1840 and went back to work as a druggist with Richard McCollah, but now as his partner. Joseph wrote enthusiastically about his work, saying that ...

"every farmer's son ought to be sent to a town to learn to be a clerk."

Unfortunately he seems to have been in the worst kind of job for him and in 1841 had to come home 'soaked', causing James, their mother, stepfather and all the family the deepest concern. After his recovery and return to Newcastle he had scarlet fever, and said the place was choking him.

James had saved enough by 1842 to set up a house and shop for himself in Reeth. Furniture and equipment cost him £41.15s.3d. Much of it he bought at the sale of Squire Cope's goods at Keld Green. Chris Croft papered the house for 17s.6d, and he bought 14 yards of carpet at 3s.6d a yard, 11 yards of stair carpet for 14s.8d, a hearthrug for 16s, and two spittoons for 1s each. He employed Ellen Bowes as his housekeeper at £8 a year, and Emma Guy as his servant at 1s a day. In 1845 his mother Susannah died aged 53, leaving Joseph Sunter with their two little girls, Isabella and Susannah. That year Joseph Clarkson was 21. He bought himself a partnership in the Bede Chemical Works at Jarrow, and had begun to buy shares in the booming new business of railways. In 1845 he wrote,

"I have been very fortunate thus far: I fully expect before the close of this week I shall pass £70 by buying and selling and all done within little more than a month." Riding the crest of the wave, he wrote in February 1846, *"I don't intend you to stop in Reeth another 18 months, you are just the man we want, so says Cain (his business partner)."* In April he wrote, *"I shall expect you and uncle over in July at the Agricultural Show when you will witness such a sight as was never seen in the North of England; besides, our new establishment will be in full operation,*

which for beauty and completeness will rival any on the Tyne" But by July the firm had crashed, and the only way out that Joseph could see was for James to put his money into the business. *"I know you will not see me go down if you have it in your power to save me,"* he wrote, *"if you don't, I shall not only be disgraced but ruined for ever. I am at present almost distracted. I know not what to do unless something is done soon. If you can only join us I have no doubt all will be well."*

James put the house and shop up for sale and went to Jarrow in August. His friend John Barker was taking the waters at Harrogate when he heard the news, and wrote, *"I heard that you and your brother were going into business at Newcastle - has the Devil got settled among you?"* Times were bad and the Reeth property hung on for almost a year. James' stepbrother Edward Sunter was looking for work and wrote, *"I suppose you will know that Dr. Mac bought the premises at Reeth - probably you may sell him the business now. As soon as you have anything likely at Jarrow I am ready any time."* Joseph Sunter wrote at the end of July 1847, *"Barbara and husband (John) Close, and Dorothy and husband (James) Knowles were here for Midsummer Day - Joseph and James were much missed. McCollah has bought your shop at Reeth."*

James appears to have helped out at Jarrow long enough to believe that Joseph was on his feet. On returning to Reeth, he went to work as a druggist once more, this time in a partnership with John Blenkiron. His trials were not over; in 1849 Joseph's business finally sank into bankruptcy and he hastily

left for America. James paid Joseph's debts by taking out his money from the Reeth shop and in the York Herald of July 14th 1849 notice was given *"that the partnership heretofore subsisting between the undersigned James Clarkson and John Blenkiron, carrying on business at Reeth in the County of York, was mutually dissolved as and from the nineteenth day of June last. All debts owing to or by the said Partnership will be received by or paid to the said John Blenkiron."*

That year Edward Sunter, James' stepbrother, who had not found work, left for Australia with their two stepsisters, Isabella and Susannah Sunter.

Joseph wrote from New York shortly after his arrival, on his way to Wisconsin where there was a colony of Swaledale and Arkengarthdale folk, including his Fawcett cousins. His next letter was written from Jefferson Furnace, Hazel Green, where he was lodging with Robert Wharton, on September 30th 1851 .. *"I hope you will forgive me for leaving you so abruptly; that, connected with my long silence, will at times make you think I have entirely erased you from my memory. Not so. -*

My love and affection towards you remain the same ... I have been working in the lead furnace a good deal this summer, six hours in a general way was as long as I stood, the remaining portion of the day was spent in shooting...- Hundreds are leaving for California ... I have an offer to go to California next Spring. I think, God willing, I will embrace the opportunity .. I believe the Fawcetts leave here for California in the Spring." **Cont. over/ page 22**

James Clarkson- cont. from page 21...

He remarked that America was *"not what it was cracked up to be. Most people have to work hard and very hard indeed to get along at all."*

When the Blenkiron-Clarkson partnership was finally wound up, James received half the profits. They remained friends for life. John's wife died, leaving a child, Catherine. James sometimes stayed with them, and became an honorary uncle to the little girl.

So with Joseph apparently all right, and his sisters married, James started again, in Thwaite this time, as a grocer like his father, with additional work as an Income Tax assessor. He was able to rig himself out in new clothes bought from Matthew Coates, including six cotton nightcaps at 6d each, and three lambswool vests at 5s.6d each, and stockings from Jane Metcalfe for 1s.4d a pair, later refooted for 6d. As a personal treat, he bought himself a kaleidoscope for 1s.

Thereafter his notebooks record dales weather, notable events and social life as well as expenditures.

His friend John Barker had long been keen to introduce him to eligible young ladies. In 1852 John was on holiday at Seaton Carew and wrote to James, then suffering from 'inflammation of the bowel'. *"Why don't you come down here? You would be delighted and you would find youth, beauty and riches ... Don't let the stoney heart within your noble breast get further growth but snap it asunder and come down and I can introduce you to several."*

Later in the summer he was in Seaton Carew where a Mr and Mrs Tetley and daughter were staying. *"The young lady would be a fine companion for you. There is another single lady from Leeds with a great many fine dangling gold things about her, but no attraction in the face."* James, however, resisted all efforts to "get him off", being more interested in such pursuits as nutting with Tom Peacock in Healaugh Wood.

Reeth drew James and that year he returned, to be employed once again as a druggist by John Blenkiron. In time he was appointed the local agent both of the Loyal Dales Independent Friendly Society and the Swaledale and Wensleydale Bank so he gradually became financially secure. Thereafter he entered into all the activities of the town and supported the good causes of the dale.

Margaret Batty

Ed: Dr Margaret Batty, historian and author of *Bygone Reeth* - now residing in Edinburgh, has kindly forwarded her notes done during her researches into local history. There will follow in future issues of the "Gazette" notes of extracts made by Dr Batty, taken from James Clarkson's letters, notebooks and other papers loaned to her during her researches. Thank you so much.

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CHAIN STORE KIDS

There will be Fashion Show presented by Chain Store Kids in Reeth Memorial Hall on Friday, April 19th. The 'models' will be local schoolchildren. Refreshments will be served and there will be a raffle. Entrance is £1. All proceeds will go towards the Friends of Arkengarthdale School, who have organised the event.

All are welcome.

JAZZ ON THE SWALE

This very successful event held a treat for the many music lovers who attended. The 'Star' performance was the concert held in the Buck Hotel. The excellent facilities of the hotel, and the surroundings of the recently refurbished 'big room' helped to make a wonderful evening for the many who attended this sell out concert on the Saturday night. Phil Mason's new Orleans All Stars with singer Christine Tyrell thrilled the foot tapping (and some even found room to dance!) audience. The 11 Stars consist of Phil Mason, cornet and vocals, 'Trefor "fingers" Williams on Bass, Ron McKay, 'Gentleman' Jim McIntosh on Banjo, Roger Myerscough (from Arkengarthdale) on clarinet & sax, and Martin Bennet on Trombone and vocals, and Christine Tyrell on vocals. This concert sadly was the last the will include this fine trombone player. He has unfortunately retired from playing trombone professionally, but will be concentrating on playing piano, the

instrument he first learned to play, and so hopefully we may see him again in our area. The All Stars very full programme included many pieces which showed the versatility and musicianship of all the group. Numbers played included Bill Bailey, Sweet Sue, Butter and Egg Man, Loveliest Night of the Year, The Storm is Passing Over, Nobody Loves You, Tie Me To Your Apron Strings, Cakewalking Baby, Ring Them Golden Bells, and He'll Have To Go. This was a truly excellent concert, by a very professional group who had absolutely no problems in communicating with their audience. The success could be measured by the many who left the Hotel just wishing they could get up and play, because the All Stars sound just instilled that feeling. Well done the organisers, and here's to Jazz On The Swale.

St. Edmunds's Church, Marske

On Sunday April 21st at 6:0pm. There will be service of Evensong, and the preacher will be the Bishop of Ripon. The service is a celebration after the recent alterations and installation of a new organ. All are welcome.

REETH AND DISTRICT TEA DANCE

There will be a Tea Dance in the Reeth Memorial Hall on April 11th. Between 2 & 4 pm. Music is to the Mike Rose Band. Tickets are priced at £2 and refreshments will be served. All welcome. It promises to be a good social afternoon.



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 Val, Helen, David and baby
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St. Mary's Church, Arkengarthdale

Thanks to all who supported the Cheese and Wine Evening in aid of St, Mary's Church. Thanks also to Mr. David Williams for hosting the event which raised £375 for Church funds.

'Just a thought'

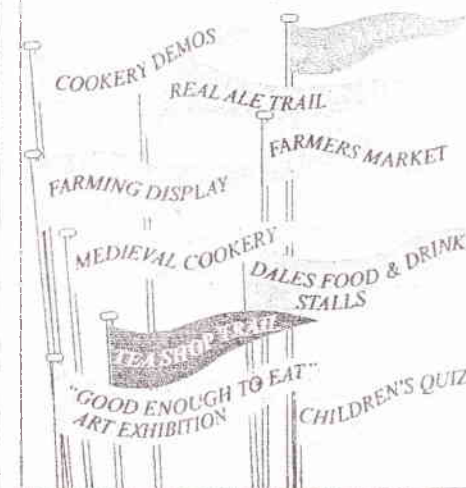
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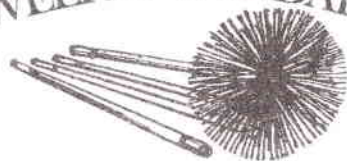
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Email :

gallowstop2@netscapeonline.co.uk

or leave at Reeth Post Office.

The Golden Jubilee

Please do let us know of events that are happening, and don't forget, any memories of the Coronation you would like to share, do let us know.

Arkengarthdale Sports

Arkengarthdale Sports will be held on Saturday 1st. June at 1:00 pm. A good way to celebrate the Golden Jubilee (some of us remember Arken'dale Sports on the Coronation day, June 2nd 1953 !) Usual Classes, Fancy Dress, Races and excellent afternoon teas. Do go along, take the family and make it a day to remember.

PARISH OF SWALEDAL WITH ARKENGARHTDALE 'VOCATIONS'

What does this mean for us today?

A workshop with Janet Newall
(member of the Bishop's Vocations Advisory Team)
at St. Mary's Church, Arkengarthdale
On April 14th. Starting at 10 am followed by
Holy Communion (BCP) at 11:15 am.
Coffee at 10:45 and after the service.

ALL WELCOME

WENSLEYDALE DECORATIVE AND FINE ARTS SOCIETY.

English Churches from 700AD to today was the subject of the March lecture to the Society. Mr John F H Smith drew on his lifetime's study of the subject illustrated by many excellent slides. Mr Smith emphasised that there was something of interest in almost every church and some outstanding churches in unlikely places. Though his examples were from all parts of the country, a high proportion were North Yorkshire churches with illustrations of the 7th c. crypt at Ripon cathedral, a 9th c. cross at Masham, Wensley with the Bolton family pew, Aysgarth with the Jervaulx screen, Pickering, West Tanfield, Coxwold and Whitby. Mr Smith traced the development of church building from simple Saxon structures, through Norman, Early English, and Perpendicular. The Gothic revival resulted from the views of the Oxford movement from 1833 onwards and the rejection of classical influences. Finally, a number of modern churches were illustrated. The next meeting is at 8pm (Note change of time) on Tuesday, 9th April when Michael Howard will speak on I. S. Lowry. This precedes the visit of a number of members the following week to the Lowry Gallery in Salford and the Walker Art Gallery in Liverpool.

For information about WDFAS contact
Dr Margaret Hoyle on 01969 663046.



Dear Sir,

Are all visitors welcome?

A letter in your March gazette (A Brighter Future) ended with the sentence, "with the onset of the new tourist season hopefully once again visitors will flock to enjoy the spectacular scenery and warm character of Two Dales". Am I a welcome visitor if I come with my faithful friend 'Clyve', a very handsome Border Terrier? I see that your March Gazette has many adverts for 'refreshment stops' but none say 'dogs are welcome' - the only reference to 'dogs are welcome' being in the "GOOD FRIDAY WALK" notes. Could future advertiser's please include a dog symbol on their advert if their establishment is "dog friendly".

Charles Davies. Warlingham, Surrey.
PS. I would like to reassure Margaret Johnson that I always carry a roll of sandwich bags' to remove any "waste" - re "Dog Fouling in Gunnerside."

Keld Badminton Club

Keld Badminton Club have just finished another good season. Although no silverware was won many young players have gained a lot of experience and confidence. Welcome to all our new players. Teams were entered in the Wensleydale mens and ladies league, a mixed handicap competition, the "b"

division and the junior league. The annual U18's tournament at Askrigg saw Jackie, Hannah and Linda Thornborrow, Carol and Susan Whitehead, Rebecca and William Porter, Ben and Jonathan Hall, Gary and Steven Coates, Andrew and Matthew Calvert, Chris Rukin and Ian Reynoldson all play very well. A club tournament for the U14's saw Jackie Thornborrow win, with her sister Hannah as runner up. Carol Whitehead won player of the tournament with William Porter winning most improved player of the season. Susan Whitehead and Andrew Calvert won awards for winning the most games for Keld in the junior league. A big thankyou to Carol Raw for coaching the younger children. Anyone interested in playing badminton at any level please contact Dot (886329) or Alison (885335).

Thank you to all who turned up to the Swaledale and Wensleydale Consumer's Unit Re-union. I had a great night and I hope you did too. Hope we can do it again sometime.
R.T.Bainbridge.

Gunnerside Music Festival

Gunnerside Methodist Church is the venue for a weekend of music from 26th-28th July, 2002. This will include the bi-annual visit of the York Philharmonic Male Voice Choir. More details later - please book this date.

Remember, all items for inclusion in the Reeth and District Gazette may be left at Reeth Post Office.

NOTICES

SWALEDALE WOOLLENS of **Muker** has a vacancy for a responsible part time shop assistant to work on one or more days during the coming summer season. For more details please write to Mrs Spensley at Swaledale Woollens Ltd., Strawbeck, Muker, Richmond, North Yorkshire. DL11 6QH

The FARMERS ARMS - MUKER
Cook required to help prepare meals and snacks in a busy pub kitchen. Must be prepared to work evenings and weekends approx. 20 - 25 hours per week. Person willing to learn considered. Please apply Mrs Bellwood - 01748 - 886297

St. Mary's Church Arkengarthdale will hold a DCC Meeting at 7.45 pm on Monday April 22nd in Arkle Town. Our thanks go to Bob Gale for clearing out the rubbish from the high guttering and for inspecting our roof problems and to Ray Wright for making our new candle holders.

Secretary, Enid Lundberg.

Gunnerside Chapel

East Witton Male Voice Choir will give a concert in the Chapel
on Saturday April 20th
7.30 pm

Admission £ 3.00 pay at the door.
Proceeds in aid of Chapel funds.



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GUNNERSIDE SCHOOL**Singing Success**

The children of the school took part recently in the Wensleydale Tournament of Song. The entire school formed a choir and entered three classes. They acquitted themselves well, winning two of the classes: The Action Song and the Round. They were presented with a cup for their rendition of 'Ye Cannae Shove Yer Granny Off A Bus' in the Action Song. There were also individual winners and place winners in various classes. The children will be taking part in a concert on Easter Monday 1st April which is to be held in Gunnerside Chapel at 7 pm. They will perform their two winning songs. For a very small school this was an exceptional performance.

LOW ROW WOMENS CIRCLE

Miss Marjorie Daniels presented a fascinating slide show based on her holiday in Alasaka to members and residents at Quaker Close on 6th March. The superb photography transported everyone to the remote country, showing aspects of its dramatic terrain and unique wild life from land, air and cruiser.

Refreshments were provided by Mrs Jenny Sunter and Mrs Susan Alderson. The President, Mrs Miriam Humphries, thanked Miss Daniels for giving everyone such an interesting afternoon.

GRINTON PARISH HALL

WHIST DRIVE
Wednesday April 17th
7.30 pm

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Adverts in these columns can be sent direct to Mike Beckwith at Breconside Muker or left at Reeth Post Office with payment. Please mark for attention Mike Beckwith. Kindly Note No payment - no printing.

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2 Dales Children's Football Club.

The weather continues severely to restrict both matches and practices but we did entertain Bishopdale at home with great success. The under 12 team won their main League match 4-3 in a very good and hard fought game. Scorers were Peter Burt, who was also man of the match, 2, Ben Wearmouth and Adam Calvert. The under 15 squad played next to win a League match 8-2. Scorers were Lawrence Arnott 2, Jonny Gregg, Thomas Barningham 2, Michael Harker, Simon Calvert and Robert Wilhelm. Our team played particularly well together and thoroughly deserved their win. Man of the match was Thomas Barningham.

The under 12 B team, which includes players as young as 8 finally finished the morning with a friendly match which they won 8-1. Scorers were Ben Hall 2, Steven Coates, Colin Blatherwick, Jack Lord, Mathew Calvert, Jack Bissicks and Harvey Pilgrim. It was so nice to see the goals well spread. Again this team played really well and Steven Coates was voted man of the match.

Mrs Keyse kindly hosted a coffee morning at Hackney House, £260 was raised for club funds, particularly transportable goal posts so we can play at Reeth or elsewhere. Many thanks to all the people and businesses which supported the event. We have also received a generous grant from the Thomlinson Trust for the same purpose.

David Williams 884650

MAY ISSUE DEADLINE
FRIDAY 19TH. APRIL PLEASE.

PALM SUNDAY

Reeth Methodist Church sang out with Hosannah in a different way on Palm Sunday. Although a traditional message was given through the prayers, readings a address, and the traditional palm cross, the music had a 'Gospel Feel' as the Phil Mason New Orleans All Stars accompanied the extremely large congregation in the singing of the Gospel Songs. The singing in the main was lead by Christine Tyrell whose deep rich voice could not fail to inspire. Hymns were When I move To The Sky, How Great Thou Art, Swing Low Sweet Charriot, Morning Has Broken. Light From The Lighthouse, Nobody's Fault But Mine. There were many high musical moments, but the one for me was Roger Myerscough's (from Arkengarthdale) emotional clarinet playing in The Old Rugged Cross. This was a really uplifting service giving an extra push to the Palm Sunday message 'Here comes God's King—Praise God'. What a way to start the week! GL.

Millennium Committee Family Fireworks Fund : Race Night

There will be a Race Night on Friday April 5th. at the Buck Inn, Reeth. The first race begins at 8 pm and all betting is to the Tote system. There will be 8 races, all in full colour and sound to a large screen with Master of Ceremonies and commentaries. Come and have a night at the races. Have lots of fun and enjoy yourselves. All profits to the Millennium Committee Family Firework Fund.

Please note all Editorial material to
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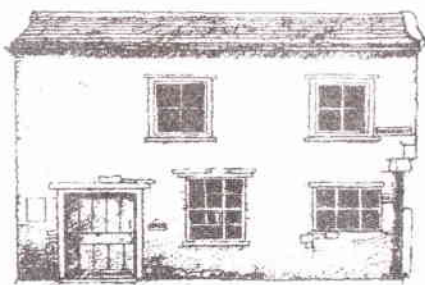
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06/02

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05/02

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GAZETTE DEADLINE FOR MAY FRIDAY 19th APRIL

The 'Gazette' welcomes all types of
general interest and news item scripts,
hand written, on floppy disk or by e:mail
to ; mike@beckwith5.freemove.co.uk
OR SEE PAGE 38 FOR ADDRESS

Can This Really Be True ?

Getting ready to go to a wedding, I was thinking about life in general, and how things were, or might have been, how things had turned out — you know the way one does, just being generally reflective — when I remembered something said to me about advice once given to young women about being a good wife. In this Jubilee Year it seems quite appropriate to reflect on how things were viewed fifty years ago. I do hasten to add that the views are entirely historical, and NOT my own or indeed any member of the Gazette's team (this is in case we may very unfairly and unjustly be branded as MCP's — which of course we are not, and in any case to hold such views today may be termed as living dangerously, and certainly would not help our deep harmonious marital bliss). But to print them may bring a little lightness into our lives, as we can all dream !

The Good Wife's Guide !

Have dinner ready. Plan ahead, even the night before, to have a delicious meal ready, on time for his return. This is a way of letting him know that you have been thinking about him and are concerned about his needs. Most men are hungry when they come home and the prospect of a good meal (especially his favourite dish) is part of the warm welcome needed.

Prepare yourself. Take 15 mins. To

rest so you'll be refreshed when he arrives. **Touch up your make** — up, put a ribbon in your hair and be fresh looking. He has just been with a lot of work weary people.

Be a little gay and a little more interesting for him. His boring day may need a lift and one of your duties is to provide it.

Clear away the clutter. Make one last trip through the main part of the house just before your husband arrives.

Gather up schoolbooks, toys, paper etc. and then run a dust cloth over the tables.

Over the cooler months of the year you should prepare and light a fire for him to unwind by. Your husband will feel he has reached a Haven of Rest and Order, and it will give you a lift too. After all, catering for his comfort will provide you with immense personal satisfaction.

Prepare the children. Take a few minutes to wash the children's hands and faces (if they are small), comb their hair and, if necessary, change their clothes. They are little treasures and he would like to see them playing the part.

Minimise all noise. At the time of his arrival, eliminate all noise of the washer, dryer or vacuum. Try to encourage the children to be quiet.

Be happy to see him.

Greet him with a warm smile and show sincerity in your desire to please him.

Listen to him. You may a dozen important things to tell him, but the moment of his arrival is not the time.

