

FRIENDS OF SWALEDALE MUSEUM



Welcome to the latest edition of *The Newsletter*; enormous thanks must go to Tracy who, seemingly miraculously, puts together these excellent newsletters. The building work at the Museum, done over the winter, has given it a kitchen, a separate archive room & more floor space upstairs. If you have not visited yet this year, please come & see what has been achieved. It has been such a cold Spring, so far. Let us hope that the sun starts to pour through the Museum windows, and the front door can be left open to let the warm air in.

Janet Bishop, Chair of the Friends of Swaledale Museum

Thanks to all those who supported us in 2011 we have been able to move forward over the winter to create our new archive room. This was launched with two sessions in March & April by Marion Moverley aptly named *'Delving into the Archives'*, connecting our collection with the wider contexts of local & family history sources. Such was the success of these sessions we plan to do more to reveal the gems that the Swaledale Museum archive holds. Gill Savage has been busy cataloguing the archive and, thanks to Stephen Eastmead this can be accessed electronically via the link:

<http://www.swaag.org/SwaledaleMuseum/archives.php> I am grateful to them both for their exceptional support! We also have more space, and a dedicated upper floor temporary exhibitions gallery.

We have lots of exciting things lined up to for the wide ranging interests of the Friends. We have four temporary exhibitions this year, thanks to our new space. We are just installing the Richmond and Leyburn Embroiderers' Guild fourth annual show, this year concentrating on the theme of 'commemoration'. We have a beautiful silk cushion inspired by the architecture of Durham Cathedral, a suitable pearl

laden stitched portrait of Elizabeth I, and a very evocative picture of 'The Den' commemorating childhood. The range is wide, the techniques fine, the interpretation fascinating.



Baby booties felted in Norwegian wool - part of the 'Felt Contained' Exhibition

We are very privileged to have the artist Tessa Asquith-Lamb working with us this year. Her delicate, narrative etchings in her show *'Love Returned'* are inspired by objects in the Museum, from our early 18th century pockets to a pair of fragile silk slippers. She has transformed our displays with her delicate paper cuts, some reconstructing the creatures that lived in the warm shallow seas that characterised the Dales over 300 million years ago. Tessa will be offering workshops in August for those who want to capture some of her magic.

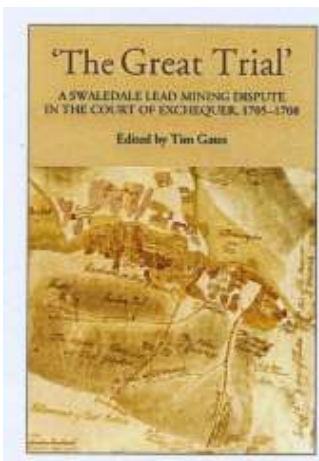


Portable scales for checking sovereigns & half-sovereigns - on loan from the Museum to the Goldsmiths' Company Exhibition in London

Alongside Tessa's show Stuart Howat's *'Treasured'* features black and white portraits of people with their prized possessions, from Lego to a Worcester teapot, from a food processor to a pair of turning tools. This unusual, accomplished and inspiring photographic exhibition is an imaginative sequel to his show in the Museum last year *'Dales Folk.'* We are incredibly lucky to be working with such young, talented, energetic and inspiring artists.

On 22nd June our fourth show arrives, a project emanating from the North Eastern Felt Makers, who will be bringing *'Felt Contained'* to the Museum. After a workshop with some of the group in March, where members had to study containers from the Museum, this dynamic group have taken up the challenge of creating exhibits that will fit into a 5 inch box.

Other events have included a special talk and walk by Tim Gates in conjunction with the publication of his book *'The Great Trial: A Swaledale Lead Mining Dispute in the Court of Exchequer 1705-1708'*. In May he gave a short talk at Fremington Sunday School, then led a walk to the site of the dispute on Grinton Moor. Copies of this wonderful book are available at the Museum. Marion Moverley has noted that the book is a gold mine for family historians, as the transcript include the names and depositions of lots of local people.



If you happen to be in London between 1 June and 28 July do go to the Goldsmiths' Company in London (Foster Lane, near St Paul's tube station) to see *GOLD: Power and Allure*, a FREE exhibition. Your very own curator has been working on this landmark show which looks at the story of Britain and Gold, from Cornish gold dust and the Kildonan Gold Rush of 1869 to the latest craftsmanship. There is a whole room of spectacular archaeological gold, from the earliest known worked gold to medieval jewels. There are gold vessels

connected with royalty, the church, dining and Empire, and lots more!

Judging by the steep fall in visitor numbers this year since our Easter opening we are going to have to work hard to survive this year, so do send friends, relatives and visitors to see us. As part of our continuing outreach programme we have loaned our model of a Percivals' bus to Arkengarthdale School, and a model Dales cart to Hazel Brow Farm. Victorian and Edwardian toys have been used by Reeth School as part of their teaching, and we have just lent some Roman coins to Gunnerside School as part of their Time Travel project.

Our smart website is the work of Graham at *Scenic View Gallery* in Reeth & I'd like to thank him for regularly updating it & keeping us looking good. I would particularly like to thank the Friends' Committee for their continued support, and especially Tracy for her stalwart assistance. Our volunteers have endured particularly arctic conditions this year, so Nicky, Carole, Margaret and Janet, a big thank you!
Helen Bainbridge

SWAAG: The Swaledale & Arkengarthdale Archaeology Group

The Swaledale & Arkengarthdale Archaeology Group have been pressing ahead with "The Swaledale Project – 7000 Years of a Landscape & its People" funded through the Yorkshire Dales LEADER Programme by Defra & the EU. During the autumn & winter we had our first training excavation & commissioned geophysical surveys.

As part of the Project, we have now published two books through the Print-On-Demand service LULU. "The Daggerstones Report" records our landscape survey above Healaugh & "Landscape Surveying Using Handheld GPS Receivers" is Stephen Eastmead's updated & highly comprehensive guide to the technique he developed & which has been introduced to local groups throughout Yorkshire by English Heritage. You can purchase both books through www.lulu.com & search by author for Stephen Eastmead. Or you can purchase copies, at £10 each, from the Museum & a donation will go to Museum funds.



We plan our own "big dig" in the second half of July, excavating a possible Iron Age/Romano-British settlement site where we have found pottery sherds of the right period (thanks to our friends the moles) & our own surveys and geophysics have suggested promising places to dig.

Please keep an eye on our website www.swaag.org for details on all these & other events.

Peter Denison-Edson



A New Volunteer working on our object database...

Ashley Tallyn (*left*) is originally from California, but moved to York a number of years ago for her MA in medieval archaeology. Her thesis explored differences in artefact assemblages in medieval monasteries in Yorkshire. She then began her PhD at Durham University, which she will soon finish. Her thesis is focusing on assessing quality of life in medieval monasteries and nunneries. Ashley is both a medieval archaeologist and a bioarchaeologist by training and is therefore using both artefacts and human remains in her work.

Before moving to England, Ashley worked at her university's anthropological museum in Washington state and is looking forward to getting back into the world of museums. She enjoys both the display and archival side of museum life.

VICTORIAN MUKER

In the 1880s my grandfather, Thomas Parsons Cooper, and a friend, travelled from York to Swaledale to spend Christmas at the Queen's Inn in Muker. The following is his description of the village at that time:

"Muker is dead and practically buried. The lead mines are no longer worked, hence the decay. It was formally a little market town, now it only just deserves the name of hamlet. It lies at the head of Swaledale, surrounded by many streams and waterfalls on every side, deep pine-clad ravines and lofty mountains. Great Shunnor Fell (2.239ft) rises like a wall and fixes the horizon some five miles to the west. A thousand sharp details combine to make a perpetual picture of wild, fantastic grandeur. To such an extent have traces of lead mining disappeared that the lineaments, in spite of man's labour, seem to be quite unharmed.

"No letter bears the Muker postmark, and it is six miles from the nearest railway station at Askrigg, through Oxnop Pass, and over the moors. One half of the houses are empty and decay and ruin are prevalent; dry rot is in the stone.

"Compact, without streets or any architectural plan, built of rough, hewn stone and rubble that has lost its virginity an age ago, the houses stand higgledy. One might even fancy that the black plague had scourged the place, whereas, in reality, illness is almost unknown here, and not to our knowledge is there so much as a quack-doctor within easy beck and call.



An early postcard of Muker

"Bethel Chapel looks like a sort of travesty upon a rural mental culture. The men of Muker built it, and their gentlemanly supporters of dogs and guns, paid for it. There is a small shop. A pot stall (with customers wend not their way) kept by a gawky lad. There is a rather large church dedicated to St Mary.

"The Inn, where we were staying, is up a flight of irregular stone steps, in a kind of narrow fold. Its roof is low, but the frontage is fairly broad and gleams white in a coat of lime. We have been told by Mr Peacock, the landlord, that in Muker one may rent a semi-detached residence with kitchen, parlour, two bedrooms and a back yard, for thirty shillings a year. The same house may be bought (copy hold) for twenty pounds. The Inn is so unnecessarily commodious that we were put in a bedchamber like a barracks. In the centre stood a curious old Pembroke

table, two camp beds stood diagonally in the corners, which sank into insignificance in the vast space. One of these was made up and we found it so comfortable that we slept quite soundly.

"On Christmas night our host told us the story of the 'headless ghost'. To relate the whole story of our departure from Muker would bring tears to our eyes. We were as loth to part from Dinah and her father as they from us. Our bill when we left came to so little that afterwards we felt some compunction for paying it as it stood.

"We live in hope of seeing them again and even our horse says he never had a happier Christmas than that one in a Muker stable.

Jocelyn M Campbell

NB - Don't forget our Magic Lantern Slide Show which includes views of Muker on 15 September



The kitchen at The Queen's Inn - early twentieth century

Coming next year...

We are working together with Jo Garlick who wants to create drawings of the local lead mines populated with people. Jo has lived in the Yorkshire Dales all her life and is fascinated by all elements of the natural world, especially wildlife. She studied at Newcastle University and received an Honours Degree in Fine Art. Since obtaining her degree, she has had work accepted by various galleries in Yorkshire and the North East.

Jo's love of art started at an early age – besides the drawing, painting and sculpture which she was naturally drawn to, her father had an old SLR camera which he allowed her to use, and she was fascinated by the many and various results she could get with differing compositions and light. Her interest in photography means that her camera is always at the ready to capture landscape and wildlife, inspiring her sometimes unusual pictures.

Jo works predominantly in soft pastels, using the medium to create vibrant pictures not only of British wildlife but also of a broad spectrum of landscapes inspired by the character and heritage of the area.

Two friends who grew up in North Yorkshire and met at college in York before studying Fine Art in Scotland have joined forces to create a fascinating pair of exhibitions at the Swaledale Museum. Both shows highlight the importance of objects in our lives, treasured possessions which we love for many different reasons and which help to make our lives richer.



Tessa & Stuart



Tom with his 'Treasured' Lego!

In *Treasured*, award-winning photographer Stuart Howat presents stunning images of local people holding their favourite things. After the success of last year's 'Dales Folk' exhibition at the Museum, featured on ITV's 'The Dales', Stuart was keen to return to the area to capture new images of people exploring their relationship with their treasured possessions. Taken in natural light outside the museum, the images show all generations holding objects as diverse as a silver box, a watercolour by Turner's nephew, a tiller from a boat, a food mixer and a tray of lego.



'Always in My Thoughts' - etching & aquatint by Tessa Asquith-Smith

In *Love Returned*, acclaimed artist Tessa Asquith-Lamb shows intricate etchings and paper-cuts which incorporate both items from the Museum and her own collection alongside her trademark foxes and self portraits. After meeting Helen Bainbridge at Stuart's show last year she was offered the opportunity of responding to the Museum's collection through her artwork. The resulting works include delicate bridal shoes, a pair of embroidered pockets, fragile valentines, letters, and toys in images which speak of love, friendship, and how objects symbolise these human joys.

Anne Hewitt was the Museum's Craftswoman in Residence during 2011. She kindly wrote this for us last Autumn but we unfortunately ran out of room in the last issue. See page 6 for dates of the knitting & craft groups.

Summer with the Swaledale Museum. A time spent in a lovely environment, meeting great people and talking about the things I love to do best!

This summer as 'Craftswoman in Residence' gave me the opportunity to look at so many things associated with the Museum with a slightly different eye - seeing colours & design, applying that to my own work - realising how the objects & place spoke of the Dales people & their lives...

All in all it has been a most wonderful opportunity to become involved with a museum, despite its small size it has great stature! A chance to become involved if only a little with the local community, to witness the beautiful surroundings & from there to find inspiration for my creative projects.

Being at the museum has helped me to focus a little better on what I am trying to achieve, to actually 'see' objects, their colours & to note a little better their design - to then pick up these colours and lines & to translate them into handspun yarns, to pull that through into weaving, knitting and crochet & further still to sow the seeds for grand ideas for quilt designs!

Slowly, as the work I do does not happen in an instant, I have begun to develop ideas this summer, to bring influences to bear on my creative work & I know this will carry on through to the winter months to come - I hope I can bring some of these projects to completion!!

It only leaves me now to say a great big thank you for the support I have found, the people I have met & to those people who have shown interest in what I do.

A nice little foot-note to this is that a fledgling Craft Group has surfaced in the village of Reeth through the ongoing interest of people having gathered each Thursday at the museum & hopefully this little story will continue.

Anne Hewitt www.ashbecreative.blogspot.com & www.folksy.com/shops/MountainAsh

Mystery Object



A metal object with a handle which is made to be easily gripped & a guillotine type blade which slides across the circular opening. Any ideas?

The little silver items in the last issue with the discs at the end turned out to be early twentieth century cocktail stirrers & were identified thanks to a member of the Friends who has a sister who works at the V & A - thank you Caroline Higgins!



TO FACILITATE TRADE

A Loan Exhibition of early 19th Century British Copper Tokens from a local private collector

Tokens of the early 19th century are inextricably tied up with the economy and history of the times in which they are produced. If you have imagination, if you are moved by history or by the archaeology of the industrial revolution you will find them fascinating.

A token is a privately issued coin. In Britain tokens have been issued mainly in response to a lack of official regal currency for small change. There are 3 main periods when they were issued 1) in the mid 17th century when shopkeepers and even towns issued their own currency; 2) 1794-1796 when the currency was again in turmoil & 3) in the early 19th century, when the number of issuers is much smaller and they are industrial, relating to factories.



This exhibition includes just over 70 tokens from places as diverse as the Flint Lead Works, Sheffield Iron Works, Newcastle Cotton Works, and Devon Mines. They are miniature works of art!

The Knitting is spreading!

A year or so ago, my wife and I visited your Museum, and you kindly let my wife join in with your knitting café which, by coincidence, was starting just as we arrived. Since then, my wife has started a similar event at Hornsea Museum where I am Honorary Curator. I thought you might like to see the picture (right) of this morning's gathering of a dozen needleworkers (our peak so far!)

Stewart Would



Ralph Alderson (the original *Beast in Beauty & the Beast* in 1948!) brought in these beautiful hand knitted bed covers (above) for the Museum collection. He believes that they came from the family of his grandmother, Sarah Jane Sunter, who married Joseph Thompson at Melbecks in 1895 but has no idea how old they might be.



Joseph & Sarah Jane Thompson with their daughter Dinah Eleanor taken about 1918 at Smarber

Thanks go to Mike Walton for his work on our splendid Boothroyd Clock. In the museum world his work is described as 'arresting decay', rather than full restoration. He has done a wonderfully sensitive and skilled job to make sure this piece of Reeth-made history lasts another few hundred years more! Thank you Mike.



Friends' Programme of Talks 2012
All to be held in Fremington Sunday School

18th July, 7.30pm

Gill Savage

Safe haven or battle ground? Is the Ministry of Defence protecting archaeology on its land or destroying it?

15th August, 7.30pm

Tessa Asquith Lamb

'Objects into Art: Papercuts and Etchings inspired by the Museum'

Tessa whose exhibition runs in the Museum until 12 October will talk about her work in relation to collections both personal and public. Contact the Museum for details of her Workshop on **16th August**

19th Sept, 7.30pm

Helen Bainbridge

Swaledale Scrapbooks. Cuttings, Characters & Connections - another foray into the Museum archive

17th October, 7.30pm

Dave Carlisle,

'Better Late than Never', Arkengarthdale Mining Company 1870 - 1891' & AGM

14th November, 7.30pm

Prof Charlotte Roberts

Death and disease: stories from our ancestors' remains

COST: £3 for Friends and £4 for Visitors

More information : 01748 884118

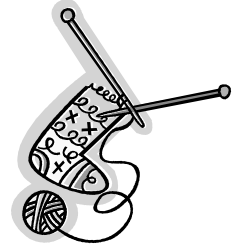
museum.swaledale@btinternet.com

Please watch the local press for occasional alterations to time/date & posters and, if coming from a distance, **please check with the Museum** before setting off.

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.

21 June Craft Group at the Museum
25 June Knitting Café at the Museum
5 July Craft Group at Reeth Vicarage
19 July Craft Group at the Museum
23 July Knitting Café at the Museum
2 Aug Craft Group at Reeth Vicarage
16 Aug Craft Group at the Museum
27 Aug Knitting Café at the Museum
6 Sept Craft Group at Reeth Vicarage
20 Sept Craft Group at the Museum
24 Sept Knitting Café at the Museum
4 Oct Craft Group at Reeth Vicarage
18 Oct Craft Group at the Museum
29 Oct Knitting Café at the Museum
8 Nov Craft Group at Reeth Vicarage



The Museum knitting and craft groups are joining together to host a Craft Day on **Monday, July 2**, from 10am to 4pm at the Buck Hotel, Reeth. As well as offering help with different types of knitting there will be "taster sessions" on other crafts, which we will be able to list nearer the time. If you are interested in attending the Craft Day and there is a specific craft that you would like to learn about, please let us know and we will do our best to include it.

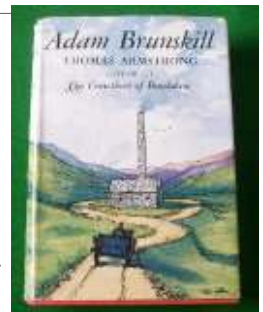
The cost for the day will be £10 (including lunch). If you would like to attend or would like more details about the group meetings, please contact Christine Price 01748-884406 or ewellprice@hotmail.co.uk

By Popular Demand!

There will be another
GRAND OLD-FASHIONED TEA PARTY
in the Community Orchard, Hudson House, Reeth
from 3 to 6pm,
on Saturday, 11th August
China cups, fine linen, cucumber sandwiches ...summer frocks, boaters and spats welcome!
Offers of baking, sandwich making & general assistance will be gratefully received

Lucy Bailey is a PhD student at the University of Northampton and is interested in material relating to village shops in the 18th & 19th centuries, such as account books, ledgers etc. You can contact her directly on Lucy.Bailey@northampton.ac.uk or get in touch via the Museum if you think you might be able to help with her research.

The Museum has been contacted by Mr John Ainly, formerly of Huddersfield but now living in Dorset who has a great interest in the novels of Swaledale author Thomas Armstrong. He is particularly keen to buy signed copies of the books and wonders if any of our members can help him. You can contact John directly by emailing ainleyjha45@aol.com (sorry we don't have a phone number).



We have great pleasure in presenting for your delight, an authentic **Victorian Magic Lantern Show** at Reeth **Memorial Hall** on **Saturday 15th September**.

Fun, thrills, music and amazement guaranteed!

Plus remarkable photographs of Swaledale in the 1940s on the silver screen!!

Book now. Tickets are just £7, available from Reeth post Office & the Swaledale Museum. 01748-884118

Museum.swaledale@btinternet.com