

FRIENDS OF SWALEDALE MUSEUM



Welcome to our latest Newsletter. Firstly I want to thank all those of you who have supported the Museum in so many different ways, whether it was as a volunteer, a visitor to the Museum, attending our talks, or our events; we value your support a great deal. I also want to thank the committee for all their work, and lastly, I want to thank Tracy for not only putting together the newsletters, but also badgering people to write articles in such a kind and unpushy way! I know the weather has been awful, but the Museum is always a welcoming place to be, even on the worst wet and windy days.

Janet Bishop, Chair of the Friends of Swaledale Museum

What can I say? Down but not out. Although we have had far fewer visitors this year (due to bad weather, economic crisis and the Olympics) we have kept up our momentum of activities.

We kicked off with two excellent sessions run by Marion Moverley on *Delving into the Archives* which celebrated the opening of our new archive room. In May we hosted a book launch of Tim Gate's new book *The Great Trial*, with accompanying walk to the site of this early eighteenth century boundary and mineral rights dispute. Tim held us entranced, and we hope that he continues his researches back in time into the sixteenth century. During the year we have had several group visits which are always welcome including the Wensleydale Rotary Club, who were also tremendously generous in giving us a handsome donation to the Museum. We have also had West Witton and Ravensworth WIs, as well as a group from the Yorkshire Dales National Park on their annual 'day off'.



A felt field mouse in his nest - part of the North Eastern Feltmakers' show

We have been able to assist a wide range of researchers including Jo Garlick, a young artist who wants to paint scenes from the history of lead mining in the dale and Sally Zaranko, working on a book related to the songs of the well-loved local group *Fourum*.



Tea in the Community Orchard - the Grand Tea Party was a great success again, & this time it didn't rain!

Our three temporary exhibitions have been much appreciated by all visitors. Many popped in to see 'Edith' one of Stuart Howat's photographs, linking his 2011 show with the current one of dales people with their treasured objects, part of an ongoing project. Stuart's work has been accompanied by Tessa Asquith Lamb's papercuts and etchings which have captured the imagination of many. A group of us were amazed that Tessa managed to take us through Japanese, Ukrainian and Mexican paper cutting at her sold out workshops which we hosted. The North Eastern Feltmakers' show *Felt Contained* brought colour and variety to the Museum and many new visitors. We had a very successful Meet the Makers session when the Museum was positively fizzing with felt! We also appreciated once again the work of Richmond and Leyburn Embroiderers' Guild whose work centring on *Commemoration* tackled themes personal and public, contemporary and historic.

Two of our most successful fund raisers have been our second Grand Tea Party and the Magic Lantern Slide Show. We were blessed with lovely weather for our Tea in the Community Orchard, and warm thanks are given to all those who baked and served; as well as to those who dressed up so elegantly. Andrew Gill's slide show was rumbustuous, entertaining, surprising and historical. Accompanied by loud asides from the audience we journeyed from Keld to Richmond in the 1940s. (cont on page 3)

The Swaledale & Arkengarthdale Archaeology Group - uncovering a Romano-British settlement in Swaledale.

For two weeks at the end of July members of SWAAG dug a site at Hagg Farm, Fremington, supervised by archaeologists, Tony Liddell and Steff Piper of Durham University. The site, on Brenda and David Clark's farm, had been identified by Tim Laurie as a possible Romano-British settlement. It was surveyed by SWAAG members using Stephen Eastmead's techniques for GPS handheld receivers and by Durham University with geophysics equipment. These surveys



confirmed Tim's initial assessment and so it was with some eager anticipation that the dig began.

The team made swift progress and had soon opened up two trenches and erected a mess tent, bought from a local scout group.

Finds came fairly quickly with several pieces of Iron Age pottery (right) found in the top soil.

Soon the diggers were down to what is known as the abandonment phase; that is, the surface as it was when the site was last occupied. This turned out to consist of three or more stone flagged



floors of what seem to have been roundhouses. The surfaces were in surprisingly good condition. The photograph to the left shows one of these floors from above.



An intriguing feature of two of these floors was what appeared to be straight cut stone door sills with bolt holes drilled out to retain, in the case of the one shown, probably two overlapping doors. This is a rare feature on Romano-British buildings.



During the two week dig several pieces of Iron Age pot were uncovered as well as a small number of Roman pieces, two of which shown to the left were from same vessel, apparently a high-class bowl.

This was a most successful dig. The finds were all from the Iron Age / Romano-British period with none from the medieval period.

This suggests that the settlement was occupied during the Roman period and perhaps abandoned around the time the Romans left Britain in 400AD, not to be seen again until SWAAG uncovered it in the summer of 2012.

SWAAG wishes to thank Brenda and David Clark for giving permission to carry out this dig and their mother, Mary Clark, for her support throughout. Her late husband, Chris, thought that their farm had been occupied for centuries, perhaps millennia; he was right.

SWAAG is supported by LEADER, a European initiative for assisting and funding rural communities, administered by North Yorkshire County Council. To find out more about the activities of SWAAG visit www.swwag.org or contact the author via the Museum.

Alan Mills

All photos © Stephen Eastmead

Angie Pedley has just donated a group of documents relating to her father Francis Harold (Frank) Pedley (d.2010) to the Museum Archive. Many of you will know that he was one of the brothers of Elsie Pedley who ran Grinton Post Office. Frank left Grinton to go to Richmond School then Oxford. He joined the army in 1940 and served with the Education Corps. His reasons for conscientious objection to military service are very moving, and as relevant now as then. We also have his Primrose League certificate, Soldier's Service and Release Books and his Post Office Savings Bank book registered at Grinton, as well as numerous copies of news cuttings about the family. These papers will be added to our expanding family history archive.



The Museum has made a **very unusual acquisition!** This little albino mole was shot by Francis Raw, a farmer at Harland House in Marrick, over 150 years ago!

Kept for years in a shed we are hoping to restore him to his former glory- and must surely be a centrepiece to a new display on local curiosities!

Discovered in a garden in Grinton by a friend of the Museum, Jonathan Dawson! Is this the 'foundation' stone for the Reeth Wesleyan Methodist Day School (aka the Swaledale Museum)? We thought it was built in 1836 but the stone says 1839. If anyone has any information please do let us know!



Don't forget to come to the Friends' **2012 CHRISTMAS PARTY**
15th December, 6pm - 10pm at
Fremington Sunday School
Any contributions of food/drink will be gratefully received!

(cont from page 1) 'That is Crow Trees' remarked the unflappable Mr Gill. 'No it's not it's Muker and that's my Grandfather' shouted a familiar voice from the audience. The evening was such a success that I have asked Andrew back in June 2013 to show us the rest of his Swaledale and Arkengarthdale slides!

I would also like to thank all those who came and gave talks to the Friends of the Museum. We heard some amazing presentations, from Tony Nicholson tracking the family responsible for all the things hidden away in the attic of a house he had just purchased to Gill Savage on her thesis theme of the Ministry of Defence and Archaeology. As some of the talks were not very well attended this year we are re-thinking our lecture strategy for 2013. If there are people you would like to hear, do let us know! To my stalwart helpers, especially Margaret, Carole, Nicky, Christine, Marjorie and Janet a very big thank you. Without Tracy I would be in a fix, and that is to put it mildly. Even breaking her wrist has not stopped her producing this Newsletter! Graham from *ScenicView* - thank you for maintaining our website so efficiently.

Our visitors have come from all over the world. We were delighted to see members of the Croft family from Australia in July, and we were able to discuss future plans with them for a display centring on Cuthbert Croft, tinsmith, of Reeth (*right*). Prof. Ann Clarke, daughter of the first director of the Madras Museum in India was one of our most exotic guests.



John Cranston came to visit the Museum in October and sent us the following notes about the early telephone service in Reeth:

The telephone service in Swaledale appears to have begun with the opening of Richmond exchange. The first 24 subscribers were listed in the 1903 directory, which said the exchange was to be 'opened shortly'.

The service penetrated further up the dale within a few years: the 1907 directory said that 'call offices' - which would probably have been telephones housed in internal wooden kiosks or 'silence cabinets' (*right*)- were to be opened shortly in the post offices in Arkengarthdale, Gunnerside, Keld, Low Row, Muker and Reeth. Anyone wishing to make a call would have paid for it at the post office counter, and the service would only have been available during opening hours.

The earliest mention I can find of other telephone subscribers in Reeth was in the 1921 directory, which lists only Barclays Bank (Reeth 2) and the police station (Reeth 3). By then there would have been a small telephone exchange (a switchboard) almost certainly in the post office. Margaret Ward, sub-postmistress, was listed in the directory as Reeth 1.

The 1922 directory lists Reeth exchange as offering a telephone service only between 8am and 8pm Monday to Saturday and between 8.30am and 10 am on Sundays. And then only when Margaret wasn't busy serving in the shop, presumably!

The manually-operated switchboard would have continued in service until the mid-1930s. The 1936 directory shows Reeth subscribers for the first time as having three-digit numbers (the post office is Reeth 201, Grinton call office is Reeth 215), suggesting that the automatic equipment at the small telephone exchange building, which still stands in the yard opposite Reeth village store, was about to come into use, or had already done so. By then the telephones would have been fitted with dials. The subscribers would have been able to dial their own calls; presumably only to other subscribers in Reeth but possibly also to Richmond and Gunnerside (which was by then also automated, but using an earlier form of exchange which had two-digit numbers). All other calls would have had to be connected by the operator at Richmond - by dialling '0'.

I'd be fascinated to know if anyone has any memories of the service.

John Cranston crandaw@btinternet.com

I will leave you with some of the remarks left in this year's visitors' book which make the whole enterprise worth it:

Carole and Geoff from Ormskirk thought the Museum 'A unique gem, keep it going'; the Allenson's of Powick in Worcestershire 'always find something that we missed last time', while the Milers from Staines thought 'What a fascinating journey into the past'. Mr Jobling from Nidderdale felt that it was 'very moving to touch the same pew end as my ancestors. My great, great, great aunt was baptised at Grinton in 1791'. The Masons of Nottingham exclaimed 'Brilliant local museum, very interesting and well set out', while the Athertons of Middlesbrough thought it the 'Best we have ever seen. Really enjoyed ourselves one of the best places we've visited'.

Kerrie Sutton from the Gold Coast of Australia wrote: 'Excellent museum - love it!'; while Shirley Paffendorf from Neuss Germany thought it was 'A mine of local history'. Anne May from Norwich observed 'So much history in such a small space', while Roger and Judy from Northamptonshire voted it 'The best small museum I've ever visited'.

So thank you all for supporting us amidst difficult times, we need you more than ever, and fingers-crossed for next year! *Helen Bainbridge - Curator*



From the collection of Cuthbert Croft's tools - an oil can made from an old cocoa tin!



The Museum has received some more reminiscences about Reeth and Swaledale during the Second World War from an ex-RECCE Corps member, adding to our growing collection, and supplementing Keith Jackson's article which we published last year. Mr John Grundy has sent in a few of his memories from which we have selected highlights below:



Troopers Dave Randall & John Grundy

The Reconnaissance Corps was formed in 1941 and was charged with gathering 'vital tactical information in battle for infantry divisions'. Using mainly armoured cars they were very mobile units who probed the enemy lines and radioed back the information. Sir Arthur Bryant summarised their role as that of 'the cat's whiskers – armoured, mechanised transmitting whiskers. Those who served had to be intelligent, brave, enterprising and highly skilled.'

The public was given the impression of super-soldiers. *The Daily Mail* described RECCE men as tough with cold, scientific brains behind their brawn. Some press reports even suggested that the corps might make the Commandos redundant, since its soldiers could march scores of miles a day without food and still fight like furries.* I did not choose to be a member of such an elite unit so can only imagine that somewhere along the line a recruiting officer was having a bad day!

After basic training the recruits moved up Swaledale:

Training had been hard enough at Catterick but Reeth was a battle camp where the pressure was intense for several weeks. The Burgoyne Hotel was headquarters and also officers' quarters whilst we occupied Nissen huts to the rear. Long speed marches carrying heavy gear were on the menu most days, learning how to cross swollen rivers, crawling along ditches for what seemed to be miles and night exercises along Fremington Edge with lots of booby traps and with machine guns firing tracer bullets just above our heads!



RECCE Corps badge

But the big event was probably the "We two" scheme. We were dropped in pairs at night somewhere in the Howgills with our rifles, map, compass and a 24 hour ration (a small bar of dark chocolate, a handful of raisins and a very hard six inch square biscuit which had to be soaked in water before you could get your teeth into it). We had to cross the fells to report at the Moorcock Inn and coming down of Baugh Fell we were threatened with a shotgun as we looked rather like German paratroopers in our helmets. However the farmer's wife insisted that we went inside where we fed on the finest bacon sandwiches I have ever tasted. As it grew dark we met up with other troopers and marched along to Hawes. The smell of fish and chips greeted us but we could see our instructors inside the shop. However, the kindly owner ushered us into an outhouse where we fed royally. Had we been spotted by the instructors we would have failed the scheme.

Walking through the night over Buttertubs Pass, Muker, Thwaite, Low Row etc was very exhausting and the good citizens of Reeth must have had their sleep disturbed around 4.30am as we had to finish by firing five rounds to prove we had kept our rifles dry!

Many of the locals were very friendly and I remember a group of us went to evening service in a local chapel. They were short of an organist so I played and afterwards we were all invited to supper at a nearby house. This meant so much to us and we really appreciated it. I played again for the next two weeks.

I was brought up in Derbyshire and have lived in Cumberland for over 60 years...but since my army days I've kept a very warm spot in my heart for the beauty of Swaledale and Arkengarthdale. To the good people of this area may I say thank you on behalf of all ex-RECCE troopers who trained here and were so often scared out of their wits!

Ex-trooper John Grundy, Carlisle

*Quoted by permission from 'The British Reconnaissance Corps in World War Two' – Osprey Publications.

John Grundy adds: "I would love to hear anyone else's memories of that time." If anyone would like to get in touch with him, please contact the Museum for his postal address.



Last year Judy Abson wrote about her mother's house, *Tynedale*, in Reeth which was the village police station. The earliest known police officer in residence there was Joseph Martindale. As a result of that article Judy has been contacted by Joseph's great great granddaughter, Lynda Johns, who has sent this photograph of the man himself.

The former cricket leagues of North Yorkshire

Although league cricket is alive and well in North Yorkshire there are fewer leagues than in the past and I am trying to collect information about those leagues that are no longer in existence including *The Swaledale League* of which Richmond was a member in the early 1950s. Other clubs included Arkengarthdale, Hudswell and Ravensworth. If any reader can help with information about the league, even basic stuff about the date of its demise and where clubs played, then please get in touch. Please do not feel that any information is too trivial, from little acorns...
John Winn john.winn@mypostoffice.co.uk

Geoff Sutcliffe, Chairman of the British Banking History Society asks if anyone local might have some old cheques or other paper ephemera relating to the Swaledale & Wensleydale Banking Co which they would be willing to sell or donate to the Society. He also sent us this article about the bank, written by one of the BBHS members.

A solid Dales institution: the bank that issued its own notes almost 200 years ago.

John Robson looked down on the market place at Leyburn on a typical dales morning, only a few souls emerging from the mist & drizzle, & contrasted the hustle & bustle he had left behind in London where he had worked as a clerk at Messrs Gosling & Sharpe, Bankers. The nineteenth century was only a few years old & John had been invited to join the newly formed banking partnership of Hutton, Other & Company to manage their Leyburn Office in premises at the west side of the Wesleyan Chapel.

John Hutton, a substantial land owner who lived at Marske Hall, Richmond, founded the partnership around 1804 with a Mr Wood of West Burton & Thomas Other of Elm House, Redmire.

Although banks were familiar in the City of London at this time they were only just emerging in Yorkshire. Indeed as late as 1750 there was no evidence of any firm engaged solely in banking in the county. No doubt John Robson & a Mr Ellis, also from London, who joined the partnership were able to bring their experience to help lay a firm foundation. In this they succeeded to the extent that Hutton, Other & Company were appointed Deputy Receivers of Taxes for the North Riding of Yorkshire. In common with other private banks they issued their own notes styling themselves "Richmond & Swaledale Bank".

The partners would travel between the various towns (in daylight & armed) exchanging the notes issued by other local banks for their own or drafts on London. The bank never had to contend with 'a run' where many depositors all wanted their money out at once (usually following losses or rumours of losses incurred) which had brought down many other banks who had often over-issued banknotes. Clearly the partnership observed banking prudence by only issuing a sensible ratio of notes to specie (gold coins) they held. They even survived the demise of their London Agents, Sir Peter Pole, Bart. & Company in 1825.

As the bank grew the partners decided to take advantage of Government Regulations & convert into a Joint Stock Company in 1836 under the title "Swaledale & Wensleydale Banking Company". At that time the partners other than John Hutton were Christopher Other of Elm House, Redmire; William Ware of Leyburn & Isaac Fisher of Richmond. Branches were established at Bedale; Hawes; Leyburn & Masham with the head office at Richmond. The new bank was able to issue their own notes until Barclay & Company acquired the business in 1899.

What happened to John Robson? He married Frances, they lived happily above the bank at Leyburn (eventually moving to premises on the other side of the road - the present Barclays branch), & had one son & two daughters. Sad to relate, on his way from Richmond to Leyburn on 22 November 1819 John's horse fell & he was thrown out of his conveyance & died as a result.

Malcolm W Loble - with acknowledgements to The Upper Wensleydale Newsletter

The BBHS incorporates the British Cheque Collectors Society which was founded in 1980 by a group of enthusiasts with a common interest in the history of banks & banking & in collecting old cheques, covering over 300 years of financial dealings. Full details are on the Society's website www.banking-history.co.uk

Richard Garnett, owner of Duke Mary's House (aka Butt's Intake) on Whitaside, would like to hear from anyone with information about Duke Mary (Mary Metcalfe), after whom the house is named. She was born at Birk's End around 1840 and died some time after 1911, while living with her illegitimate daughter Margaret, who, in 1895, married Robert Thompson, who kept the Moorcock Inn at Garsdale Head. She was buried in the "long" chapel in Low Row, and features in all the accessible censuses.

Mary is variously described as 'thin and tall' and 'short strongly built' by witnesses recorded by Margaret Batty and John Hardy, and also by Mr Appleton of Hollin House and Mrs Gill at the Post Office talking to the author T. H. White, who spent the winter of 1945/6 at Duke Mary's.

T. H. White learnt from Mr Appleton: Above the green patch by the gill there is an area known as Duke Mary's Peat Hole. She used to cut her turf there for firing. She was employed by Miss Garth's father to look after the sheep on the mountain. She got some pay, this cottage, and one field in which she kept a blue cow and reared a calf. Although she never married, she had two children, a boy and a girl. She bore one of them naturally when on the moor, wrapped it up her apron, carried it home and it survived. She lived to be 80 and somewhat. She did not die in this cottage. When infirm, she was carried off by her daughter, who had married the proprietor of the Moor Cock, and she died in that inn. She was brought home over the mountain on a sledge in her coffin, and when she 'landed' it was pitch dark. The daughter brought her. Mr Appleton, when a boy, was one of the party who waited here to meet the corpse. She is buried in the "long" chapel in Low Row. Mr Appleton was sent up here, when she was very old, to help her on winter nights with the hay for the cow, etc. He would enter the kitchen, where she would sit in a rocking chair with a round table beside her and another rocking chair opposite. She would say to him: "Sit oop, lad. Thou'rt gitten a growing boy and needst feeding." Then she would produce 2 eggs from the kettle in which she was boiling tea - she always boiled all together - and they would eat. She was a 'rough-spoken' woman. She was thin and tall.

Richard would be particularly interested to know whether she had any living descendants through Robert and Margaret Thompson? You can contact him directly at richardgarnett@waitrose.com or ask the Museum for his postal address.



Duke Mary's House on Whitaside

The local folk group, *Fourum*, are celebrating 40 years together this year and have put together a book based on the 3 CD boxed set of Allen Miller's songs, based on the history, characters and legends of the dales, entitled '*The Dales Collection*'.

The book contains research and back ground to each of Allen's songs. Written and compiled by Allen Miller and Bob Hattersley, the book will contain some of Bob's historical maps, with additional illustrations, information and photographs added by Sally Zaranko. As many of the songs involve particular characters from Swaledale (Adam Barker, James Broderick and Neddy Dick to name but three) local research in the Swaledale Museum and North Yorkshire Archives has proved invaluable.

The book is due to be published in 2013 – so if anyone who is familiar with the *Dales Collection* of songs by *Fourum* has any information, photographs or stories that they would like to contribute to the project, please contact Sally Zaranko directly by email or via the Museum.

Sally Zaranko whashtongirls@fsmail.net



Neddy Dick & his stone organ

KNITTING CAFE & CRAFT GROUP

Not just for Knit Wits! All sorts of crafts have been turning up so bring along whatever you're into. Everyone welcome, all at 2pm.

- 8 Nov Craft Group at Reeth Vicarage
- 15 Nov Craft Group at The Buck Hotel, meet earlier for pub lunch if desired
- 26 Nov Knitting Group TBA
- 6 Dec Craft Group at Reeth Vicarage
- 13 Dec Craft Group at The Buck Hotel, meet earlier for pub lunch if desired
- 10 Jan Craft Group at Reeth Vicarage
- 17 Jan Craft Group at The Buck Hotel, meet earlier for pub lunch if desired
- 28 Jan Knitting Group at Reeth Vicarage
- 7 Feb Craft Group at Reeth Vicarage
- 21 Feb Craft Group at The Buck Hotel, meet earlier for pub lunch if desired
- 25 Feb Knitting Group at Reeth Vicarage
- 7 March Craft Group TBA
- 21 March Craft Group at The Buck Hotel, meet earlier for pub lunch if desired
- 25 March Knitting Group TBA
- 11 April Craft Group at Reeth Vicarage
- 18 April Craft Group at The Buck Hotel, meet earlier for pub lunch if desired
- 29 April Craft Group at Reeth Vicarage

For more details please contact Christine Price 01748-884406 or ewellprice@hotmail.co.uk



Mystery Object

This little cone is about 4 inches long and made of solid metal. It's in the **lead working (NB not lead mining!)** section of the Museum. Any thoughts?

The dubious looking metal instrument with a guillotine blade

in the Spring Newsletter is a device for removing tonsils. Not something to try at home although Dr Spiers probably did! Full marks to Anne Davies who identified it almost immediately.



André Berry is working on a book about the peat cutting landscapes of northern England. He aims to record the tools and techniques of peat-cutting, interviewing anyone who used to cut peat (or still does) and has their traditional tools; also to identify areas where peat has been cut and the landscape and archaeological features which cutting has created, as well as original art or literature featuring peat cutting, and archive documents.

If you think you can help, André can be contacted on andre_berry@hotmail.co.uk or ask the Museum for his postal address.

ASSORTED QUERIES:

Anne Stonehay is researching the history of Ivy Cottage in Marske, which up to the 1950s was part of the Hutton Estate. If you can help do call her on 01748-822418.

James Gray collects gaming tokens from Swaledale and Arkengarthdale does anyone have any?

Alan Rose of Durham asked about 'salt-springs' used by miner's to counteract leadpoisoning. If you have any information he can be contacted on alan.rose@dunelm.org.uk

Irene Owen asks 'I wonder if you have any knowledge of a man called Elkanah Bell who I believe had a large drove of donkeys for the purpose of moving coal from the mines near Tan Hill in about 1760's. I can't find anything about this anywhere.' You can contact Irene on ireneand-david@btinternet.com

Friends' Programme of Talks 2012

Due to the quite low attendances at some of this year's talks (a reflection of what is happening in other local groups) we're currently rethinking the programme of Friends events for next year. These will be announced in the local press and on the Museum website etc as soon as details are known. Beginning in the Spring there will be a series of presentations, each centred on a single object related to the history of the Dales, a mini-version of the British Museum's 'History of the World in a 100 Objects'. We will be starting with a prehistoric hand-axe discussed by Tim Laurie, and some medieval glass from Marrick Priory from which Ashley Tallyn will discuss medieval nunneries, moving forward through time to the present. If you have any suggestions for future events or topics which you'd like to see covered, please let Helen know! Contact 01748-884118; museum.swaledale@btinternet.com

Back by popular demand! Make a note of the date!
 We have great pleasure in presenting for your delight,
 another authentic **Victorian Magic Lantern Show** at
Reeth Memorial Hall on Saturday 15th June.
Fun, thrills, music and amazement guaranteed!