



FRIENDS OF SWALEDALE MUSEUM

Newsletter No.4 Autumn 2007

Welcome to the Autumn 2007 edition of the Friend's Newsletter.

As we approach the end of our second year and the AGM on 31st October, we can look back upon another successful year for the Friends. The programme of talks and walks, reported upon later in this Newsletter, continued to be very popular whilst our newly introduced short programme of 'heritage' walks attracted good numbers once we got the advertising sorted out. The social programme was also well-supported and of course the production of Beauty and the Beast was an outstanding success.

These activities of the Friends enhance the cultural and social experience of the local residents and visitors and also have the benefit of raising money for the Museum. Over the past year the Friends have been able to make a very significant contribution to the development of the Museum. We have funded a number of purchases including the new front door, a magnificent display case, a new stove to avoid visitors freezing to death and to enable the Museum to open longer and we have also agreed to support the making of a new bookcase by the multi-skilled Eric Edgar. Much still needs to be done though and we look forward to your support in the coming year.

*Alan Mills
Chair*



One of Tim Laurie's Landscape History Walks, showing the remains of a prehistoric Roundhouse on Downholme Moor in the foreground

Forthcoming Events

29 October, 2pm

Alan Mills - A window onto the Poor of Reeth in the 19th century

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE

31 October, 7pm

AGM

14 Nov, 2pm

George Edward Brown - Changing buildings in the Dale

17 Nov, 10.30-4.30

'Customs, Rituals and Records' study day - details from the Museum

19 Dec, 6-9pm

Friends' Christmas Party

22 Dec, 7.30pm

A Victorian Christmas Carol Evening with the Swale Singers & Festive Refreshments; £6 in advance, £8 at the door. Tickets from the Museum.



A page from the Rev. J. Goldsmith's *Geography on a Popular Plan designed for the Use of Schools and Young Persons*, London 1808, showing 'Reindeer drawing Sledges over the Snow'. The title page bears a catalogue reference D43, which might refer to the local Literary Institute or School to which it belonged. The book was donated to the Museum in August 2007. This picture will be the subject of this year's Museum Christmas Card, so don't forget to buy them for a very unique Christmas greeting! Contact the Museum (01748) 884118 to order £4 for 10; all proceeds to the Museum.

Curators' Report

The Museum was busy over the Swaledale Festival with an impressive range of talks, including the ever-popular Duncan Bythell on 'Potholes, Paupers and Privvies - the role of local government'; Marion Moverly took us travelling through the Dales over time, Kate Trusson explored our costume and textile collection from birth (babies' bonnets) to death (laying out quilt); Jennifer Jarvis helped us map the North Riding, and Alan Mills investigated the Workhouse in Reeth. I contributed a tour

Games recently donated by Jenny Harby. Maybe you remember playing some of them? Fox & Geese, Sorry, Halma & Chinese Checkers



round the Green highlighting over 30 shops that operated there from the 1860s, a talk on the once world-famous novelist May Sinclair (d.1946) who set two of her books in Swaledale, and an historical tour of the two Dales via poetry and prose. The Museum was delighted to contribute a Poetry Day to the Festival which proved, contrary to the Curator's doubts, a knock-out success, thanks to the appearance of Chris Considine, the Museum's very own poet-in-residence, and Dominic Goodwin who read the humourous and moving poems of John Nursey. The afternoon was a revelation of local talent, with an open poetry reading. The resulting poems are in the process of collation and addition, and we hope publication for next year.

We have had many group visits this year from a variety of schools and societies including two lively parties from Wigginton School in May, the Upper Dales Family History Group, the Public Transport Users Group, Middleton Tyas WI, and Boroughbridge Antiques Group who had their summer picnic here. This was followed in August by the Trefoil Club and in September the Alderson Society. Our Museum events have also attracted the crowds. The Artyfacts Concert in June packed the ground floor, standing room only at the back, while the HARP singers presented a wonderfully varied and amusing concert in July.

We are lucky to receive many donations. Over the last few months Mrs Durston was kind enough to give us her husband's old photograph albums which are a treasure trove of local information on Reeth, the Dales and Richmond. Duncan Bythell has deposited copies of his articles on local subjects, while David Morris has lodged his research notes on his latest book, *The Pioneering Emigrants*. Norman Hutchinson presented us with a Victorian bed spring tightener, and lead toys he had cast himself. Jack Alderson brought in an old First Aid box, and an old photograph of Reeth garage; we have acquired

a handsome knitted double bedspread made c.1850 which is the stimulus for our Knitting Day next April. We have the handsome Reeth Band drum, which we would like to hang from our rafters! Plus much, much more!

Our archive is becoming an increasingly popular resource. Les Tyson and Mike Gill have been researching local coal and lead mining; and we have had a host of family historians who not only take information away but also often add to our knowledge. The Buxtons who visited the Museum in the 1970s returned and are updating their family tree for future display. One gentleman spent an hour or so researching the early history of bicycling. These researchers keep the curators on their toes! We are delighted to announce that the Museum is now linked to North Yorkshire Record Office via their Archive Ambassador scheme, and the first fruits of this relationship will be the 'Customs, Rituals and Records' study day in the Museum on 17th November. This partnership means we can tap into the expertise of this major archive. I am indebted to Keith Sweetmore (North Yorkshire County Archivist) for encouraging this development, which will be of huge benefit to us. We hope to follow this with a special research day based on other types of archive material to assist and link-up those interested in family, local, social, and architectural history.

We are as always grateful to our volunteers. John Richards came for a week in August (returning in October) to catalogue our collection of Reeth and District Gazettes, and archives relating to local churches and chapels. Maggie Pilgrim continues to help in a huge variety of ways, while Aileen Jones

and Rosemary & Paul Hawksworth have been working on detailed sub-indexing of the archives to create a name and place index. Margaret Abson has faithfully manned the fort, along with members of our trusty Friends Committee. Marjorie

Daniels is helping us by drawing mine cross sections for the new leadmining displays. Together with Mike Gill's revised texts and new panels made possible by a grant from the Northern Mines Research Society we will be able to launch our new displays next season.

Finally I would like to thank all members of the Friends' Committee who put a lot of work in behind the scenes, without them we could certainly not go on at the pace we do.

Helen Bainbridge



Donated along with the games - perhaps someone can tell us what these wooden pieces were part of?

The Friends' Talks & Walks Programme

The Friends' monthly talks continue to be very popular, with the diverse nature of topics appealing to a wide range of interests. Since the last Newsletter we have had Janet Bishop talk on poor of Arkengarthdale in the 18th century, David Morris on 'Pioneering Dalesmen' who left the area to seek a better life in the New World, Barbara Buckingham, remembering a Dales farming childhood, and most recently, Linda Turnbull from the North Yorkshire County Records Office (NYCRO) on land records for local historians. My thanks to all our speakers for the time and effort put in to produce excellent, informative and often entertaining presentations. There have been some hard acts to follow! Coming up, I will be talking on how the 19th century Poor Law treated local people (note the revised date of Monday 29th October), whilst in November we have George Edward Brown talking on changing buildings in the Dale.



Bunton Hush in Gunnerside Gill, April 2007

We are in the process of putting together next year's programme of talks, which we hope to have ready for the AGM on 31st October. To whet your appetites, we hope to have talks on Swaledale and Arkengarthdale in Poetry and Prose, the work of the Nidderdale Archaeology Group, Criminality in the 18th C, the local Chert Mines, Quarter Session records, Historic Gardens, the Leeds Archive of Vernacular Culture, Landscape History and an evening visit to the NYCRO at Northallerton with a focus on sources for our local area.

This year we introduced a short programme of public walks led by Roger Pettican, Neil Dyson and myself. My thanks to Roger and Neil. Three of the walks focussed upon our mining heritage, visiting Gunnerside Gill, Slei Gill and the area around Langthwaite, whilst one walk looked at what the local landscape can reveal about our prehistoric past. These proved to be popular and I hope to have a similar series next year.

In the last Newsletter I reported on the very popular and very informative walks led by local archaeologist Tim Laurie, exploring our landscape history. Tim has put together another short programme of monthly walks which began in September and continues until December. On Monday 5th November Tim will be exploring the area around Marske and on Monday 3rd December, the area around Carperby. These walks are only open to Friends so to join in contact either Helen (01748 884118) or me (01748 884938).

Finally, thanks to all of you who have supported our talks and walks and I look forward to seeing you again!

For Rheumatism, Stiff Joints, sore Throat, &c. -

*Take half pint of the best Vinegar,
1 ounce of the Spirits of Turpentine,
quarter of an ounce of Spirits of Wine,
quarter of an ounce of Camphor.*

*First dissolve the Camphor in the Spirits of wine, and
then put all together into a bottle. Add a new laid
egg, after well beating it. Then shake it well, and cork
the bottle tightly. For outward application. -*

*With the Rev. John Tinkler's kind regards.
May 18th 1882.*

The Rev John Tinkler's cure for rheumatism (1882) donated by Lorna Highmoor. Rev Tinkler had been vicar of Arkengarthdale for 14 years by that time, so he probably knew a thing or two about rheumatism - but if you're tempted to try it at home please note the rider 'for outward application'!

W riter in Residence

I think I have been asked to write a couple of paragraphs about being the Museum's Writer in Residence to awaken my dormouse valour, as someone said to Sir Andrew Aguecheek in Twelfth Night. I was originally enthused with the idea of writing about the museum after hearing Helen Bainbridge speak to the Swaledale Ladies' Luncheon Club in Gunnerside last winter. During this year's Swaledale Festival I gave a reading of the few "museum" poems I had written, plus some other "local interest" poems, which were kindly received. Since then, nothing. As Swaledalers know, summer is the time for visitors. (Who would want to come in January?) So, I have had visitors, and I have also been laid up with back trouble.

On the day of my reading I explained that I am not really a suitable person to be a museum's Writer in Residence as I have always regarded history as something of a closed book, and a book of myths, legends and downright lies, at that. But Helen seemed to think this attitude would not be a hindrance – in fact it might be an advantage to start off with a mind like a blank sheet of paper. And after all, an artefact has a physical reality – I can believe in that at least.



I must confess that I was a bit alarmed by the quantity of objects hanging on the museum's walls or heaped on tables and shelves. What on earth *were* all these things? In a couple of poems I have speculated rather lightheartedly about what certain artefacts might be. In other cases I have tried to find out, and to write about how things were really used.

The good thing about being a writer of poems is that one is not *meant* to know what a poem will say before one has written it. So, no careful plans. No synopsis before the event. (Though I have some jottings in a notebook.) All I can say is that I want to write about some more of the individual objects in the museum and about some of the topics which the objects illustrate, such as lead-mining and sheep-farming, concerning which I do know a little already as I live locally.

The museum is so full of potentially fascinating objects and subjects that I feel at the moment like a dog surrounded by a multitude of different scents. Where should I start? Rocks and minerals, landscape and vernacular buildings, local families, their dialect, the things they made, the things they used in their homes..... Hmm! I shall have to get down to work. By next spring I hope to have twenty or more poems to print in a pamphlet, and perhaps I shall have the opportunity to give another reading in the museum.

Chris Considine

Mystery Object



I'm sure many of you will be relieved to discover that, contrary to possible medical appearances, last edition's *Mystery Object* (insert) was in fact a Victorian ladies' skirt lifter. It clipped onto the lower part of the skirt and the cord attached to a belt or waistband, enabling the wearer to raise the hem out of the way without constantly handling the fabric. Sorry to the gentleman who was quite sure that it was a bloodless castrator.....it was a good guess! See what you make of this edition's offering....we promise that it has no veterinary or medical connections whatsoever.

Mystery Person?

Hanging in the Museum is a piece of blue glass which was found in the collection, unframed and with no record of its provenance. Engraved on it is a memorial to Richard Thairlwall who 'departed this life suddenly on the 4th August 1851 - aged 35 years'. The piece is dated Richmond August 1851. A couple who visited the Museum in the summer were so intrigued by the inscription that they are trying to find out about Richard who may well have had connections with a family of grocers from Bargate in Richmond. There was also a globe trotting Mr Thairlwall of Richmond, Yorkshire who turns up on passenger lists in 1842 and contributed useful observations on guano to the '*Penny Cyclopaedia of the Society for the diffusion of Useful Knowledge*'! Does anyone know anything about this family or have any idea where the glass panel was originally intended to be hung?

From the Archives

Anne Studdard and her husband visited the Museum in the summer to research her family's local connections in the archives, and kindly contributed her memories of her grandfather's shop at Grinton, along with the accompanying photographs.

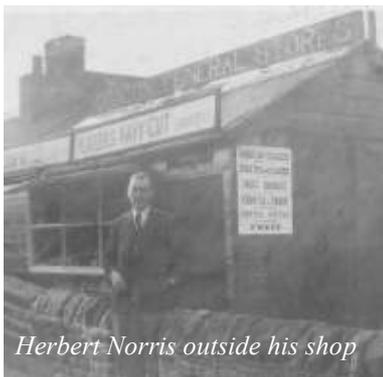
The General Dealers Shop in Grinton was run by my grandfather Herbert Norris until he retired in the late 60s or early 70s. He was born in June 1896 in Great Ayton and his family had been tailors in Rosedale on the North Yorkshire moors for several generations. It is thought he came to Grinton as a travelling salesman in the early 1920s where he met my grandmother Annie Morgan and married her in 1924. Herbert and Annie had a single child, my mother Joan, in 1925 but sadly my grandmother died the day after my mother's birth and my mother was brought up by her grandmother Elizabeth Morgan who was the village nurse and midwife.



Herbert subsequently married Norah Oakes of Pontefract, 9 years after Annie's death. Herbert died in 1974 and Norah in 1980 both in Quaker Close, Reeth. They were buried in Grinton cemetery.

We do not know exactly when Herbert acquired the shop but my mother remembered him running it alone before his second marriage. After that Herbert and Norah ran it together until their retirement. My childhood memories of the shop were that it stood at the end of the cottages on the corner facing the church on the other side of the road from the Bridge Inn. However, I believe it was previously located on the other side of the road behind the Bridge - either where the entrance to the car park of the Inn or where the bus stop is now. Perhaps older readers may be able to confirm this and recall it being moved.

My grandmother Annie Morgan was born in 1899 in Gilling West, the first child of Joseph James Morgan and Elizabeth Frankland but in the 1901 census she was staying with her grandparents Henry Frankland and Ann née Hillary in Grinton, two doors away from the Bridge Inn. Joseph and Elizabeth were living in West Hartlepool with their second child Richard. They moved back to Grinton sometime around the First World War in which Joseph was a casualty. He is mentioned on the plaque of local war dead in Grinton church. He also features on page 279 of *Swaledale Remembered* which also details how the couple had first met. Annie's brother Robert Morgan was a joiner in the village and also played football for Reeth.



Herbert Norris outside his shop

My Frankland and Hillary ancestors were lead miners in Hurst for several generations and their wives link them to several other major Marrick and Hurst families including the Hird and March surnames and also the Shaw family from the neighbouring parish of New Forest. With my husband's assistance I have traced my ancestry back to John and Elizabeth (nee March) Frankland both born

Hurst around 1776/7, George and Sarah (nee Hird) Hillary - George born Hurst around 1791 and Sarah born Healaugh around 1800, Henry and Mary Shaw both born at Barningham around 1784/5 and finally John and Ann March, Ann was born at Hurst around 1791.

Before I was born, the youngest of five children, my family would stay in the campsite just outside the village as Grandad didn't have enough room but while I grew up we would come to Grinton for special days out with Grandad while Norah worked in the shop.

Anne Studdard

If anyone has any memories of the shop at Grinton which they would like to pass on to Anne, please leave them at the Museum and we'll make sure she gets them.

Pantomime News

The final performance of last year's Pantomime, *Beauty & the Beast*, was filmed for ITV's *Dales Diary* and we have just learned that it will be shown in the programme on Thursday 20th December at 7.30pm - so don't forget to look out for yourselves! This year's Panto, *Aladdin*, is now in preparation - sadly there is no original 1940s script for this although the Museum does have a copy of the poster. Performances will be in the Memorial Hall, 2nd - 5th January, including a Saturday matinee and followed by a ceillidh on the last night. As before, any profits will be for a local good cause. Tickets on sale from mid-November; ring Karen on (01748) 880147 to reserve.

Reeth Union Poor Law Project

In early July Dr Paul Carter of the National Archives at Kew (what some of us still call the Public Records Office!) visited the Museum to talk about their proposed project: Nineteenth Century Poverty in England and Wales.

The National Archives holds over 16,000 large bound volumes covering the period from 1834 to 1900 and consisting of hundreds of thousands of letters, reports and memos which tell us much about how the poor lived throughout the Victorian period. Buried in here is the correspondence between the Reeth Poor Law Union, which covered the whole of the two Dales from Ellerton Abbey west. Here we find allegations of cruelty to individual paupers, instances of workhouse riots, accounts of political and Chartist activities, personal details of many paupers and those supported by the Workhouse Guardians... and so much more.

Funding is being sought to digitise the records of twenty Poor Law Unions and make them available on-line for free. We have been chosen as one of this select band! If the National Archive is successful in obtaining funding then they will train and support a group of local volunteer editors to help catalogue the Reeth Poor Law Union correspondence which will then be made freely available on the web. It will provide an essential resource for those undertaking local, family, social and other historical studies in the 19th century.

For further details of the project see <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/partnerprojects/workhouse/default.htm>

If you would like to join in this project then please contact me on (01748) 884938.

Alan Mills



The entrance to the former Reeth Workhouse (now private houses). The small building to the right of the gates was the porter's lodge

WEDNESDAY 9th APRIL 2008
SWALEDALE KNITTING DAY

at the Museum

10.30-4.30 with June Hall

Lecture on the history of local knitting, hands-on sessions, workshops and launch of the Knitting Café.

£20 for the day, includes light lunch
BOOKING ESSENTIAL as space is limited.

Contact Helen Bainbridge at the Museum Tel: 01748 884118 or E-mail: museum@swaledale.org



Knitted double bedspread, made by Esther Robinson in 1850 - 55 for her niece, Mrs M Calvert, who lived in Thwaite

NOTICE BOARD

If you have any memories or reminiscences of Swaledale & Arkengarthdale, or anything else relevant to local history which would be of interest for the Newsletter, the Committee would love to hear from you.

We can't promise to use everything in full, but all contributions, however small, will be very welcome! Please contact Helen on 01748 884118

Friday 7th December
6-9pm

REETH CHRISTMAS SHOPPING EVENING

come to the Museum to buy local, unusual and unique gifts, cards, books, decorations and lots more!
Come and support us!

SATURDAY 17th NOVEMBER 10.30-4.30
a Study Day in the SWALEDALE MUSEUM, Reeth on **'CUSTOMS, RITUALS & RECORDS'** for those interested in family, local, social, and architectural history connected with the churches, chapels and belief in Swaledale and A'dale.

* Find out about resources at North Yorkshire County Record Office & Swaledale Museum Archive.

* Learn about the research of others.

* Connect and share information.

*Hear contributions from Keith Sweetmore, Jocelyn Campbell, George Edward Brown, Gillian Bobbett, Helen Bainbridge & others.

BOOKING ESSENTIAL contact Helen Bainbridge on 01748 884118 or at museum@swaledale.org

TICKETS £6 each before 10th November, afterwards £7

Don't forget to look at the Museum website at www.swaledalemuseum.org
The Newsletter is now also available by email in a pdf format. If you would prefer to receive it this way, please send an email to jandt@cennick.fsnet.co.uk and we will arrange it.

Volunteers are always needed to lend a hand in the Museum on a regular or occasional basis. If you feel that you could offer your services to staff the desk and talk to visitors, or have other talents to offer, the curators would love to hear from you!